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THE

FLORIST, FRUITIST,

AND

GARDEN MISCELLANY.

1852.



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THE
FLORIST, FRUITIST, AND GARDEN

Miscellany.

A WORD TO OUR READERS.

IT will be expected that we should state, at the commencement of our editorial labours, what course we intend to pursue in the future direction of a periodical which, under the fostering care of its late highly respected Superintendent was first introduced to public notice, and from that period sedulously nurtured, until it became, what we trust under our guidance it may still continue to be, the Florist's and Gardener's Family Friend ever gladly welcomed and usefully referred to.

A few lines will shadow forth the course we intend to pursue.

Our articles will be from the pens of practical growers, such as are most justly celebrated for the production of the several subjects, the most popular of their kind, which will be embraced under our threefold character of Florist, Fruitist, and Garden Miscellanist.

The reports of exhibitions, and the opinions therein expressed of any new productions, will be our own. Some responsibility on this point must be incurred, and we think it right to state that it will rest upon ourselves. We hope our judgment will, from our experience, be found sound and unimpeachable; and we trust to pursue a strictly honourable course, so as to satisfy our own conscience and preserve the good opinion of our numerous friends.

As regards our Illustrations, we propose to give in every Number one coloured plate; selecting for this purpose, according to our own judgment, the best productions of the year, without the slightest reference to the parties by whom they may have been brought forward, and suffering nothing to stand in our way so as to prevent the selection of the best

specimens for the gratification of our readers. At the same time we willingly offer to the introducers of all new and interesting productions the opportunity of inserting at their own expense a second coloured plate in any of our numbers, provided always that the drawing be executed by an artist appointed by ourselves, so as to ensure a faithful representation of the original.

The list of our contributors will, we trust, plainly indicate that the readers of the *Florist*, *Fruitist*, and *Garden Miscellany* will be made acquainted with what is taking place in the different parts of the kingdom, as well as in the various branches of a pursuit which has ever drawn together so many willing and enthusiastic votaries, and which we hope will ever prove an indissoluble bond of union between ourselves and our patrons.

PELARGONIUM OPTIMUM.

THIS fine variety, which forms the subject of our Plate, was raised by E. Foster, Esq., of Clewer Manor, near Windsor. It will be seen that the bottom petals are deep crimson, and that there is a rich dark glossy spot on the top-petals extending nearly to the margin, which is vivid crimson.

In addition to striking colours, it also possesses fine form and great substance; in habit it resembles Constance, and some others of Mr. Foster's raising. The pip is large, with a full-sized truss; and being a free bloomer, it cannot fail to become a popular variety, as much for general purposes as for those of exhibition. It was not sufficiently in flower at the Seedling Pelargonium Show last season, only one bloom being expanded; but at the National Floricultural Society's meeting on the 26th of June, it was in excellent condition, and was awarded a first-class certificate; it was similarly rewarded at the June Surrey show; and it also received the first prize for seedling Pelargoniums on the same occasion.

This variety is one of a large batch of fine flowers which bloomed at Clewer in 1849, some of which figured conspicuously during the past season; Purple Standard, Ariadne, Enchantress, and Shylock being amongst the number. In habit, Mr. Foster's seedlings are known to be generally stout growers, easy to winter, and throwing full-sized trusses freely from every joint. The present example fully maintains these desirable qualities. As respects the cultivation of the Pelargonium, it is to be regretted that so little attention is paid to the subject. In a tour recently made through the north of England and Scotland, we were much disappointed with the general appearance of collections of this favourite plant; instead of vigorous short-jointed specimens, we generally found them lean, drawn, sickly from aphides, and overcrowded. It is a common fault to grow three plants in the room which one should be permitted to occupy. Plants



Polargonium
optimum (Pursh)



that have their growth to make wholly in spring will not bloom in true character.

Over-potting is also a mistake of frequent occurrence; it should be borne in mind that the pots must become full of roots before there can be a fine head of bloom. Starting them into growth at a time when they are throwing up their trusses is likewise injudicious. Any plants, therefore, not already in their blooming pots, should be re-potted forthwith; *good* plants now in forty-eight sized pots, should be put into thirty-two's or small twenty-four's, in which they will make fine specimens to bloom in the end of May or June.

We need scarcely say that the Pelargonium has only to be seen in good condition to be appreciated, and there is no excuse for not growing it well, especially where a house is wholly devoted to its culture; nevertheless, apart from the metropolis and the suburbs of some of the large provincial towns, how rare are the instances in which this end is attained!

THE HOLLYHOCK.

THIS, one of our best early autumn flowers, having deservedly become a general favourite, it may not be out of place to offer a few remarks on its culture and propagation.

The soil most suitable for its growth is a very rich sandy loam; but it thrives well in any good rich garden-soil. Previous to planting, the earth should be trenched at least two feet deep, and liberally mixed with well-decomposed manure, night-soil being most preferable. If autumn planting is preferred, it should be done early, in order to allow the roots to get established before severe frosts set in; but plants turned out in March bloom quite as early and equally well as those planted in autumn, the plants having been kept growing throughout the winter. Care should be taken that they receive frequent waterings during dry weather, a plentiful supply of liquid manure during the growing season; and the earth should be frequently loosened round the roots.

When the plants have thrown up spikes about six inches high, they should be thinned out, leaving not more than three spikes on a strong plant, and on weak plants not above one, staking each spike separately when about fifteen or eighteen inches high.

To obtain fine blooms, all laterals should be cut away, and the flower-buds thinned out if too much crowded.

The Hollyhock is in its beauty in the month of August; but a succession of bloom may be obtained until November by later planting. Immediately after the blooming season, it is advisable to cut the old flowering stems from the plants about six inches from the ground; and in October or early in November to earth-up the crown with silver or road sand, which prevents too much moisture getting to the roots during the winter months. An occasional sprinkling of soot and quick-lime should be given to destroy slugs, which are the

greatest enemy of this flower, and all decayed leaves should be picked off, to prevent rot.

It may be planted with advantage within the shade of distant trees, but the roots should by no means interfere with it.

The Hollyhock may be propagated the same autumn, by early-gathered seed sown in pans in light sandy soil, and plunged in a frame with gentle bottom-heat. The mould should be moist at the time of sowing, and not watered until after the second leaves are formed; when strong enough, they should be transplanted into small pots, put into a close frame for a few days, and when established, hardened off. They should then be transferred to a cold frame, giving plenty of air in favourable weather through the winter, and in the month of March or April turned into the open ground for blooming. The late-gathered seed may be sown in the open ground in May or June, in rows or drills; it will only require hoeing and thinning, and may remain for blooming. This plant may also be propagated by dividing the old roots, which is best done in the autumn, taking care to leave plenty of root with each division.

The best-blooming plants are raised from cuttings, which may be taken from the crown of the old root, when the shoot is about an inch long, in the month of April or May, or by single eyes from wood shoots in July and August, taking care the bark is sufficiently hard, but not pithy, or they are likely to rot.

The cuttings should be potted singly in small thumbs; the eyes placed five or six round a small sixty-sized pot, in a light and very sandy loam, plunged in a close frame (if available), with a little bottom-heat, very sparingly watered, giving air every day for a short time, to exclude damp, and carefully picking off all decayed leaves. In about three weeks they will mostly be rooted, and should be immediately potted into thumbs or small sixty's; when well established, they should be hardened off, and kept in a cold airy frame until they are transferred to the open ground for blooming.

By pursuing the above directions, the lover of this beautiful flower will receive ample gratification in the blooming season.

The following is a list of twenty-four of the best sorts already out.

Bella Donna (Wood), pure white.	Pytho, deep lilac.
Bessy Bell, rich bright crimson.	Queen (Baron), blush.
Comet (Chater), ruby red.	Rosea grandiflora (Baron), pink.
Echantress (Chater), deep rose.	Rubens, salmon rose.
Golden Prince (Stark), yellow.	Rosy Queen (Chater).
General Bem (Veitch), vivid scarlet crimson.	Sir David Wedderburn (Currie), dark rosy, crimson.
Illuminator (Downie and Laird), crimson.	Susannah, creamy white.
Lady Clarke (Jackson), pink.	Sulphurea perfecta (Rivers), sulphur.
Magnum Bonum (Baron), rich dark maroon. [pink.	Subram, dark maroon.
Mr. Charles Baron (Chater), salmon	Spectabilis (Chater), bright rose, salmon shaded.
Napoleon (Pows), mottled white and purple; novel.	Walden Gem (Chater), deep by crimson.
Obscura (Chater), mottled puce.	Watford Surprise (Long), white, with purple at the base.

Watford.

J. LONG.

A FEW GENERAL REMARKS FOR THE SEASON.

WHEN a person sets about teaching us how to do a thing, we naturally inquire how he succeeds himself; and he is well deserving of ridicule who, after contributing a number of instructions through the pages of a gardening periodical, brings to the exhibition-tables, or shews on his own premises, a collection of plants deficient in every point of skilful management. It was my intention to have contributed some papers upon the cultivation of the Pelargonium; but finding that Mr. Dobson is about to publish a treatise upon the subject, I gladly turn my attention to some general observations, because his uniform success as a grower and exhibitor will assure his readers that they may more safely follow the directions he gives than my own. It remains for me only to wish him success in this undertaking, as well as in his Nursery, where your readers will find a clean, healthy, and well-cultivated stock; and if they are inclined to extend their walk, they may, with all freedom, as in days gone by, examine my collection both of specimen-plants and seedlings; and if they find little to admire, I trust they will find less to condemn. I shall address my monthly observations to those who, like myself, are strictly amateurs; and let it not be objected to my offerings that they contain nothing new. Alas, there is nothing new under the sun. Every season brings an addition to our numbers, and they must, of course, be learners; and whilst of all teachers, practice will be found the best, yet the results of the experience of their elder brethren may save the beginner both time, trouble, and loss. I shall not enlarge on these points, but at once proceed to remark upon the absolute necessity of Cleanliness in Plant-Culture.

At this season of short days and long nights, every part of a greenhouse should be as clean as a new pin. The glass should be clean, the floor and shelves quite clean, and the pots the same. The plants should be examined every day, and *individually*, to see that all fogged leaves are removed, that no green-fly is in existence, and that the soil on the surface is in good condition. The eye soon becomes accustomed to this kind of examination, and readily detects in the flimsy leaf that the stalk is decaying, or in the old white jackets of the green-fly, that he is to be found in a new suit somewhere on the plant. These remarks apply to all plants in the greenhouse, but especially to Pelargoniums, both old stock and seedlings. If these are in separate houses, so much the better; mine are so; and my plan is to treat the former rather as hardy plants than tender ones, whilst I keep the latter rather closer and warmer; but with plenty of space between them. By hardy I mean, I avoid fire-heat as much as possible, covering the houses with blinds in the evening, opening the top-lights at daylight, even with several degrees of frost outside; of course taking care Jack never gets within, and shutting up about noon, or a little after. My specimen-house has one of Dromgole's louvre-board glass ventilators in it; this is always left open day and night, on the same principle as we keep the chimney open in a bedroom. Hardy treatment in the last month and the present offers

many advantages,—the plants are rested, they harden their wood, and require less water, which, when given, should always be seen to come through the bottom of the pot. The enthusiastic amateur will enjoy a fine healthy clean collection as much in leaf as when in full flower, at least it is so with me. E. Бекк.

DESCRIPTIVE LISTS OF FRUITS. No. XII.

PEARS.

11. *Suffolk Thorn*. Something above the middle size; roundish obovate in form, but rather irregular in outline. The stalk is short and thick, very slightly sunk at its insertion. Eye scarcely sunk below the flattened crown; segments very short. Skin greenish yellow, mottled all over with light russet. Flesh white, juicy, and tender, resembling that of Gansell's Bergamot (from which this Pear is said to have been raised,) in texture and flavour. Season, October. Much hardier than its parent, as this does not require a wall; but inferior to it in size and beauty, and perhaps also in flavour.

12. *Beurré Bosc*. Fruit above the middle size, of a lengthened pyriform figure, contracting rather suddenly near the middle; it diminishes abruptly to the crown, which, like the whole surface of the fruit, is uneven; it tapers almost to a point at the stalk, which is long and not deeply inserted. Eye scarcely sunk, segments short. Skin a uniform bright cinnamon russet, interspersed with very small lighter-coloured points. Flesh white, less perfectly melting than some other sorts, but very sugary and agreeably flavoured. A very handsome and valuable Pear, which generally comes into use from the middle of October to the middle of November. The trees are hardy enough to succeed when trained as pyramids.

13. *Hacon's Incomparable*. A middle-sized Pear, in form and colour much like a small Gansell's Bergamot. The skin is nearly covered with russet, and sometimes faintly tinted with red on the exposed side. The eye is seated in a shallow depression, and the stalk is short and stout, not deeply inserted. Flesh buttery and highly flavoured. It is generally fit for eating about the end of November, but sometimes may be kept considerably longer. The skin is rather tough; but altogether this is a very fine Pear, and the trees are said to be hardy and productive.

14. *Winter Crassane*. Fruit middle-sized, turbinate in form. Eye rather deeply sunk in a narrow basin; segments narrow and erect. Stalk long, only slightly inserted in the generally oblique base. Skin greenish yellow, freckled all over, and in some parts blotched with light russet. Flesh white, buttery, although deficient in juice; agreeably but not highly flavoured. The trees are hardy, and bear freely as pyramids. A very useful January Pear, considerably resembling the old Crassane in form and colour, but inferior to that variety in flavour. It is one of the many varieties raised from seed by T. A. Knight, Esq.

15. *Monarch*. This Pear is rather below the middle size, roundish-obovate in shape, and somewhat irregular in outline. Eye small, slightly sunk in an evenly formed cavity; segments small and reflexed. Stalk short, not deeply inserted in a narrow depression. Skin yellowish green, a little russeted, and very faintly tinged with dull red on the exposed parts. Flesh yellow, firm, but buttery, moderately juicy and exceedingly rich, having a slightly musky and peculiar flavour. Generally fit for table in December. The trees are hardy and free bearers; but I have found the fruit peculiarly liable to be blown off before it was fit to gather; this, however, may have arisen from accidental circumstances, and may not be the case generally. At any rate, the *Monarch* is an excellent Pear, perhaps the very best of Mr. Knight's seedlings.

16. *Eyewood*. A good deal like the *Crassane* in form, but scarcely so large. Eye rather large; segments lying back on the sides of a shallow and even depression. Stalk long and slender, only slightly sunk at its insertion. Skin dull yellow, much freckled with russet dots, and sometimes very faintly tinted with red on the sunny side. Flesh whitish, not perfectly buttery, but juicy, sugary, and brisk. Another of Mr. Knight's seedlings, and a very good Pear; in use about the beginning of November.

17. *Thompson's*. Fruit middle-sized; in general form obovate, but rather irregular in outline and uneven in surface. Eye not deeply seated; segments short. Stalk only slightly sunk. The skin considerably resembles that of the *Passe Colmar* both in colour and in a particular glossiness. Flesh white, perfectly melting, and abounding in luscious juice, with a flavour equal, if not superior, to any Pear of its season, which is the end of October and beginning of November. The tree is hardy and productive, and succeeds well trained as a pyramid. This admirable sort was named in compliment to Mr. Thompson, fruit-gardener to the Horticultural Society; and I cannot convey a more favourable impression of its merit to those who know Mr. T. than by saying that it is worthy of its name.

J. B. WHITING.

PELARGONIUMS FOR EXHIBITION.

As specimens for exhibition in some respects require different management from small plants for the home stage, inasmuch as they must be had in bloom at a given time, I take this opportunity of recording the proper course of treatment to ensure a good head of bloom in May. To manage this nicely requires some forethought and experience.

In addition to a judicious selection of plants for early work, they should have had their last shift not later than the beginning of October; and by the present time the pots should be tolerably full of roots, and the plants have made strong growth. They will now require encouragement, by putting on a little fire early in the afternoon, just sufficient to raise the temperature of the house; when warm, syringe

the flues if the weather is open. The steam excites the plants to make growth. Increase this as the season advances. Tie out the shoots singly, so as to admit light and air to every part of the plant. Water more freely; but care must be observed not to make them too wet, and so induce a weak, sappy growth; give air on all possible opportunities, but avoid cold draughts.

The general stock and specimen plants intended to flower in June and July should not be excited at present; they should have received their final shift, and should be growing gently on; use heat only on special occasions, as, for instance, to exclude frost and dry the house, giving air at the same time. These plants may now be tied into shape, as the old wood, as well as young, can at this stage be twisted with less danger than later in the season, when it is full of sap. As I have before stated, great care must be taken not to water too freely, as it is not quick growth that is wanted, so much as short strong shoots, which will ensure fine flowers, as well as a good head of bloom.

Royal Nursery, Slough.

WM. FROST.

NOTES FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW,

AND OF NEW OR RARE PLANTS

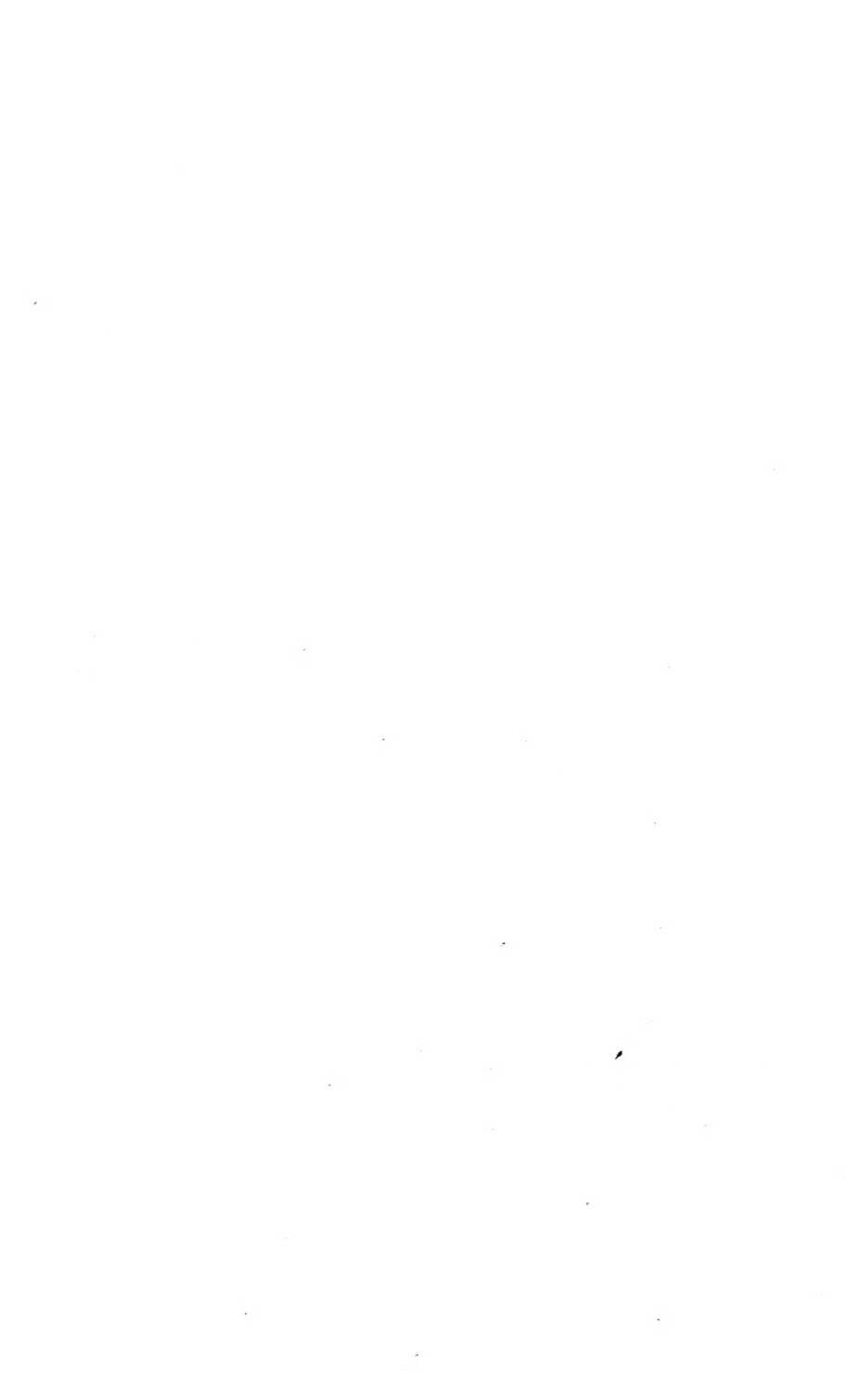
FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

PLATYCODON CHINENSE. A large flowering half-hardy perennial herbaceous plant, belonging to the order of Bellworts, and growing about two or three feet high. The stems are erect, glaucous, with a purplish tint; leaves ovate, nearly sessile, deep green above, glaucous beneath, finely serrated, and edged with purple. The flowers are few, racemose, produced in succession, varying from one and a half to near three inches in diameter, and of a deep rich violet blue. This species requires a rather shady place in summer, and a compost of peat and sand, with a little loam in it; it should be kept rather dry during winter. It was introduced to the Horticultural Society from China, through Mr. Fortune.

ONCIDIUM TRILINGUE. This is a rather pretty Orchid, with the habit of *O. macranthum*. The flowers are produced sparingly, in a long half-climbing panicle, and they are cinnamon-brown in colour; the lip is dagger-shaped, with a yellow crest, consisting of three flat yellow tongues, terminating in a thin winged plate. Native country Peru. These two are figured in Paxton's *Flower-Garden* for November.

CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE. This species is an old inhabitant of our hothouses; it was introduced from Nepal in 1819, yet one rarely sees it cultivated to the extent it deserves, though it is usually found in most collections. Being a winter flowering plant, with large gay blossoms, it is valuable for decorative purposes at this dull season. It is rather a low-growing terrestrial Orchid, and is most suitable for cultivating in pans about four or five inches deep, a foot or more in diameter; each pan may contain from eight to ten plants, which will soon form a tolerably compact mass, and when in flower they have a charming effect. A compost consisting of good rich mellow loam, with one-half fibry peat, a little gritty sand, and potsherds broken small, is most suitable to pot them with, always being careful to ensure good drainage. There are several pans in one of the stoves at Kew treated as above, and the plants are flowering profusely, some of the flower-stems being eighteen inches high, and the flowers nearly six inches across.

ÆSCHYNNANTHUS SPLENDIDUS. This is one of the most beautiful of the genus. It is an erect-growing free-flowering branching evergreen stove shrub, having





Pink
Opuntia Turneri

glabrous branches, and somewhat fleshy elliptic-lanceolate leaves. The flowers are in umbels, like terminal clusters, a score or upwards being together. Each flower is curved, three inches long, of an orange-colour below, deepening into a rich vermilion upwards, with a triangular blotch of deep purple crimson or maroon inside. This is a hybrid, and is an acquisition to this tribe of plants; it was raised by Messrs. Lucombe, Pince, and Co., Exeter, from *Æ. speciosus* fertilised by *Æ. grandiflorus*; and it possesses the abundant flowering habit and erect growth of the former, and in brilliancy of colour and marking it even exceeds the latter. Figured in the *Magazine of Botany* for December.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

PINK OPTIMA.

THE accompanying coloured representation was taken from a bloom of this Pink exhibited at the National Floricultural Society's meeting on the 26th of June, where it received the highest award the Society offers, viz. a first-class certificate. Twelve blooms were put up on this occasion; twenty-two were also shewn at the June show held in the Surrey Zoological Gardens; and twenty-four at the July exhibition of the Botanic Society in Regent's Park, where it received similar awards. It was raised by the late Mr. Hastings of Oxford; after whose decease it passed into the hands of Mr. Turner, with the right of naming it. We cannot perhaps pay this fine variety a higher compliment than by stating that the figure is a correct representation of the flower.

It is a free bloomer; so much so in fact, that but little increase can be obtained. It is a sure lacer, and will carry three or four blooms on a plant. The whole of the stock has been disposed of.

VERBENA ORLANDO (SMITH).

THIS variety was exhibited to and received a certificate from the National Floricultural Society. In colour it is lilac blue. It is of the same class as Mrs. Mills, but of a deeper shade and larger in the truss. It is a good grower, and fine in form.

A FEW OF

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PELARGONIUMS OF 1851.

LAST year, I, as well as many others, felt disappointed at not seeing the list of "Pelargoniums" proposed by Orion appear in the *Florist*, as it would have filled up the blank left in the lists of *Florist's* flowers furnished by Mr. Edwards. As no other person has entered the field, I forward three dozen of the most successful varieties exhibited by the leading growers of the present day, adding when and where exhibited.

Names.	A		B		C		D		E		F		G		H		No. of times exhibited.	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2		
Star	1				1	1	1	1			1						1	18
Forget-me-not.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1						1	16
Gulielmus	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	16
Rosamond	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	16
Pearl	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2									1	12
Centurion.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1									1	12
Salamander.....	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	12
Rowena.....	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	12
Constance.....	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1						2	11
Negress.....	1	1	2		1	2	1	1			1	1						10
Norah.....	1	1	1	1		1	1	1			1	1						9
Mars.....	1		2		1	2		1			1							8
Lalla Rookh.....	1		1	2		1	2				1	2		1				7
Orion.....	1	1				1		1	1	1	1	1						7
Crusader.....	1	1				1		1	1	1	1	1						7
Mont Blanc.....			1		1	1		1	1		1							6
Prince of Orange.....	1		1		1	1		1			1							6
Ajax.....	1	1						1			1							6
Governor.....		1			1			1			1							6
Alderman.....		1						1			1							6
Victory.....		1	1			1	1	1		1								5
Bertha.....	1		1			1	1	1		1								5
Firebrand.....	1				1	1		1			1							5
Magnificent.....	1	1				1		1			1							5
Cuyp.....		1						1	1									5
Pictum.....	1					1		1		1								4
Grenadier.....			1										1		1			4
Aspasia.....					1	2			2				1		1			4
Conspicuum.....					1	1	1	1		1		1	2	1	1	1	1	13
Ariel.....					1			1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1
Alonzo.....						1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1
Narcissus.....						1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1			7
Virgin Queen.....						1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			7
Nandee.....							1	1			1	1	1	1	1			4
Electra.....							1	1			1	1	1	1	1			4
Emily.....								1			1	1	1	1	1			4

A, Regent's Park, 14th May, 1851.

B, South London, 25th May, 1851.

C, Chiswick, 7 June, 1851.

D, Regent's Park, 11th June, 1851.

E, South London, 25th June, 1851.

F, Regent's Park, 2 July, 1851.

G, Vauxhall Gardens, 8 July, 1851.

H, Chiswick, 19 July, 1851.

* Figure "2" denotes that the exhibitor shewed the same variety in two classes.

The names with an asterisk are Amateurs; those without are Nurserymen. The figures prefixed to their names shew their order as winners of prizes.

In my opinion a seedling *Pelargonium* should never be let out the first year, but kept back till the second, and then exhibited as a two-year old plant; and not less than two or three plants should be shewn at a time. In this way one could judge of their merits as plants fitted for exhibition; and at the same time it would do away with the many disappointments to which the public are subject under the present mode of management. Let us hope that better times are coming.

Kent, Nov. 18th.

J. M.

[In thanking our correspondent for his valuable returns, we must inform him that a portion of his letter could not be inserted, unless his name had been attached to it. He does not appear to be aware of the fact, that seedling *Pelargoniums* are scarcely ever exhibited the first season in which they bloom; and we do not know of an instance of their being sent out without a second trial; neither will new flowers

be generally seen at the exhibitions the first year after being sent out, unless there is a class for them in smaller-sized pots than those at present required by the regulations of our principal exhibitions.]

THE CHAUMONTEL PEAR.

I AM desirous of pleading the claims of the Chaumontel; its merits do not appear to be known so extensively as they deserve, or it would be cultivated in every garden. Notwithstanding the multitude of new Pears, I very much doubt if there is one, all things considered, that better merits universal cultivation than this, and especially for small gardens. On Quince stocks, fan-trained, it will succeed on a south-east or west wall, but of course best on a south; *en espalier* also, and in a warm place, as a dwarf-standard, the fruit is often of large size, and when mature the flavour is delicious. Its season is the middle of November to the middle of January. Large specimens are annually sold in Jersey and Guernsey at 4*l.* and 5*l.* per hundred.

Four years ago I planted twenty of the most highly recommended varieties of Pear, including the Chaumontel, one of which sort I put against an east wall, and another as a dwarf-standard; and I have had more fruit from these two trees than from all the rest. The bloom is very hardy,—a point of great importance; and if you get flowers, you may confidently expect fruit; whilst with many sorts that bloom “white as a sheet” you often get nothing else. When too numerous, the fruit should be thinned to the quantity the tree can easily mature, otherwise it becomes exhausted, and requires a whole season to recruit, and bears only alternate years.

The Chaumontel, baked in a slow oven, is, without an exception, the most delicious sweetmeat with which I am acquainted; and I feel confident that any of your readers who may be induced to plant it on this recommendation will never regret it, if the tree is at all fairly treated.

OMICRON.

SOCIETIES' SCHEDULES.

At a time when managers of local Horticultural and Floricultural Societies are preparing their schedules of prizes for 1852, a few general remarks may not be inappropriate, and possibly of some service. Considerable difficulty exists in pleasing local exhibitors, and at the same time insuring a good show. Nevertheless, on examining a number of schedules, it will be apparent that prizes are often offered for subjects which are not likely to be competed for. Take for instance *Ericas* and *Pelargoniums* in pots of large size, or large collections of plants, when there are none in the neighbourhood, and the amount of the prize not sufficient to induce growers to bring them from a distance. However much such subjects, if produced, might add to the attractions of the day, it is useless to offer prizes for them except

there be some reasonable chance of their being exhibited. On the other hand, small growers, particularly of Florists' flowers which are shewn in a cut state, often run into the extreme as regards class-shewing; for however desirable it may be to introduce this system to a limited extent, in order to test closely the relative merits of different varieties, the effect produced is not in proportion to the amount expended in prizes. Such displays please a few who are interested in the matter; but our aim should be to gratify the public in general as much as possible, and to foster a love of plants as well as reward merit. The success of Horticultural Societies must ever depend on the support they receive from the public; and if properly managed, they seldom fail in achieving their object. The sooner the subjects eligible for prizes are made known the better, in order to give intending exhibitors a fair chance of bringing their productions forward in a creditable manner on the day appointed for the show. Rules for such meetings should be few and plain, and what are made should be rigidly enforced; but unfortunately such is seldom the case. Secretaries have onerous duties to fulfil; and the above remarks are penned more with a view to assist them than to find fault. I may, however, observe, that success will greatly depend on a judicious schedule of prizes.

AN OLD EXHIBITOR.

REVIEW.

British Pomology. By Robert Hogg. Groombridge and Sons. Svo.

WE received two numbers of this promising work some months ago, but we have hitherto been unable to give them attention. We now refer to them with pleasure, because we can discover from what they contain, that the work, when complete, will form one of the best guides to the Fruitist, as regards the history and naming of fruits, that has yet been published. Each fruit is described in alphabetical order, with its synonymes attached, and in many cases an outline is added; so that the work will be amply illustrated. As will be gleaned from its title, it is to contain a history, description, and classification of all the fruits cultivated in the gardens and orchards of Britain. Such a work is much wanted, and we wish it success. We expect that the following account of the origin of the Apple, taken from Part I. p. 9, will be read with interest:

“The Apple is a native of this, as well as almost every other country in Europe. Its normal form is the Common Wild Crab, the *Pyrus Malus* of Linnæus, and the numerous varieties with which our gardens and orchards abound are the result either of the natural tendency of that tree to variation, or by its varieties being hybridised with the original species or with each other. It belongs to the natural order *Rosaceæ*, section *Pomeæ*, and is by botanists included in the same genus as the pear.

Some authors have ascribed the introduction of the Apple into

this country to the Romans, and others to the Normans; in both cases, however, without any evidence or well-grounded authority. It is more probable that it has existed as an indigenous tree throughout all ages, and that the most ancient varieties were accidental variations of the original species, with which the forests abounded. These being cultivated and subjected to the art and industry of man, would give rise to other varieties, and thus a gradual amelioration of the fruit would be obtained. The earliest records make mention of the Apple in the most familiar terms. That it was known to the ancient Britons is evident from their language. In Celtic it is called *Abhall* or *Abhal*; in Welsh, *Avall*; in Armoric, *Afall* and *Avall*; in Cornish, *Aval* and *Avel*. The word is derived from the pure Celtic, *ball*, signifying any round body. The ancient Glastonbury was, before the arrival of the Romans, called by the Britons *Ynys Avallaç* and *Ynys Avallon*, signifying an apple-orchard; and hence the Roman name *Avallonia*. Some writers entertain the popular error that the cultivation of Apples was not a branch of rural economy in England before Richard Harris planted orchards in several parts of Kent, in the reign of Henry VIII.; but there is evidence to the contrary. In a bull of Pope Alexander III., in the year 1175, confirming the property belonging to the monastery of Winchcombe in Gloucestershire, is mentioned, 'The town of Twining with all the lands, orchards, meadows, &c.:' and in a charter of King John, granting property to the Priory of Lanthony, near Gloucester, is mentioned 'the church of Herdesley, with twelve acres of land, and an orchard.'

William of Malmesbury, in speaking of Gloucestershire, says, '*Cernas tramites publicos vestitos pomiferis arboribus, non insitiva manus industria, sed ipsius solius humi natura.*' Its cultivation was not confined to the southern counties, for we find there was an extensive manufacture of cider as far north as Richmond in Yorkshire, in the early part of the thirteenth century. It is probable that in the middle ages some varieties were introduced from the Continent, by members of the different religious houses which then existed, who not unfrequently had personal intercourse with France, and who devoted considerable attention to horticulture; but there is every reason to believe that the earliest varieties were native productions. The oldest works which treat on the cultivation of fruits afford little or no information as to these early varieties. In some ancient documents of the twelfth century, we find the Pearmain and Costard mentioned; but the horticultural works of the period are too much occupied with the fallacies and nonsense which distinguish those of the Roman geoponic writers, to convey to us any knowledge of the early Pomology of this country. Turner, in his *Herbal*, has no record of any of the varieties, and simply states in reference to the Apple, 'I nede not to descrybe thys tre, because it is knowen well inoughe in all countres.' Barnaby Googe mentions, as 'chiefe in price, the Pippen, the Romet, the Pomeroyall, the Marigold, with a great number of others that were too long to speake of.' Leonarde Mascall gives instructions how 'to graffe the Quyne Apple;' but that is the only variety he mentions.

It is to Parkinson we are indebted for the best account of the early English varieties, of which he enumerates no less than fifty-nine, with 'twenty sorts of sweetings and none good;' and from him may be dated the dawn of British Pomology. But it was not till the publication of Forsyth's Treatise, and subsequently the establishment of the London Horticultural Society, that a full knowledge and thorough investigation of the different varieties existing in this country were obtained. In the Society's catalogue upwards of 1400 are enumerated, the greater portion of which are proved to be unworthy of cultivation for any purpose whatever.

The Apple is a very wholesome fruit. In its raw state it is highly esteemed in the dessert, and when either roasted, boiled, or in pies, it forms a wholesome and nutritious food. Dr. Johnson says he knew a clergyman, of small income, who brought up a family very reputably, which he chiefly fed on apple dumplings! Administered to invalids it is cooling, refreshing, and laxative. It is well known as furnishing an excellent sauce; and apple jelly forms one of the finest preserves. Norfolk Beefings are that variety of Apple baked in ovens after the bread is drawn, and flattened to the form in which they are sold in the shops of the confectioners and fruiterers. In Normandy and America Apples are, to a considerable extent, dried in the sun, in which state they may be preserved for a long period and used at pleasure, when they form an excellent dish stewed with sugar, cloves, and other spices. Those dried in America are cut into quarters, while those of Normandy are preserved whole. On the 1st of November, which was the day dedicated to the good spirit presiding over the in-gathering of fruits, it was usual in this country, as it is still, I believe, in some parts of Ireland, for our ancestors to regale themselves with *Lambs wool*, or more properly *Lamasool*, a word derived from *La maes Abhal*, which signifies the day of Apple fruit. This was a drink composed of ale and the pulp of roasted apples, with sugar and spice. It is mentioned by Gerard, and in an old song called 'The King and the Miller,' we find it referred to:

'A cup of Lambs-wool they drank to him there.'

Besides these, and many other uses to which the Apple is applied, its juice produces cider, which forms in many parts of this country,—in Normandy and the United States,—an indispensable beverage. The juice of the wild species, called crab vinegar, or verjuice, when applied externally is good for strains, spasms, and cramps.

The chemical composition of the Apple is chlorophylle, sugar, gum, vegetable fibre, albumen, malic acid, tannin, and gallic acid, lime, and a great quantity of water."

DAHLIAS FOR EXHIBITION. No. I.

"You grow fewer Dahlias annually, yet every season shew better," is a remark that is often made. Of course improvement is being effected in the varieties themselves; but this is not all, we find from

experience that a great number of flowers require different treatment.

In a collection of Dahlias there will be flowers of various, and some of opposite characters and habits. Many ask, What is the use of growing Queen of the East? it is too small; or Thames-Bank Hero, on account of the opposite fault, viz. being too large, which often carries coarseness with it. Both these defects may be overcome by means of a little care and attention; and as one-third of the sorts cultivated belong to one or the other of these classes, the importance of making every plant produce blooms fit for exhibition will be evident. To this end we propose giving a descriptive list of the popular varieties already out, with particulars as to the proper treatment which each requires.

Sir Robert Peel (Drummond). Bright scarlet lake, with small bronze tip on the points of the petals; a very finely formed flower of great depth. By putting out good plants early, it will be tolerably constant; but forcing an indifferent plant to get it into bloom in time, will cause it to come thin in the centre; it should receive an average amount of thinning and disbudding; no degree of growth will make it coarse; it is good in habit, and grows 5 feet high.

Sir Charles Napier (Hale). Deep scarlet of exquisite form, compactly built; petal stout; a constant variety. This cannot be grown too strongly; it requires considerable thinning of the young shoots, and disbudding. It is dwarf in habit, being from 2 to 3 feet high.

General Faucher (Rose). Rosy carmine, with bronze shade. A constant flower of good size; average growth and disbudding; good in habit; 5 feet high.

Mrs. Seldon (Turner). Large bright yellow, cannot be too early; the majority of the buds should be permitted to remain until they are sufficiently developed, in order to ascertain if they are likely to produce good blooms; remove thin, or otherwise imperfect buds. A full-sized flower, but somewhat uncertain; nevertheless it is the best of its class. It must have good growth; 4 to 5 feet high.

Duke of Cambridge (Fellowes). Lilac, a constant and useful flower; best early; it requires an average amount of thinning; 3 feet high.

Fearless (Barnes). The best lilac; a full-sized fine flower, best in strong heavy soil; few shoots will require removing; disbud moderately; grows 5 feet high.

John Edward (Salter). Bright scarlet, fine, but occasionally hard-eyed; it should be grown in the most moist part of the garden; manure, and water freely; thin moderately; noble in habit; 7 feet high.

Sir F. Bathurst (Keynes). The best crimson, early variety; a succession of plants should be put out, as it is liable to bloom itself out; very fine in form, and requires an average amount of thinning; 3 feet high.

Princess Radziwill (Gaines). White, mottled with purple; a favourite old variety; some plants are liable to throw thin blooms, and therefore such should be discarded; propagate only from those

that produce the most double flowers; good growth, and requires only an average amount of disbudding; 3 feet high.

Miss Spears (Lamont). Crimson, richly shaded with maroon; first blooms small, but with good growth they ultimately come large enough for any stand; fine compact form; very constant; requires good growth and considerable thinning and disbudding; 4 feet high.

Richard Cobden (Stein). Dark shaded purple, and deservedly a great favourite; should be grown in strong stiff soil; fine high centre; average thinning; 4 feet high.

Duke of Wellington (Drummond). Scarlet orange, full-sized flower, with petal and outline good; one of the best for exhibition; good growth in rich strong soil, with moderate thinning early; if disbudded hard at the commencement of the season, size will be gained at the expense of closeness, both in the petal and centre; if grown vigorously, it may be allowed to run to wood, till the first buds are nearly shewing colour; it grows 3 feet high.

Queen of Beauties (Mitchell). White, tipped with deep crimson, waxy in appearance, petal stout; very uncertain. The latter fault can, however, in a measure be obviated by getting the plants much more forward than other varieties, and letting them run wild for a time, *i. e.* leave all shoots and buds on till the first flowers are beginning to open; the buds generally will be sufficiently forward to indicate which have long centres, and which round, those that are double, and those that are thin; remove the bad ones. It should be bloomed under a pot, but not shaded till after a few rows of petals have expanded; if buds are shaded too young, the flowers lose that depth and richness in the tip, which they otherwise possess. It is so fine when caught in good condition, that it is worth trying a whole season for a bloom; height 4 feet.

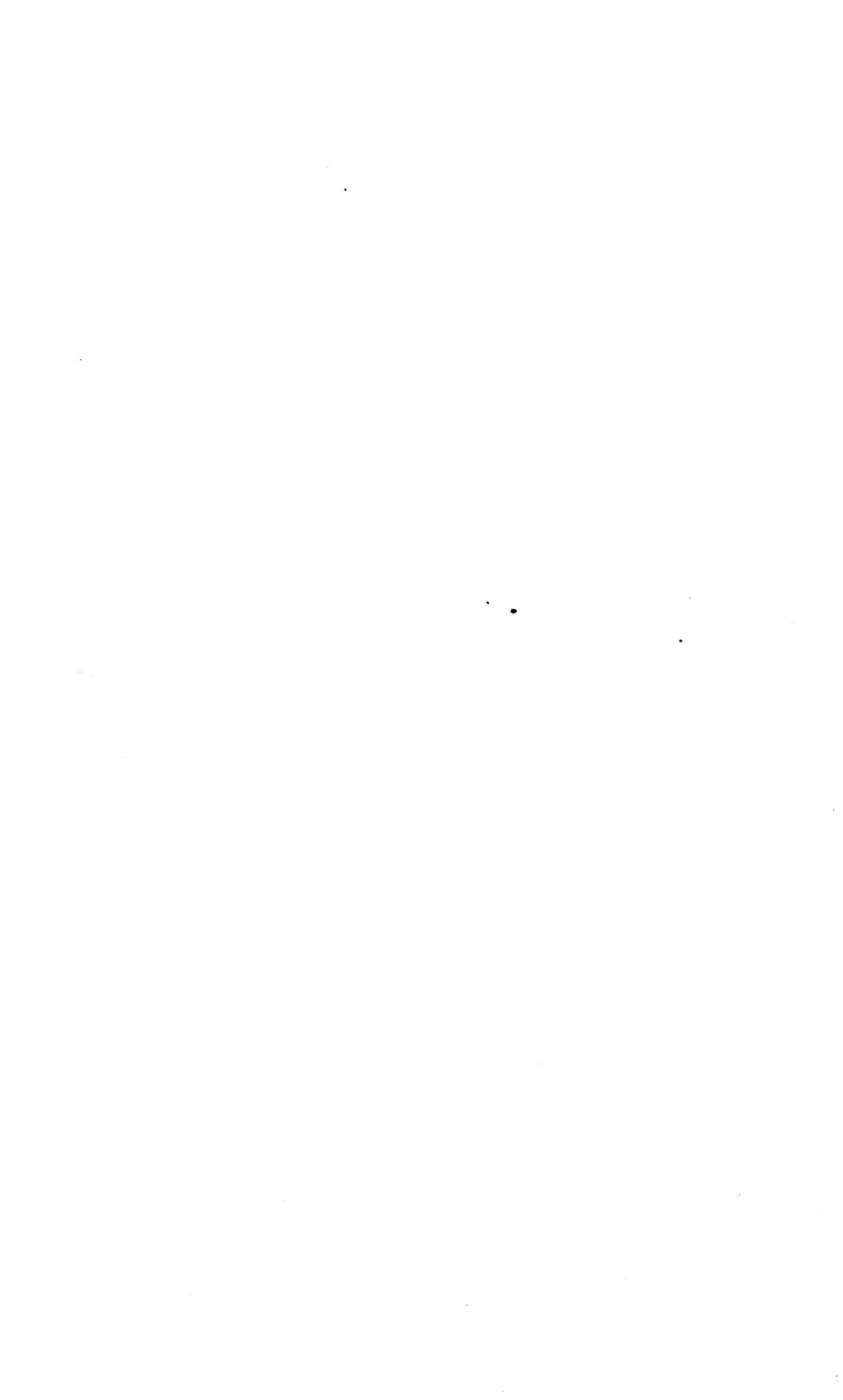
Mr. Seldon (Turner). Rosy lilac, very deep and full; a general favourite, as it will grow anywhere, and produce good flowers wherever it is cultivated; 2 to 3 feet high.

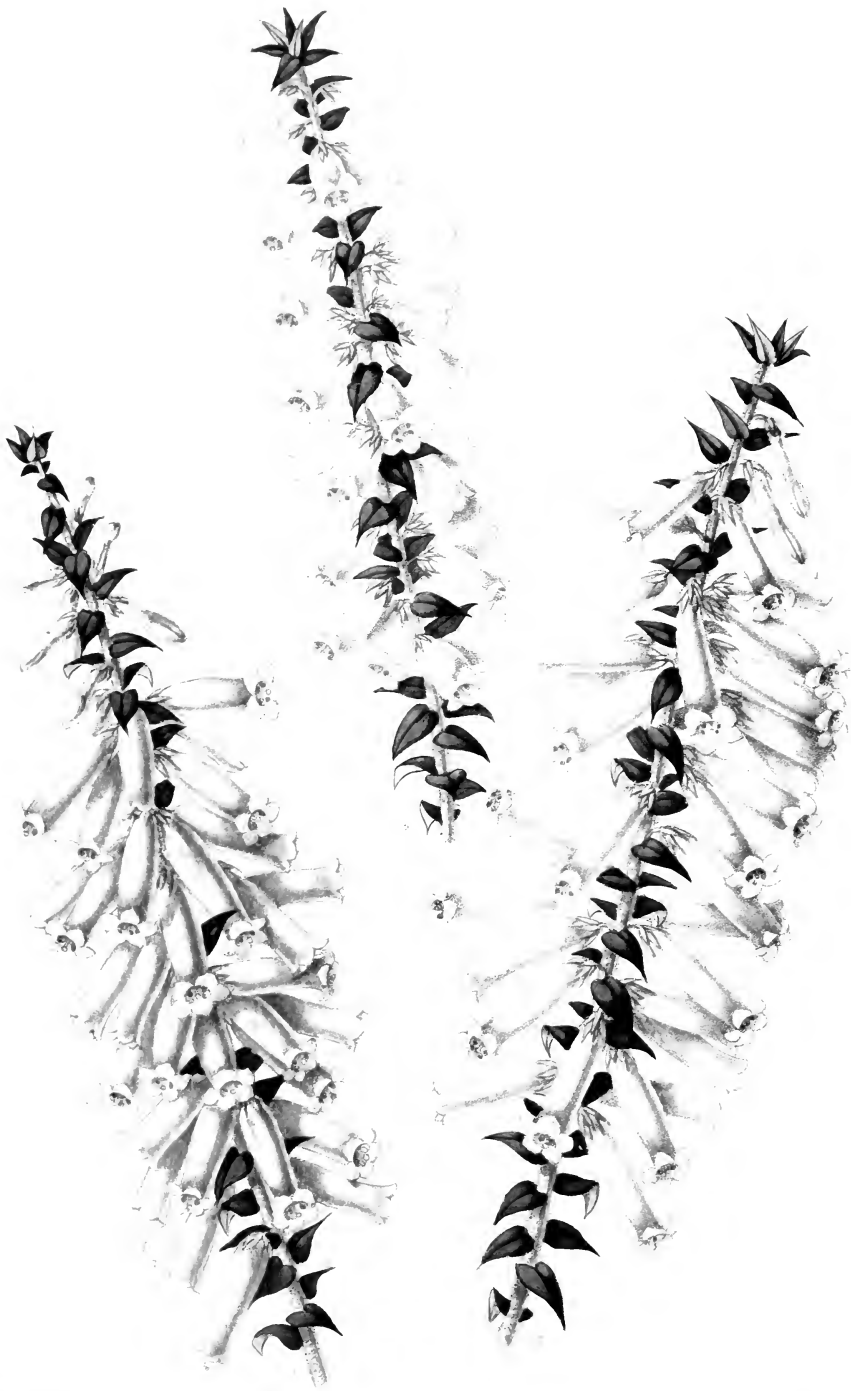
Essex Triumph (Turvill). The oldest flower now grown for exhibition, having been sent out in 1842. In its shaded state this fine dark Dahlia is exceedingly rich; it is easily cultivated. If it shews a disposition to produce thin flowers, get a fresh supply from a good stock; it grows 4 feet high.

Yellow Standard (Keynes). An old favourite of very dwarf habit, and frequently shewn fine at the present day; it blooms down among the foliage, which renders it difficult to obtain for exhibition. It should be grown strongly; the flowers should not be cut till the morning of the show-day, as it is liable to lose the back petals; height 2 feet.

Model (Fellowes). Bronze crimson with bronze tip; full size; constant, and good in habit. This variety must be grown very robust, and thinned hard, or it will be somewhat open in the petal. A fine show-flower when "well done;" grows 5 feet high.







Epacris latruncula

EPACRIS
latruncula

Printed by G. Deben

THE EPACRIS.

It has been said that a garden is among the most delightful things that human art has prepared for our recreation and refreshment. We need hardly state, however, that a garden in winter is very different from a garden in summer. In winter few flowers grace the parterre. The walks, instead of being firm, hard, and dry, are soft and damp. The lawn wears a sombre hue, very different from the vivid green of May. The woods are stript of their summer garments, and but for our evergreens, our shrubberies would indeed look naked and thin. It is at times like these, when the vernal Phlox, the early Primrose, the Hepatica, the Christmas Rose, and a few such flowers alone present themselves, that we feel the full benefits of cheap glass. Plant-houses, instead of being, as formerly, confined to the gardens of the nobility, are now becoming attached to every villa residence. Here, at a trifling amount of labour and outlay, can be produced such floral gems as cheat the winter of half its gloominess. During this month, which is often the most cheerless in the whole year, we can have Hyacinths, early Tulips, Narcissus, Snowdrops, and other spring bulbs; Primulas, Camellias, Corræas, Heaths, Epacrises, and many other plants, whose gaiety partly compensates for the loss of out-door blossoms. Here we can repair, and enjoy a floral treat under genial influences, when all beyond is cold and comfortless. It therefore behoves us to pay much attention to the winter decoration of our little glass-house, and for that purpose we have thought it well to furnish our readers this month with a plate of Epacrises; for, after all, where shall we find more gay or more deserving spring-flowering shrubs than are the different varieties of this lovely genus? The three varieties we have selected for representation were raised in the Royal Gardens, Frogmore, by Mr. Ingram, to whom we have at various times been indebted for many excellent hybrid productions. The light one, *Rosea Alba*, was produced from *Impressa* fertilised with *Miniata*. The other two, *Ingramii* and *Elegans*, are the result of crossing *Miniata* with *Grandiflora*. The seed, we learn, was sown in December 1849. It germinated freely, and the plants were pricked out the following March. They were afterwards transferred to three-inch pots, and shifted gradually on as they advanced in growth. They evidently possess a free-flowering habit, and will, we entertain no doubt, prove a good addition to this useful and ornamental tribe of plants. They were grown in rough peat, silver sand,

pounded bricks, and small pebbles. We need not say more in regard to the cultivation of the *Epacris*, as a useful article on the subject, by Mr. Appleby, is subjoined. Mr. Appleby's extensive experience, as floricultural manager to Messrs. Henderson of Pine-Apple Place, renders his observations valuable; we therefore recommend them to the attentive consideration of our readers.

CULTIVATION OF THE EPACRIS. No. I.

Few inhabitants of our greenhouses surpass this interesting genus in beauty; nevertheless, when grown as they often are, they form naked straggling shrubs, with only a few branches bearing few flowers here and there. Fine specimens are sometimes exhibited at the metropolitan shows; but whoever is in the habit of seeing different places where collections of plants are grown, must have been struck with the meagre, starved, badly-flowered plants generally found there. This should not be in these enlightened days, when the press teems with gardening periodicals, in which experienced men, with no niggard hand, give the public with all sincerity the details of their experience. In order to understand the treatment they require, a glance at the climate of their native country will be useful.

The climate of Australia is remarkable for its dryness, arising no doubt partly from its greater breadth of land than water. There are few rivers, and still fewer inland lakes; and as a natural consequence, there is not much evaporation to supply the air with moisture to form clouds, from which refreshing showers would fall to revive the face of nature, and give health and vigour to vegetation. Rain sometimes does not fall for months, nay years; hence the plants of Europe languish and almost perish, but native plants are wonderfully adapted to the climate. It must have been observed that the generality of plants from that country have a harsh, dry foliage, which perspires very slowly, and thus enables them to withstand the dry atmosphere around them. This is particularly the case with *Epacris*, and ought to be borne in mind in their treatment.

To be successful in their cultivation, the following points must be attended to: 1st, the house or habitation for them; 2d, the soil; 3d, potting; 4th, watering; 5th, general management; 6th, propagation.

The House.—The best habitation for them is a span-roofed house, facing east and west, with glass roof and upright sashes on all sides. The upper lights of the roof should be movable, and the side-sashes should every one of them be so contrived as to open for the purpose of giving air. The best mode is to hang with weights, so as to be easily moved up in cold weather, and down when the external atmosphere is mild. When they are all open, there will be a thorough draught of refreshing air passing through and amongst the plants. They should be placed upon a stage in the centre of the house, and

the smaller plants on a shelf or platform next the glass. The nearer they are to the glass, provided they have room to grow, the better they will thrive, all other points of management being properly attended to. In very hot weather, which often happens when they are in bloom, shading is necessary. The most useful material for this purpose is a thin sheet of canvass, fastened at the top to a flat piece of wood, and to a roller drawn up with a cord at one end. When the plants require shading, the cord must be loosed from the fastener, and the roller allowed gently to descend down the roof to the front. It will then be at full stretch, and the roller will keep it in its place.

Artificial Heat.—The only artificial warmth they require is just enough to keep out frost. This is best given by the hot-water system, now almost universally adopted. Though more expensive at the outset than the brick flue, the economy in fuel, and the more genial heat, far outbalance the difference of the first cost. This house so situated, and provided with the means of giving air, shading, and heat, will grow most kinds of plants that require only greenhouse temperature. There are now such an enormous number of plants of this description, that it is almost impossible to provide a house for each genus, however large it may be. The only genera that must have, if possible, houses to themselves, are Camellias, Ericas or Heaths, and the large family of Pelargoniums. It is feared that a house for Epacris will never be afforded, neither is it so absolutely necessary; they will thrive tolerably well amongst other greenhouse plants, such, for instance, as Boronias, Eriostemons, Helichrysums, Chorozemas, and other families of similar habit, all natives of the same country.

Soil.—The soil best suited for this handsome genus is peat. By this term the soil found in swamps, and often called peat, is not meant, we call that bog-soil. The right kind is that found on our moors, where the common Heath thrives luxuriantly. This mixed with a small portion of loam and leaf-mould, and a liberal addition of silver-sand, will suit them well. No one need attempt to grow them without this peat or heath-mould, as it is sometimes called. They will grow in it alone, but not quite so well as with the above additions. The peat should be carted home and put in a place where the sun and frost can act freely upon it. It should be broken up into fragments, but not so small as to approach a powdered state. Too fine a soil is injurious to them, excepting when very young. At the time of potting, a sufficient quantity should be taken from the heap, and all extraneous matters, such as large stones, living lumps of turf, or fern-roots, or twigs of heath, all these may be picked out with the hand. By no means sift the peat, unless, as remarked before, for young plants. There is nothing so injurious to plants, Heaths not excepted, as soil made too fine: it soon runs together in a solid mass—is then impervious to water, and becomes sour, and then destroys the young fibrous roots of the Epacris, and in the end causes the plants to turn yellow and die.

THOMAS APFLEBY.

A PLEA FOR THE PANSY.

ON the eve of the Pansy season, we venture briefly to set forth the claims which this innocent yet charming plant has on the notice of those who are fond of early spring flowers, by specially pointing out the advantages of growing a few plants in pots under glass. The Horticultural Society has offered prizes for plants in 8-inch pots, which no doubt will induce many to turn their attention to this flower, and be the means of bringing its merits under this kind of culture prominently before the public. But apart from growing for exhibition, in the shape of cut blooms or in pots, what plants are there that will repay the labour expended on them more generously than a few dozen Pansies grown in the manner we shall presently point out? An ordinary-sized 3-light box or pit will hold about seventy plants in 6-inch pots, which size is large enough when not required for the purposes of exhibition in pots; and they may nearly all consist of different varieties, or two plants of some kinds that are especial favourites may be allowed, according to the taste of the cultivator, and which we should recommend; for there is much in the choice of the plant, as we shall hereafter shew.

Proper plants for the purpose we have just mentioned will now be shewing their buds, and should the weather be favourable, they will have a considerable number of blooms open by the middle of February. At the present time (Jan. 15th), we have very fair blooms of Iron Duke, Supreme, Duke of Norfolk, Elegant, Euphemia, Sir J. Franklin, Leader, Constantine, and Caroline. With proper attention, these same plants will flower in good character till the latter part of May; but we will date the commencement of a good head of bloom, as a general rule, from the 1st of March to the 1st of June; thus, for very little attention, giving a succession of good flowers for three months, without the expense of heat, linings, or coverings. We may, then, well ask what other plant will make the same display and the same return for so little trouble, and scarcely any expense? Instead of naming a competitor, the universal answer will be, "We cannot keep our Pansies through the summer;" it will therefore be our duty to instruct those who are unsuccessful in this respect.

The trade generally manage the Pansy but little better than the gardener or amateur. Although a hardy plant, that will grow and bloom almost any where, yet, like every thing else, to produce fine flowers, they must not be permitted to take care of themselves. If the weather is open the last week in January, or the first week in February, we begin to re-pot our plants generally;* those for the Chiswick shows are placed in 8-inch pots, the remainder (plants that are not so large) into 6-inch pots, using soil similar to that in which they have been wintered, *i. e.* good decomposed turfy loam, rotten manure, a little leaf-mould, and coarse sand, the latter in proportion to the nature of the loam. When potting, loosen the outside of the

* Plants that were potted up from the ground into large 60's or 48's in October.

old ball, and remove a portion of the top soil; drain as you would for Carnations; after covering the bottom of the pot with crocks, place some of the coarsest soil mixed with a little manure over the drainage, and shake all down by striking the pot on the bench. The soil should not be pressed hard with the hand; no water should be given for a day or two after potting. Before as well as after this operation, the plants must be kept well up to the glass: so near do we keep them to the glass at all times, that, as they grow and throw up blooms, we have to raise the frames, or lower the bottom, to allow them head-room. As keeping up a good stock of plants is so intimately connected with the production of large flowers, is it not remarkable to find people losing two-thirds of their collection? The plants we have been describing have from two to six shoots, or strong leaders; and to keep them to these chosen shoots, a number of small ones must from time to time be removed. These cuttings answer the double purpose of strengthening the main shoots, and producing a stock of young plants; the old worn-out plants, after going through the season, producing blooms, cuttings, and, at the end of the season, a little seed, may be looked upon as having done their work, and from time to time die off, which is of no consequence provided a young stock has been secured in the manner we have described. Plant out any increase as soon as it is rooted, and from these again continue to propagate by putting in any side-shoots as cuttings, when they are sufficiently long for that purpose. Propagating the Pansy is a simple and inexpensive operation; almost any beds or borders will answer for planting out the young stock. We recommend that, from first to last, a considerable number should be raised from cuttings, or small pieces taken from the parent plant, with roots attached, in order that there may be a good selection for the purpose of pot-culture. In this lies the secret of successful cultivation, if secret there really be: without a choice of plants no good will be effected.

Having pointed out what should be aimed at to ensure success, it will not be out of place to allude to what, in many instances, causes failure. The time for taking cuttings is, in many cases, too long delayed; if the old plant does not go off altogether, the cuttings become sickly and pippy; therefore never be without a young stock.

Strong growers, with large flowers, are best adapted for exhibition in pots. The following are recommended for that purpose:

Selfs of various shades. Blanche, Constantine, Duke of Perth, Ibrahim Pasha, Lucy Neal, Ophir, Polyphemus, Pompey, Rainbow, Sambo.

Varieties with white grounds. Aurora, Almanzor, Caroline, Climax, Madame Sontag, Miss Thomson, Mrs. Beck, Mrs. Hamilton, Penelope, Sir R. Peel, Royal Visit.

Varieties with different shades of yellow ground. Addison, Constellation, Duke of Norfolk, Diadem, Elegant, Euphemia, France Cycole, Iron Duke, Juventa, Mr. Beck, Masterpiece, Ophelia, Robert Burns, Sir Philip Sidney, Supreme, Zabdi.

Keep the frames open whenever the weather is favourable, pull-

ing the lights back, or tilting them up; maintain the plants in a growing state by watering as often as they require it, going over them for this purpose every day. Plants that have several shoots should be tied into shape, placing the centre-branch upright in the middle, and the remainder at equal distances all round it; but the plant must be shaped according to the number of shoots: three leading branches are sufficient if cut blooms only are required. Another advantage is, that the same plants, from the succession of bloom they produce, will answer the double purpose of exhibiting in pots or stands of cut flowers.

After the potting as above recommended has taken place, take the earliest opportunity at which the ground is in a fit state, to plant out any stock not required to bloom under glass, or plants that have been wintered in stores, &c., which will bloom through May and June, and produce a stock of good healthy cuttings. By following the simple and inexpensive treatment which we have just recommended, we are sure that those who take the little trouble that it entails will not fail to be gratified by a fine display of rich velvety faces, which, from their long continuance, will become as familiar as "household words."



REVIEW.

British Pomology. By R. Hogg. Groombridge and Sons.

SINCE we noticed the early numbers of this excellent work, we have received the first volume complete; and the result proves that our expectations in regard to its value, even high as they were, are more than realised. It is certainly one of the best books on the subject which has yet issued from the press, and cannot fail, not only to correct pomological nomenclature, but also to create and diffuse a greater taste for fruits and their cultivation.

The first division—that now before us—consists of the Apple, and forms a handsome octavo volume. The second division we understand will embrace the Pear; and the third, which will complete the series, will contain all the Stone Fruits, together with the Gooseberries, Currants, Grapes, Figs, Strawberries, Raspberries, and other minor fruits; the whole forming a most elaborate and interesting work.

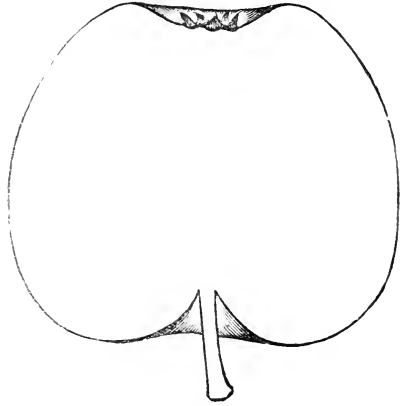
The following extracts, respecting two of our most popular Apples, will serve to shew the manner in which the descriptions are treated. For the sake of brevity we have been obliged, however, to omit the "identifications," "synonymes" and references to "figures."

GOLDEN PIPPIN.—Evelyn.

"Fruit small; roundish, inclining to oblong, regularly and handsomely shaped, without inequalities or angles on the sides. Skin rich yellow, assuming a deep golden tinge when perfectly ripe, with a deeper tinge where it has been exposed to the sun; the whole

surface is strewed with russetty dots, which are largest on the sunny side ; and intermixed with these are numerous embedded pearly specks. Eye small and open, with long segments, placed in a shallow, smooth, and even basin. Stalk from half an inch to an inch in length, inserted in a pretty deep cavity. Flesh yellow, firm, crisp, very juicy and sugary, with a brisk, vinous, and particularly fine flavour.

One of the oldest, and by far the most highly esteemed of our dessert Apples ; and neither the Borsdorffer of the Germans, the Reinette of the French, nor the Newtown Pippin of the Americans, will ever occupy in the estimation of the English the place now accorded to the Golden Pippin. It is also an excellent cider Apple. The specific gravity of its juice is 1078.



It is in season from November to April.

The tree is a free and vigorous grower, but does not attain a great size. It is also an excellent bearer.

When and where the Golden Pippin was first discovered, are now matters of uncertainty ; but all writers agree in ascribing to it an English origin, some supposing it to have originated at Parham Park, near Arundel in Sussex. Although it is not recorded at so early a period as some others, there is no doubt it is a very old variety. It is not, however, the 'Golding Pippin' of Parkinson, for he says 'it is the *greatest* and best of all sorts of Pippins.' It was perhaps this circumstance that led Mr. Knight to remark, that from the description Parkinson has given of the Apples cultivated in his time, it is evident that those now known by the same names are different, and probably new varieties. But this is no evidence of such being the case ; for I find there were two sorts of Golden Pippin, the 'Great Golding,' and the 'Small Golding, or Bayford, both of which are mentioned by Leonard Meager, and there is no doubt the 'Golding Pippin' of Parkinson was the 'Great Golding.' Whether it was because it was little known, or its qualities were unappreciated, that the writers of the 17th century were so restrictive in their praises of the Golden Pippin, it is difficult to say ; but true it is, whilst Pearmain, Red Streaks, Codlings, and Catsheads, are set forth as the desiderata of an orchard, the Golden Pippin is but rarely noticed. Ralph Austin calls it 'a very special Apple and great bearer.' Evelyn certainly states that Lord Clarendon cultivated it, but it was only as a cider Apple ; for he says, 'at Lord Clarendon's seat at Swallowfield, Berks, there is an orchard of 1000 Golden *and*

other cider Pippins. In his *Treatise on Cider* he frequently notices it as a cider Apple; but never in any place that I can recollect of as a dessert fruit. In the *Pomona*, he says, 'about London and the southern tracts, the Pippin, and especially the Golden, is esteemed for making the most delicious cider, most wholesome and most restorative.' Worlidge merely notices it as 'smaller than the Orange Apple, else much like it in colour, taste, and long keeping.' Ray seems the first who fully appreciated it, for after minutely and correctly describing it, he says, 'Ad omnes culinæ usus præstantissimum habetur, et Pomaceo conficiendo egregium.' De Quintinye's remarks are not at all complimentary. He says it has altogether the character of the Paradise or some other wild apple, it is extremely yellow and round, little juice, which is pretty rich and without bad flavour. But the *Jardinier Solitaire*, more impartial, or with better judgment, says, 'son eau est tres sucrée; elle a le goût plus relevé que la Reynette; c'est ce que lui donne le mérite d'être reconnue pour une tres-excellente Pomme.' The opinion of Angran de Rue-neuve is also worth recording: 'La Pomme d'Or est venue d'Angleterre; on l'y appelle Goule-Pepin. J'estime qu'elle doit être la Reyne des Pommés, et que la Reynette ne doit marcher qu'après elle; car elle est d'un plus fin relief que toutes les autres Pommés, Switzer calls it 'the most antient, as well as most excellent Apple that is.' But it is not my intention to record all that has been written in praise of the Golden Pippin, for that of itself would occupy too much space; my object in making these extracts being simply to shew the gradual progress of its popularity.

The late President of the London Horticultural Society, T. A. Knight, Esq., considered that the Golden Pippin and all the old varieties of English Apples were in the last stage of decay, and that a few years would witness their total extinction. This belief he founded upon the degenerate state of these varieties in the Herefordshire orchards, and also upon his theory that no variety of Apple will continue to exist more than 200 years. But that illustrious man never fell into a greater error. It would be needless to enter into any further discussion upon a subject concerning which so much has already been said and written, as there is sufficient evidence to confute that theory. The Pearmain, which is the oldest English Apple on record, shews no symptoms of decay, neither does the Cats-head, London Pippin, Winter Quoining, or any other variety; those only *having been allowed to disappear* from our orchards which were not worth perpetuating, and their places supplied by others infinitely superior.

It is now considerably upwards of half a century since this doctrine was first promulgated, and though the old, exhausted, and diseased trees of the Herefordshire orchards, of which Mr. Knight spoke, together with their *diseased* progeny—now that they have performed their part, and fulfilled the end of their existence—may ere this have passed away, we have the Golden Pippin still, in all the luxuriance of early youth, where it is found in a soil congenial to its growth; and exhibiting as little symptoms of decay as any

of the varieties which Mr. Knight raised to supply the vacancy he expected it to create.

In the Brompton Park Nursery, where the same Golden Pippin has been cultivated for nearly two centuries, and continued from year to year by grafts taken from young trees in the nursery quarters, I never saw the least disposition to disease, canker, or decay of any kind; but, on the contrary, a free, vigorous, and healthy growth.

But this alarm of Mr. Knight for the safety of the Golden Pippin, and his fear of its extinction, was based upon no new doctrine; for we find Mortimer, a hundred years before, equally lamenting the Kentish Pippin. After speaking of manures, &c. for the regeneration of fruit-trees, he says, "I shall be glad if this account may put any upon the trial of raising that excellent fruit the Kentish Pippin, which else, I fear, will be lost. For I find in several orchards, both in Kent, Essex, and Hertfordshire, old trees of that sort, but I can find no young ones to prosper. A friend of mine tried a great many experiments in Hertfordshire about raising them, and could never get them to thrive, though he had old trees in the same orchard that grew and bore very well. I likewise tried several experiments myself, and have had young trees thrive so well as to make many shoots of a yard long in a year; but these young shoots were always blasted the next year, or cankered; which makes me think that the ancients had some particular way of raising them, that we have lost the knowledge of." Although this was written a hundred and fifty years ago, we have the Kentish Pippin still, which, though not so much cultivated, or so well known now as then, is nevertheless, where it does exist, as vigorous and healthy as ever it was."

WINTER PEARMAN.—Ger.

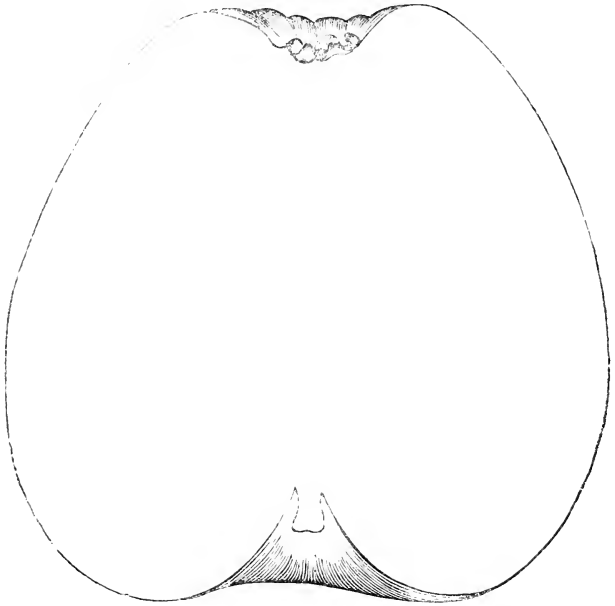
"Fruit large, three inches and a quarter wide, and about the same in height; of a true Pearmain shape, somewhat five-sided towards the crown. Skin smooth and shining, at first of a greenish-yellow, marked with faint streaks of dull red on the shaded side, and entirely covered with deep red on the side next the sun; but changes by keeping to fine deep yellow, streaked with flesh colour on the shaded side; but of a beautiful, clear, deep red or crimson on the side next the sun, and strewed all over with small russetty dots. Eye large and open, with short segments, set in a pretty deep and prominently-plaited basin. Stalk very short, not exceeding a quarter of an inch long, inserted in a deep funnel-shaped cavity, which is lined with russet. Flesh yellowish, firm, crisp, juicy, and sugary, with a brisk, poignant, and very pleasant flavour.

A highly-esteemed old English Apple, suitable principally for culinary purposes, but also valuable for the dessert; it is in use from December to the end of April.

The tree attains about the middle size, is a free and healthy grower, and an excellent bearer.

This is, I believe, the oldest existing English Apple on record. It is noticed as being cultivated in Norfolk as early as the year 1200—what evidence against Mr. Knight's theory! In Blomefield's *His-*

tory of Norfolk there is mention of a tenure in that county by petty serjeanty, and the payment of two hundred Pearmains and four hogsheds of cider of Pearmains into the Exchequer, at the feast of St.



Michael, yearly. It is the original of all the Pearmains, a name now applied to a great variety of Apples. Much doubt has existed as to the origin of this word; and in a communication to the *Gardener's Chronicle* for 1848, I there stated what I conceived to be its meaning. The early forms in which it was written were Pearemaine and Peare-maine. In some early historical works of the same period I have seen Charlemagne written *Charlemaine*, the last portion of the word having the same termination as *Pearemaine*. Now, Charlemagne being derived from *Carolus Magnus*, there is every probability that Pearemaine is derived from *Pyrus Magnus*. The signification therefore of Pearmain is the *Great Pear Apple*, in allusion, no doubt, to the varieties known by that name bearing a resemblance to the form of a Pear."

It will be seen that the woodcuts are prepared with especial regard to characteristic distinctness. The drawings were, we believe, all made by Mr. Hogg himself, who has paid particular attention to giving the natural expression and delineation of the eye; a point on which the correct determination of fruits much depends.



ON THE PROPAGATION OF FANCY PELARGONIUMS.

I AM unacquainted with any class of Florists' flowers that stands more in need of a few practical hints as regards proper cultivation than the above. Few plants are more interesting, or, when well managed, greater favourites, either while in bloom, or in a growing state when fine and healthy. A small greenhouse will accommodate a great many different varieties; if only fifteen feet by ten, it will hold twenty fine specimens, and if the latter are in 6-inch pots, you may grow forty. Being a successful cultivator of this variety of Pelargonium for several years past, I will give the young amateur or gardener the benefit of my experience as respects the methods I adopt for propagation and making good plants.

I know of no better season than the present for taking cuttings: select some good tops from the very best sorts that are out; get as many thumb-pots as you will require for the purpose; fill them with rich turfy mould, and put one cutting into each pot; but previous to filling the pots, let them be well drained with broken charcoal or oyster-shells, either will do; then with your pencil, or a piece of round stick, make a hole an inch deep, fill the said hole with silver-sand, then put in the cutting, give the pot a slight blow on the potting-board to settle it firmly in the soil; dip a piece of stick or your pencil into some water, and hold it downwards, in order that three or four drops may fall from the same, close to the side of the cutting, this will set the whole firmly together, and the quantity of water will be quite sufficient for three or four days; after that, add a little more in a similar way, or with a fine-rosed watering-pot, as may be thought needful. When you have finished this part of the work, let all the pots be plunged into a slight bottom-heat, say from 65° to 70°; give a little air in the day-time, to prevent the cuttings from damping-off; and as soon as they are rooted, they are established plants; not like some of the Nurserymen's poor sickly things, from which it is impossible to make a specimen fit for exhibition, and which you must grow along in the best manner you can, till you can get a cutting from them at a great loss of time.

I do not recommend the practice of putting a great quantity of hard-wooded cuttings into one pot; two out of three will take root, when you spoil several in getting them apart; strong cuttings struck singly in pots as directed, and well managed after they have rooted, will make fine specimens by June or July the following season. I have exhibited plants in July two feet in diameter, that were taken off the parent plant shewn at Chiswick in July the previous year; but you will not find many of the sorts do this; most of the varieties will, however, make good specimens by the time stated.

In a future Number, I will give a few practical hints on their general culture and management, and also respecting the soil I have proved from long experience to be most suitable for them. In the meantime I trust that what has been written above may be found of some service.

Pimlico.

J. ROBINSON.

GENERAL REMARKS FOR THE SEASON.

At the time I am writing, January 15th, a long continuance of dry weather has been succeeded by a great fall of rain with mild southerly winds; the effect of which is the presence of a great amount of moisture in our plant-houses, to counteract which, it is well to have the fires lit, whilst air is most freely admitted from those parts where the rain will not drive in, or, as the seamen say, "from the lee-side." By this means, tender and succulent plants, like seedlings, will be preserved from shanking, or their leaves from fogging off. It is in such weather as this, when continued rain stops out-door operations, that glass so far elevated from the ground as to admit the gardener to enter and work, shews its superiority over the common low frames, which have always appeared to me, when every thing is taken into consideration, as the dearest of all protecting contrivances. Our bedding-out plants, housed this year in a cheap lean-to erection, instead of in frames as before, are in superior condition, and have lost scarcely any of their number; and this condition will enable us to provide for them out of doors much earlier than usual, previous to planting them out. We owe this to the free admission of air, and that better attention which can be given to plants so placed as to enable the gardener to see the neck of the plant as well as the foliage, a most important point in cultivation. No sooner are they removed to a part of the garden, where a mat thrown over them will be a sufficient protection, than their place will be supplied with seedling Pelargoniums, which will thus have the necessary room given them. These in their turn disposed of, the tank, which serves to exclude the frost, will become a propagating bed until a sufficient quantity of plants are struck and potted off; when the open racks, replaced upon the tank, will receive them for the winter months; and thus the circle of usefulness of this elevated frame, if I may call it such, will be completed.

And now for February. How have the dark days been employed by plant-growers? Are we all well provided with labels, sticks, and other materials? Or have we neglected these essential matters, and have to provide them just as they are wanted? There must now be no delay. Pelargoniums, whether for exhibition or the home stage, should be well opened out for the admission of light and air; the top-soil should be removed, and a fresh dressing given them, leaving more space for water than when they were first shifted. All seedlings should now be placed in the situations they will bloom in without crowding. Break up unsparingly all that throw blind shoots, or which have cankered stems or leaf-stalks. On no account let your plants be overcrowded; remember, if you get them drawn at the early part of the year, you commit an irreparable error.

Worton Cottage, Isleworth.

EDWARD BECK.



CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.

THE season for potting these will soon be here; and perhaps a few words of advice on the subject may be acceptable to some of your readers. The Carnation is deservedly a favourite flower with many; but success in its cultivation is, I think, the "exception," and failure the "rule." Attention to a few indispensable points will possibly do something to reverse this order of doings; no doubt they are well known to the successful growers, but I do not recollect to have seen them prominently insisted upon in any treatise upon their cultivation that I have met with.

Early in March is the time for potting, and of course previously such varieties as are required to replace lost sorts or to add to the present stock should be procured. In selecting plants, the largest are not always the best, but frequently become "gouty" and die; a moderate strength, of a good clear colour and free from "spot," is the most likely to give satisfaction. There are two systems of potting practised: one is, to put three plants into a 12-sized pot; and the other, to put a pair, or one fine plant, into a 16 or open 24-sized pot. In the latter plan they are more easily moved about, and in the former they make a greater show, often having three or four blooms open, instead of one; so on this point every one may be safely left to their choice. The soil and mode of potting are important: the soil should be a strong rich loam, without any recent or half-decayed manure, but should be homogeneous in appearance; the manure perfectly reduced to mould, and thoroughly incorporated (avoid any compost of a light spongy character). If your loam should not be rich enough, a portion of old cow-dung may be well mixed and rubbed into it; and if the loam has had no previous mixture of manure, two parts loam and one of old cow-dung may be used; before using, it must be thoroughly examined, little by little, to make sure that there are no wire-worms in it; for one of these pests, however small, introduced into any of the pots will ensure the destruction of the plant. Drain the pots with about three-fourths or one inch of drainage, and fill them with soil sufficiently high to receive the plant, and press the soil into the pot to make it firm, very firm; place the plant (if but one) in the centre, and fill in with soil, pressing it in with considerable force. On this firm potting much depends.

If the soil is moderately moist, as it should be, they need not be watered for a few days; they should be sheltered from the full force of strong winds, be watered when needful, and be kept free from green-fly. Any strong side-shoots likely to run to flower should be cut off; and this should be attended to constantly, up to the time of blooming, in order that all possible encouragement may be given to the leading shoot. The beginning of May top-dress with well-decayed cow-dung, and weak manure-water may be given occasionally. In very bright sunshine the pots should be sheltered from the sun, and a little shade in the middle of the day to intercept the scorching rays

of the sun is also beneficial, and in long-continued hot, dry weather indispensable.

As the plants progress towards bloom, they require regular attention in tying up, disbudding, tying the pods to prevent their bursting, opening the calyx, carding, shading the opening pods from sun and rain, dressing or arranging the petals as they expand, and keeping them free from insects, green-fly, thrips, and earwigs; but on these points I need not enlarge. It has often struck me that it would be very useful if the nursery-catalogues gave an intimation of the number of blooms each variety will mature; some may have three pods left, whilst others should have but one.

When the time for layering arrives, I hope to be able to offer a few more words of advice on that necessary operation, and on the autumn and winter treatment. OMICRON.

SEED-SOWING.

SOME twelve months ago, I had been transacting some business in a seed-shop at —; and was just about to bid the proprietor good morning, when my attention was arrested by a gentleman who was loudly and angrily addressing an assistant behind the counter; and I gathered from his discourse, that the cause of his displeasure was the almost total failure of several kinds of seeds he had purchased a few weeks previously at that establishment. “True,” he remarked, “I had never dealt with you before, nor was my order an extensive one; but I never dreamt that you would sell me old seeds, which rotted in the soil, or merely vegetated and then damped off. My friend Captain —, who recommended me, told me yesterday at dinner, that his seed had vegetated, and grown beautifully; and I know they were many of them of the same kind as my own. It is therefore very evident that you keep two qualities of goods—one to sell to your customers, as you call them, and one to strangers.” Now, when a man is thoroughly in anger, to reason with him is in most cases an impossibility. The proprietor endeavoured to appease him, and to inquire into the kind of treatment he had given his seeds; but all to no purpose; he would hear no explanation. He expressed in rather strong terms his belief that he had been cheated, demanded his bill, paid it, and left the shop, under strong conviction that he was an injured man. From the well-known character of the establishment, and from other facts, I believe that there was no just cause of complaint. The fault had been not in the seeds, but in the treatment; and thousands of such unjust accusations are every season hurled at the devoted heads of seedsmen in every part of the kingdom. Recollect, I am not attempting to wholly excuse seedsmen when a purchaser’s seeds do not vegetate, because they are often no doubt in fault, whether innocently or not I shall not stop to inquire; but I feel confident that, in very many instances, it is the treatment and not the vitality of the seeds which is to be blamed. Nor do I intend

to include in my observations other seeds than such as are sown in pots, pans, or frames, and subject to artificial treatment. Of course, in the latter, mismanagement will be the more evident. The case of the gentleman I have just cited will, I think, form an excellent text for an observation or two, addressed to such as may have felt themselves in similar situations.

There are several causes which will induce total failure in the growth of seeds, however excellent they may be. To some of the more prominent of these I shall briefly allude. Burying them too deeply in a finely prepared earth, allowing them to become dry after vegetation has commenced, and sowing in a rich earth, are perhaps the more common forms of the causes which lead to failure; and I might add sowing too thickly, which is pretty sure to induce damping-off as soon as the young plants have begun to grow. Small seeds are very often, especially in the hands of ladies and young amateurs, buried at too great a depth: shut out from the proper action of the atmosphere, vegetation is called into action so tardily, that the means supplied to favour that process induce decay, where they should have assisted vitality. Employing a very finely divided earth, too, is a powerful auxiliary to this kind of failure. Space will not allow me to enter into the scientific bearing of this part of the inquiry as respects the physiology of the seed, and its relation to the causes which produce vegetation, or some interesting details might be adduced. The second cause of failure named, that of allowing seeds to suffer from drought, after once having commenced growing, is a very prevalent one. Attention is withheld at the very crisis of success. Perhaps vegetation has progressed so slowly, as to induce the belief that the seeds were dead, or, through forgetfulness or neglect, moisture was denied when most needed, and the results were total failures. Perhaps the most common cause of disappointment is, however, sowing in too rich a soil. Seeds with fleshy cotyledons especially suffer if consigned to a bed of half-decaying vegetable matter, as is often employed. In such cases the seeds are "killed with kindness." Too poor a medium cannot be employed in which to *vegetate* seeds; their subsequent progress I have nothing to do with at present. In this part of my essay, many interesting points for discussion present themselves; but as it would swell the present remarks to too great a length to allude to them now, I shall reserve them for a future *Florist*.

Sowing too thickly causes many disappointments in seed-raising, not perhaps by preventing vegetation, but by causing the young plants to damp-off afterwards. As a general rule, seedlings should be "pricked off" as soon as they are large enough to handle; and if any are permitted to remain in the seed-pan, they should be left at good distances from each other, sufficiently so to afford each the benefit of light and air to induce robustness of constitution. For it is well to bear in mind, that much of the future success of a plant, as of an animal, is due to the treatment it receives in its youth.

G. L.

THE AURICULA.

THE culture of that beautiful and fascinating flower, the Auricula, is attended with little difficulty. The care which is principally required is, to keep the plants in a clean state, by removing all decaying leaves, supplying them with water during their periods of growth, admission of air, and growing them in a simple and safe compost.

The compost I have used for the last twenty years is made up in the following proportions; viz. two barrow-loads of cow-dung, at least two years old; one do. of leaf-mould; one do. of pure light loam, from an old pasture. These ingredients are intimately mixed, and a sufficiency of fine silver sand added to keep the mass open and ensure drainage. I contrive to have it all frozen through during the winter, by removing the frozen surface, and placing it under an open shed, where it remains till wanted.

Treatment during November, December, and January.—In mild weather I give the plants all the air I can, keeping them clean by divesting them of all decayed leaves. The plants being now dormant, I occasionally give them a little water to prevent the foliage from becoming flaccid, taking care not to wet the plants themselves.

The first mild weather in February I top-dress, by removing about an inch in depth of the surface-compost, taking care not to disturb the fibres, and filling up to within a little of the foliage with new compost, having a portion of old sheep-dung mixed with it. This I believe to be the best top-dressing that can be used for the Auricula. It causes the green edges to bloom with a more vivid colour, and increases the size of the pips.

After they are top-dressed, the plants must be set to work by being regularly watered. Towards the end of the month they will be growing rapidly; at this time protection is requisite from sudden and severe frosts, when the flower-stems have risen up above the foliage. Frost acts most injuriously upon the blooms, causing the paste of some to crack, and also distorting the pips. I cover my stages with a thick carpet next the glass, and over that a layer of mats; and even this protection, ample as it would appear, is at times scarcely sufficient.

I may state here that my stages face the north-east; but immediately after being top-dressed I remove those plants intended for exhibition to a stage facing due south, and as they come into bloom remove them again to the north-east, where they will only get the morning sun.

Many varieties produce more pips than is requisite to form a perfect truss. I need scarcely say that all those which are distorted and superfluous must be removed carefully with a pair of sharp-pointed scissors. A little experience will soon teach the cultivator the proper number to be left on.

During the months of May, June, and July they must be liberally supplied with water, and the plants kept clear of decaying leaves and flower-stems; at the same time look out well for a small black caterpillar that attacks the centre of the plants, and if not caught in time

will leave only a naked stump. Green-fly also must be removed by carefully brushing them off. There is much difference of opinion respecting the time to re-pot Auriculas. There can be no doubt but that early potting causes many of the plants to bloom in autumn, which weakens the plants and injures the spring bloom. My time for beginning this necessary operation is towards the end of July, so that I may have them all finished by the middle of August. The plan I follow is to shift two years consecutively, leaving a good ball of soil at the roots; and the third year to shake the whole of the compost from the fibres, and pot them afresh. When I require to do this, I re-pot about a month earlier. The method I adopt in re-potting is as follows. For a full-sized plant I use a pot six inches wide and seven deep; and for smaller plants and offsets, pots varying from three to five inches wide. For draining I use, first, a layer of broken crocks, then a layer of oyster-shells, convex side up; above this I place some vegetable fibre, to prevent the compost choking the drainage. I then fill in some compost; when this is done, I examine the plant to be re-potted, and reduce the ball of fibres with a sharp knife. I like to grow my plants with short stems; consequently, the lower portion of the stem, or carrot, is well examined annually, and all decaying portions of it cut off, and the wound dressed with powdered wood (charcoal) to dry it up, and keep the plant healthy. The offsets are then slipped carefully off, and the part of the plant to which they adhered dressed also with charcoal; the plant is then placed in the centre of the pot, which is filled up to within about half an inch of the top, care being taken to keep the foliage clear of the compost; a gentle stroke or two upon the bench will settle the soil, and should it sink much, add the quantity necessary to complete the process.

When the compost is shaken altogether from the plants, and the stem and fibres properly trimmed, the fibres require to be equally distributed over the soil in the pot, touching the side, and then filled up.

Some cultivators have recommended keeping the plants in a dry state for a few days after re-potting. I have found harm resulting from following this advice; therefore they should be watered whenever completed.

There is one fatal malady to which this fine flower is liable,—that is the rot. This may be attributed to two causes; viz. improper compost, and allowing water to lodge in the hearts of the plants. An experienced cultivator can instantly perceive by the peculiar smell when disease is in a collection. When a plant is seen with its head leaning to one side, and the outer leaves assuming a purple hue, having also a strong disagreeable smell, then rot has commenced. Plants so infected must be immediately removed to a distance from those in health, otherwise the whole collection may be swept off in a very short time. I have tried every sort of experiment to cure this scourge. The only remedy that was successful was, to take the plant out of the pot, wash it well, and with a sharp knife cut away all infected parts, and dust the wounds with charcoal; and after allowing the plant to dry for a few hours, re-pot it in a mixture of leaf-mould, loam, and sharp sand.

To guard effectually against the rot, never allow the plants to have any heavy rains; and purchasers cannot be too careful in having their plants from a healthy stock. I lately saw large collections in such a state, that I would not have taken the whole in a compliment, knowing that I should only be introducing the plague into my own stock.

GEO. LIGHTBODY, in "*The Scottish Gardener.*"

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### FANCY PELARGONIUMS.

HAVING been solicited by many to give some particulars respecting the treatment adopted here in regard to this class of Pelargoniums, particularly of the plants exhibited at Regent's Park last June, which were then so much admired, I cannot do so at a more fitting time than the present, when the plants every where will now be exciting interest, and daily requiring attention. There are many older growers of Fancies than myself who could, and who no doubt will give the details of their practice in the pages of the *Florist*, for the benefit of its readers; but, in the mean time, I will venture to offer my views on the subject.

Fancies may be grown to almost any size by keeping the house moist and warm; in fact, by treating them almost like stove-plants, a quantity of wood will certainly be gained, but it will be at the expense of colour and size of the bloom, with a general weakly appearance. Therefore, if your plants are not likely to be quite so large as your neighbour's, do not, by too much heat, gain one advantage and lose several others.

Fancies undoubtedly like a little warmth; but give plenty of air all day, if you should even have a fire on at the same time, and afford them plenty of room. Keep the outside branches tied out, in order to give the centre-shoots all the light and air possible. With every attention to tying, however, the plants have a tendency to become crowded; to lessen which I thin out a few of the under leaves occasionally from the centre of the plant, which prevents the shoots from becoming drawn.

The soil only differs from that made use of for other Pelargoniums in having a little rough peat mixed with it, and some broken oyster-shells.

In potting they are kept higher in the pot than the ordinary kinds, the collar being level with the surface of the mould.

Great attention should be paid to watering. You had better find six plants dry than one too wet. There is a remedy for the one evil, but none for the other. The roots, being of a much finer description than those of the stronger-growing class, cannot endure an excess of moisture. The plants above alluded to were not "pushed" by any artificial means; they received no fire-heat, and but very weak liquid manure about twice a-week was given. They were merely permitted to grow gently on in the lightest part of the house. The plants were not large or old; in fact, they were intended for another season, not

being considered large enough to meet others of longer standing. Quality, however, overcame size—a point which should not be lost sight of in any class of flowers for competition; size with quality, if you can, but size at the expense of quality will not often be admired.

Having said thus much of large plants intended for exhibition, it will be necessary to add but little respecting those intended to make the home-stage gay; and there is no class of plants that has a more lively appearance in a house, or that gives more effect to the surrounding foliage than this. Your last time of potting should be regulated by the month you wish to have your plants blooming at their best. If early flowers are required, the plants should have had their last shift not later than October; and then they should not have too much room. A 32-sized pot, as a general rule, is enough; but this will depend on the age of the plant. If bloom is desired at a later period, you can have them flowering at their best during the month of July, by giving them a good shift in March. To retard their bloom, Fancies may also have the points of the shoots pinched out, which is a good plan if the plants are thin, causing them to break out freely, making larger plants with later bloom.

*Royal Nursery, Slough.*

WM. FROST.

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#### SIZES OF GARDEN-POTS.

It is of great importance to the readers of this Miscellany, that occasional correspondents or contributors should give the sizes of garden-pots, not in numbers but inches; for although the former nomenclature is well understood near London, it is incomprehensible in some parts of the country. As a general rule, all well-made pots are as deep as they are wide at the mouth; the tapering is a matter of taste, some like little, some much; for summer flowering plants, the wider they are at the bottom the better, and *vice versa* for winter. There exists a deal of prejudice about the nature and form of pots; but it requires only a little consideration and *experience* to satisfy any practical man, that a non-porous material, ay and wider bottoms than tops, are equally well adapted for plant *culture* as their opposites.

E. BECK.

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#### GALANTHUS PLICATUS.

A good example of this beautiful Snowdrop was shewn at the last meeting of the Horticultural Society; although long cultivated in gardens, it is hardly known to the public. It is from Caucasus, whence it seems to have found its way to Constantinople about the year 1592. It also appears to have been met with on the borders of the Black Sea. It differs from the common Snowdrop in having much broader leaves, which are plaited, as it were, not flat; its flowers are also larger, and the green on the petals far more conspicuous. In every point of view it is a much finer thing than the old Snowdrop, and it is quite as hardy, and easily managed.

## DAHLIAS FOR EXHIBITION. No. II.

*Barmaid* (Holmes). White, tipped and mottled with pale purple; late in the season it becomes nearly white; petal thick. It should be grown luxuriantly with plenty of moisture, and disbudded freely; height 3 feet.

*Blanchfleur* (Morley). White; this is the only pure white now cultivated; with some good points, it has rather a difficult centre. It is delicate in habit, and should be planted in a warm situation in rich soil, not very heavy; it must be thinned hard, or it will be undersized; 2 to 3 feet high.

*George Glenny* (Barnes). A large yellow, always double, but not good early in the season; it, however, comes fine late; it should be shaded under a pot when young; height 3 feet.

*Ambassador* (Green). Dark maroon, occasionally shaded; a full large flower; first blooms very good; quills late. It requires average growth and thinning of shoots; height 2 feet.

*Earl of Clarendon* (Union). Similar in colour to Wellington, but not so good in form; quills too much; constant, and often showable; height 4 feet.

*Hon. Mr. Herbert* (Keynes). Yellow, mottled and tipped with red; a large flower, very double and good in form, but occasionally cross-eyed; it should be disbudded moderately; height 3 feet.

*Summit of Perfection* (Keynes). Dark purple, medium size, petals stout and smooth on the edges; quills occasionally; centre high; height 4 feet.

*Gem* (Oakley). White, tipped with purple; like most light Dahlias, uncertain. If grown well in strong soil and in an open situation, the early blooms are very good; old root or pot-root succeeds best; height 3 feet.

*Goliath* (Turner). Buff, a new shade of colour; double, full and fine in form; early blooms do not lose the green eye readily, but are very true and constant during the latter part of the season; water freely; likes average thinning and disbudding; height 3 feet.

*Black Prince* (Mitchell). Dark maroon; if badly grown, a little quilled; should be grown strongly and thinned freely; a constant and useful flower; height 4 feet.

*Queen of Lilacs* (Turner). Silvery peach-lilac; petal smooth and good; full size; a good flower for exhibition; easily managed, but it should not be thinned too hard; height 4 feet.

*El Dorado* (Salter). Dull yellow, always double, centre low; useful only for "long numbers;" must be shaded while very young; height 3 feet.

*Gem of the Grove* (Soden). Dark maroon; a good-shaped flower of medium size; should be grown strongly and disbudded freely; height 4 feet.

*Fame* (Turvill). Mottled lilac, full size, centre good; early blooms from well-grown plants very fine, later coarse and confused; height 4 feet.

*Leda* (Fellowes). Buff, very constant; a good second-class flower; easily cultivated; height 3 feet.

*Marchioness of Cornwallis* (Whale). Blush; this variety is seldom seen full in the centre. Its uncertainty is such, that its good points will not continue to keep it long in cultivation; height 3 to 4 feet.

*Magnificent* (Keynes). Mottled rose, large, centre good; early blooms do not open freely, late good; plenty of buds should be left, and it should not be grown strong; height 4 feet.

*Lady E. Cathcart* (Turner). White, tipped with rosy purple; resembles *Delight* in petal and colour; good early, late, liable to throw a crop of thin blooms; good growth, average thinning; old or pot-roots succeed best; height 3 feet.

*Nil Desperandum* (Stein). Scarlet, very full and fine early in the season; habit bad; late blooms liable to come thin; best in stiff soil; height 4 feet.

*Jullien* (Hale). Rosy purple; a deep flower of good form, producing its best blooms late; height 2 to 3 feet.

*Andromeda* (Collison). Buff, tipped with cherry; like *Queen of Beauties*, this cannot be too forward, as the first blooms do not lose the eye while the back petals are fresh. Some object to this flower on account of its singular colour; but when the tints are fresh and the tip distinct, it is dissimilar and good; height 4 feet.

*Toison d'Or* (Batteur). Buff, centre low, constant, petal smooth, growth average; not sufficiently good to shew in small numbers; height 2 feet.

*Admiral* (Bragg). Lilac; fair flower if not overgrown, but not so good as *Fearless*. Strong soil and moderate thinning; height 2 to 3 feet.

*Beauty of Kent* (Trenfield). Carmine, with white at the base of the petals; requires good growth and considerable disbudding and thinning of the shoots; undersized. It will never be more than a front-row flower; good habit; height 4 feet.

*Beeswing* (Sainsbury). Ruby; a full-sized flower; rather coarse if grown strong; leave plenty of buds; height 3 feet.

*Carmina* (Bragg). Vermilion red; a free-flowering full-sized variety, of moderate quality; average growth; height 3 feet.

*Dr. Sandford* (Ablett). Dark maroon; a second-class flower, being flat and rather low in the centre; constant; average thinning and disbudding; height 4 feet.

*Elizabeth* (Daniels). Pale rose; grows strongly. Leave plenty of buds, when it will produce unique blooms, but the majority are ribby and inferior; height 4 feet.

*Miss Vyse* (Turner). An old flower, that comes in well for long numbers; white tipped with violet; a constant, full-sized variety; should be grown in a light part of the garden; leave plenty of buds; height 3 feet.

*Negro* (Fellowes). Dark maroon; a full-sized, constant variety, often too much ribbed, yet a very useful flower; should be grown strongly, and requires average thinning; height 4 to 5 feet.

*Nepaulese Prince* (Stein). Shaded maroon, medium size, con-

stant; requires good growth; disbud and thin out shoots freely; height 5 feet.

*Princess Louisa* (Fellowes). Shaded salmon-buff, full-size, constant, and a very useful show-flower; leave plenty of buds; height 4 feet.

*Queen of Dahlias* (Kelsall). This is a variety that few will succeed in managing, yet it is a charming flower when caught in good condition; colour silvery pale lilac, with white at the base of the petals, which late in the season extends, making it a white edged with lilac; early it appears a self lilac of a pale shade. Grow your plants well and *early*, and leave plenty of buds; in fact, take away none until they are sufficiently advanced to select the bad from the good. It has a drooping, bad habit, and requires shading under a pot; height 4 feet.

*Queen of the East* (Barnes). Blush, fine form, but small; should be grown strongly and freely; cut away all superfluous shoots and buds; height 2 feet.

*Roundhead* (Holmes). Dull buff, medium size, good shape; average growth; height 4 feet.

*Seraph* (Fellowes). Bright buff, pleasing shade of colour, a constant variety; requires plenty of water, and average thinning; height 3 feet.

*Shylock* (Collison). A good old favourite; the better it is grown the finer the flower; requires good rich soil, and disbudding freely; a piece of old root will produce fine flowers; height 3 feet.

*Thames-Bank Hero* (Robinson). Crimson; large bold flower, of good habit; leave nearly all the buds it produces; height 4 to 5 feet.

*Utilis* (Drummond). Crimson; small, good form, good growth in strong, heavy soil; height 2 to 3 feet.

*Yellow Superb* (Keynes). Large yellow; rather coarse and flat early in the season, late it produces good blooms; average growth and disbudding; height 4 feet.

The following varieties may be dispensed with for exhibition, being either uncertain, bad in form, too small, or have been beaten in their class; some of them, however, are showy, and may answer for border purposes:—Delight, Crocus, Ozema, Queen of the West, King of Dahlias, Baltic, Gem of the East, Lady Craven, Sulphurea Pallida, Orange le Grand, Mrs. Williams, Jane, Victoria Regina, Colonel Bacon, Queen of Primroses, Le Grand, Sulphurea Perfecta, Uranus, Gracilis, Venus, Hercules, Napoleon, Queen of the Isles, Regina, Rosea Alba, Gaiety, Nepaulese Chief, Miss Herbert, Antoinette, General Negrier, and Admiral Stopford.

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NOTES FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW,  
AND OF NEW OR RARE PLANTS  
FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

HORN-BEARING BALSAM (*Impatiens cornigera*). Raised in the stove of the Royal Gardens, Kew, from seeds sent from Ceylon. It flowered the whole summer and autumn, and may be pronounced a really ornamental plant. It grows



from three to four feet high. Flowers yellow suffused with pink. It should be treated as a tender annual.

**TANACETUM-LEAVED MACHÆRANTHERA** (*Machæranthera tanacetifolia*). A pretty Mexican Composite, with flowers nearly as large as a China Aster. They are purple with a yellow centre. Although a tender biennial, planted in the open border at Kew it continued blooming during the summer months.

**CORTUSA-LEAVED BUTTERCUP** (*Ranunculus cortusefolius*). This is stated to be the handsomest of all the Buttercups yet known to botanists. The flowers are two inches across, and of a singularly glossy yellow. It comes from the Canary Islands and Madeira, and is all but quite hardy, *i. e.* it will require some protection during severe frosts.

**EUGENIA UGNI**. A charming myrtle-like shrub from the south of Chili. It has proved quite hardy in the Exeter Nursery, to which it has been introduced by Messrs. Veitch. The flowers form little white bells tinged with rose.

**BACCHARIS-LEAVED PENTSTEMON** (*P. baccharifolius*). A handsome scarlet species, raised from Texian seeds. It is not quite hardy.

**LARGE-FLOWERED GRINDELIA** (*G. grandiflora*). A showy biennial resembling a Marigold. Flowers orange yellow. It will succeed in summer in the open air.

The above are figured in Curtis's *Botanical Magazine* for January.

**LONG-FLOWERED CENTRANTH** (*Centranthus macrosiphon*). A hardy annual, from the south of Spain, belonging to Valerianworts. It makes a gay autumnal plant, bearing masses of rich ruby flowers.

**THE BLAND AMARYLLIS** (*A. blanda*). A stove bulbous plant from the Cape. The flowers are delicate French white, changing to pink. It is an old variety, but it has been so long lost sight of, that it may now be termed a novelty.

**THE SHOWY GRAMMATOPHYLL** (*Grammatophyllum speciosum*). A stove Orchid, from the Malay Archipelago. Flowers yellow, thickly covered with brown spots.

The last three plants have been figured in Paxton's *Flower-Garden*.

**LÆLIA ANCEPS**. To those who cultivate Orchids, this species is one of the most desirable of the tribe, as it flowers freely, and at a season when blossoms are most valuable; in addition to which, they have the property of remaining a long time in perfection. It is not a very expensive plant to purchase, and is best adapted for cultivating in the coolest department of the Orchid house, where the thermometer ranges in winter from 60° to 65°, and in summer from 70° to 75° Fahrenheit. The whole of the species belonging to the genus are "good," and well worthy of the attention of those who cultivate this most lovely tribe of plants. A concise description will suffice to distinguish this from its congeners; pseudo-bulbs ovate or oblong-lanceolate, somewhat quadrangular, with a solitary leaf on each; from the apex of the pseudo-bulb rises a scape, about two and a half feet high, bearing near its summit from three to six large very showy flowers; sepals and petals of a pale rose-colour, lip of a deeper rose with the inside tinged with yellow. It is a native of Oaxaca in Mexico, and has been long known in cultivation, being introduced to Messrs. Loddiges in 1828. Fine specimens of it are at present (January) in flower at Kew.

**MAXILLARIA LEPTOSEPALA**. This is a very pretty flowering species, one of the best of the genus. The pseudo-bulbs are roundish-ovate, compressed, and furnished with a solitary bright green leaf, about a foot long; from the base of each pseudo-bulb rise several flower-stems, each about six inches high, bearing a large and very fragrant flower on the apex; petals and sepals of a light creamy white, slender (hence the name), more than two inches long, with the lower sepals once twisted and recurved at the extremity; lip white, yellow, and brown. It is a scarce plant in collections; was introduced to Kew a few years ago, from New Grenada. This plant succeeds well when cultivated on a log of wood; but it is more preferable to keep it on a shallow pot raised above the rim, where it forms a more compact tuft; the light-coloured flowers contrasting well with the bright green leaves, give it a very lively appearance: it requires to be kept in the warmest division of the Orchid-house, especially while making its growth. It is at present in flower at Kew.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

## CARNATIONS FOR EXHIBITION.

I AM delighted to observe that, in "Dahlias for Exhibition" you have commenced on a subject which I have long thought needed consideration; for granting that there is always in results that which only can be obtained by careful attention and a certain acquaintance with "finger and thumb" practice, yet I know that there is a very large amount of success which may be easily communicated by the teachings of experience.

Substituting the "Carnation" for the "Dahlia," well enough I know you may write, "We find from experience that a great number of flowers require different treatment," and that "in a collection of Carnations there will be flowers of various and some of opposite characters and habits;" and that the success or disappointment of the cultivator depends largely on his mastering these variations; in other words, this is precisely the value of experience. In illustration of this I may mention that, during the last season, a cultivator, who occupies quite a leading place in the Midlands, wrote to me that Duncan, C.B., and Owen Glendower, C.B., were worthless. Here, however, these varieties are eminently satisfactory, and afford to myself and many friends, excellent judges and enthusiastic florists, the greatest delight—a result I attribute solely to my having seen them in previous seasons, and carefully noted their habit of growth, bloom, colours, &c. Thus a brief observation secured for me unmitigated satisfaction; while my friend, for the want of it, reaped nothing but disappointment. Again, when at the last Chiswick show, I noticed Alfred quite deficient, as I thought, of all that had secured for it the favourable encomiums of yourself and others; and this arose simply from its not being half-grown. True, the plants were beautifully clean and healthy; and experienced as the exhibitors were, want of growth might possibly have been the last thing they would have thought of referring its comparative inferiority to; yet I am very sure that much stronger growth would have produced a more satisfactory result.

I imagine that I have shewn, therefore, good cause for calling upon you to give "Carnations for Exhibition" as well as Dahlias; and aided as I know you can be at any time by our great raisers—our Mays, Matthews, Puxleys, Fellowes, Headleys, Burroughes, and Marris— I am sure your remarks cannot but be both interesting and useful; possibly quite as much so to the veteran as to the tyro. If to this you can add a history of the most popular varieties—the parentage of our Juliets, Jessicas, Ophelias, Portias, Ganymedes, Prince Arthur, Lord Nelson, Venus, King James, Ariel, Lorenzo, Sontag, Owen Glendower, Falconbridge, Jenny Lind, General Monk, Duncan, Perfection, &c. &c.,—you will oblige not only me, but a host of others, and greatly aid in throwing light on the present "splendid mystery" of colour in seedlings.

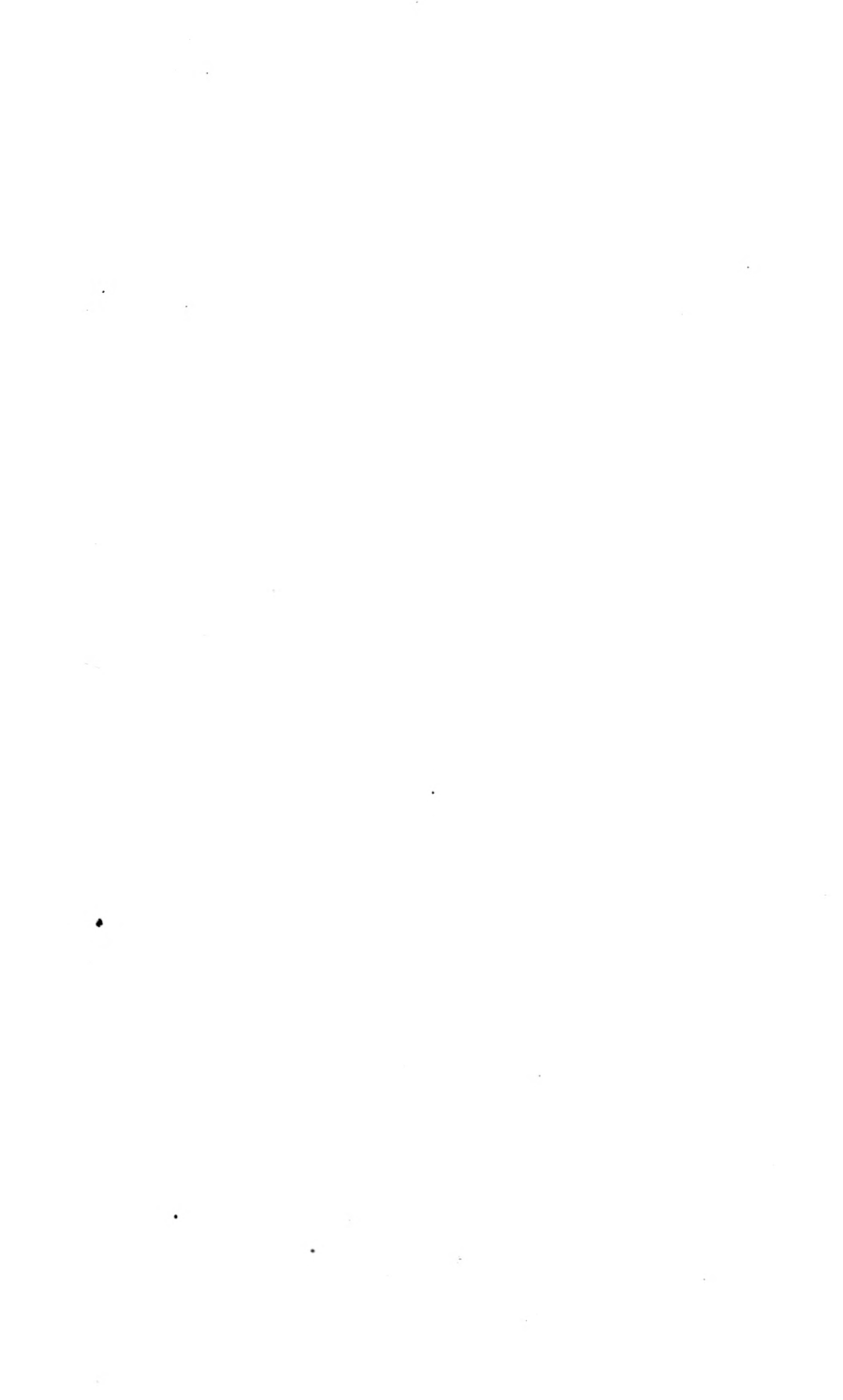
*Derby.*

E. S. DODWELL.











## THE DAHLIA.

BUT little need be said regarding the subjects of our present Illustrations. The history of the Dahlia has been fully given in our Volume for 1849, and much useful information has also been adduced from time to time in reference to its culture and general management. As respects the blooms now represented, it will be evident to all that they are a pair of first-rate flowers, and are from a well-known stock; although known, however, as Mr. Drummond's, they were raised by a gentleman who has no wish that his name should appear in connexion with them. The first good flower from the same source was Beeswing, sent out in 1845, which is still grown and frequently exhibited. This was followed by several others, the most conspicuous of which are Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel.

Alice is a self Dahlia of a new shade, a colour that will contrast well with the dark varieties. A few years ago there was a general cry for light Dahlias, or flowers with light grounds, and we are equally deficient in this class at the present day; but we do not feel the want of them so much, on account of the number of light selfs, and other shades which we possess, and which give variety to an exhibition: we have every shade from white to nearly black, with a large number of what may be termed light selfs, including light peach, lilac, pale buff, &c., with primrose and yellow. In fact, a stand of twenty-four varieties well contrasted could be put up, composed wholly of flowers of entire colours. Nevertheless, we shall be happy to welcome white or yellow ground varieties, whenever they appear with the requisite properties.

Sir Richard Whittington is not so new in colour, but it possesses the desirable quality of constancy, combined with the most approved form. The bloom which was awarded the extra prize at Thornbury as the best seedling of any age, was as perfect as we remember to have seen a Dahlia, and of good full size.

Any further particulars that may be wanted respecting these flowers will be supplied in our advertising pages.

## CULTURE OF PERPETUAL CARNATIONS.

THESE highly fragrant plants were introduced from the Continent a few years ago by Messrs. Knight and Perry; and although they have been greatly admired by those who have cultivated them, they are not nearly so generally known as they deserve to be. They consist of various self colours, and are therefore destitute of the splendid markings of the summer-flowering kinds; but if inferior in point of variety of colour, they are equal with them in respect to fragrance. Very little artificial treatment is required to have this class of Carnations in flower at any season; so that, aided by a moderate number of plants, we may enjoy the fragrance of the Carnation the whole year round, and mingle it as plentifully in the bouquet of December as in that of July.

The plants possess a somewhat sub-shrubby habit, and have a tendency to produce flowers upon the ripened young wood irrespective of the season of the year when the growth may be perfected; and they submit to stopping as frequently as may be necessary in order to retard their blooming, and this without any injury to their ultimate flowering. A little practical experience may, however, be necessary to enable the cultivator to judge as to the proper time at which plants intended to supply blossom at a certain period should receive their final stopping; and as this depends very much upon circumstances, such as temperature, the general health and vigour of the plants, &c., it is difficult to obtain the desired knowledge otherwise than practically, and a season's experience and careful observation will prove the best means of surmounting this difficulty. Such being the case, I will merely give an outline of the general culture proper for these plants.

I will suppose that a few plants of various colours have been purchased, and that these are ready to furnish cuttings of moderately firm pieces at this time. The cuttings may be prepared in the usual way, removing them at a joint where the wood is firm, but not hard; after trimming, plant in light sandy soil, in thoroughly drained pots, cover with a bell-glass, and plunge the pots in a mild bottom-heat, say 65°. If attended to with water, and guarded from damp by frequently wiping the glasses, they will soon root, and may then be potted singly into 4 or 5-inch pots. It will be necessary to keep the plants in a somewhat close moist atmosphere until fully established, after potting. As soon as they have become rooted and made some growth, pinch out their tops, in order to induce them to throw out shoots. It will be advisable to keep the plants in a temperature averaging from 50° to 60°, till the season when this will be supplied by a cold frame. When the plants have filled their pots with roots, they may be shifted into their flowering-pots, the size of which should be regulated by the time when it may be desirable to have them in bloom. For such as may be intended for flowering during autumn, 7-inch pots will be sufficiently large; some for winter use may receive 9-inch pots; and a portion for spring flowering,



and for forming large specimens, may have 10-inch pots. They may remain during summer in the cold frame, and they will require no further attention than the ordinary routine of watering, stopping, and staking. As regards stopping, this should be deferred in every case until the current growth is well matured; for if the plants are stopped while the buds are soft and in a dormant state, the foremost eyes only will break, and there will be but little gained as respects securing a compact bushy habit of growth; moreover, as already intimated, the stopping must be regulated by the period at which the plants may be wanted to produce blossom, and the temperature at which they can be kept, &c. As a general hint regarding this part of their management, I may remark that plants intended to furnish a supply of flowers in November should not be stopped later than July. During their growth they must be freely exposed to light and air; but after the flower-buds are formed, they may, if necessary, be kept close, and subjected to a higher temperature, in order to have them in flower at the desired time. When the weather becomes cold and damp, they must be removed to the greenhouse or to a pit, where they can receive a little artificial heat; but unless in the case of plants which may have been stopped late, in autumn artificial heat will be unnecessary, as they will bloom in the greatest perfection in a temperature of about  $45^{\circ}$ . It is better to have the growth completed during autumn, and to keep the plants in a cool, airy part of the greenhouse, until their flowers may be wanted, than to stop very late, and depend upon artificial heat, which should only be given in the case of a few plants intended for flowering late in spring. While in blossom, they may be placed in the sitting-room, the conservatory, or wherever their fragrance may be most acceptable. The old plants may either be thrown to the rubbish-heap, or if kept cool, cut back, and grown for flowering another season, they will form large specimens with but little trouble.

For soil, use rich unctuous loam and thoroughly rotted manure, in the proportion of two parts of the former to one of the latter, to which add a quantity of clean sharp sand sufficient to render the compost light and porous.

J. S.

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### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the last meeting in Regent Street there were some good Orchids, a few other plants, and some fruit, but nothing particularly striking. In a collection of cut flowers in bloom from the open air, in Dorsetshire (which must be a favoured county in regard to climate), we noticed the beautiful little *Iris alata*, a plant which some of our sea-side friends, who do not possess it, ought to add to their gardens. It is exceedingly handsome, and will thrive within reach of the seaspray, but not in an inland situation.

## CULTIVATION OF THE EPACRIS. No. II.

*Potting.* The season for this operation is just when the plants begin to make fresh shoots after being cut down. This happens generally about the beginning of June. The materials necessary are, soil, which has been already described; drainage, which is made with broken garden-pots in three sizes,—the first tolerably large, to cover the holes at the bottom of the pots; the second a little less, to lay around and over the bottom; and the third much smaller, to cover the last; and if the plants are large, a few broken potsherds should be mixed among the soil; these act as conductors of the water to every part of the ball of earth, as well as admit the air amongst the roots, and prevent the soil from binding together in a hard compact mass. *Pots.* These should either be new, or very well cleaned with water and brush both inside and out. The sizes required, as a matter of course, will depend upon the sizes the plants are in. To obtain free, fine growth, the plants ought to be put into pots considerably larger each time of potting, till they reach the maximum. For instance, if a plant is in a 5-inch pot, when potted it should be put into one 7½ inches in diameter, the year following into a 10-inch pot, and the year after that into a 14-inch pot, after which the plant will become too unwieldy, and is best thrown away, taking care to have a succession coming on to succeed it. Many would throw them away when they have bloomed in 10-inch pots; but such cultivators as are in the habit of exhibiting find the largest sizes most effective.

When the season for potting arrives, place a sufficient quantity of soil well mixed and thoroughly prepared in a place where it will become moderately dry. The way to prove this is to take up a handful, squeeze it gently, and let it fall upon the potting-bench; if it is too wet, it will cling together; but if in a right state it will break in pieces with the fall, and if too dry it will not cling together at all. In the case of being too wet, it should remain a few days longer to dry; turning over once or twice during the time will cause it to dry more quickly; if too dry, the remedy is obvious, spread it out thinly, and give it a gentle shower of water from the fine rose of a watering-pot, mix it then together, and let it lie twenty-four hours, to bring it into the desired state of moisture throughout. Every material being in proper condition, mix the soil intended for large plants with a moderate quantity of potsherds, about the size of hazel-nuts, and then proceed with potting, by bringing a few plants at a time to the potting-bench. Turn one out of its pot, pick out the old drainage, and loosen the roots at the sides with a not too sharp-pointed stick. If the ball appears very dry, let it stand in a vessel of water for a sufficient length of time for the water to penetrate through it; and in the meantime prepare a fresh pot of the proper size for its reception. This preparation consists in the draining. Place a large piece of potsherds over the hole at the bottom of the pot, cover this neatly and evenly with the next size, and upon

them place a layer of the smallest size; out of these last the fine dust, if any, should be sifted. This need not be thrown away, as it will be found useful to mix among soil for dry stove-plants, such as Cacti, or amongst the soil for a great variety of rock-plants and Ferns. Over the drainage place a thin layer of the rougher parts of the soil; this prevents the finer particles washing or falling down amongst, and choking up, the drainage. Upon this place such a layer of soil as will allow the ball of the plant, when standing upon it, to be nearly level with the rim of the pot. Then place the plant as near the centre as possible, and fill round the ball with soil, pressing it gently down as it is filled in, till the pot is full, and the old ball covered up, in small plants about a quarter of an inch, and in large ones about half an inch. Then give the pot a gentle stroke upon the bench, level any inequalities, and the operation is finished. Set the plant upon a perfectly level surface, and give a liberal watering, to settle the soil close to the roots in every part. Follow on from plant to plant in the same manner, till the whole are potted.

*Watering.* Every point in plant-culture is of consequence, and must be diligently attended to with care and judgment. If one is ill or carelessly done, it renders every other point properly attended to nugatory, and none more than that of watering. Some plants, it is true, have such strong or accommodating constitutions, that they will bear for a time too much or too little water with impunity; but that is not the case with the genus *Epacris*, though even they are not so dangerous to neglect as the Heath tribe. When newly potted, they do not require so much water as when the roots begin to fill the pots, and the branches are then growing rapidly, and a large quantity of fresh foliage is produced. The quantity of water then, as the plants grow, should be proportionately increased, especially during the summer months; and when it is applied, enough should be given to thoroughly wet the whole soil in the pot. The dribble by dribble system of watering is very mischievous; one half or more of the ball is never moistened at all. This may be easily seen by turning the ball out of the pot two or three hours after watering; the liquid will be found only to have reached perhaps an inch or two below the surface; and in that case how can the roots exist or thrive in such dry-as-powder soil? When, therefore, a plant needs water, give it liberally; but, on the other hand, take care that it is not glutted or soddened with it. Too much is quite as injurious as too little. The surface will then appear dry, whilst the inside will be too wet. The roots then perish at the ends, the young shoots flag in consequence, and the unthinking operator waters again heavily, and the evil thereby is increased; the leaves turn yellow, and often death ensues. Avoid, then, these extremes, and the plants will continue healthy, and progress satisfactorily.

T. APPLEBY.

[To be concluded in our next.]

## THE TULIP. No. I.

TULIPS will now have generally made their appearance above ground; the beds I have seen are in a more forward state than at this time last season. The next two months will be an anxious time for the grower of this showy spring-flower, who will daily be asking the question, "What will the bloom of 1852 be?" and be comparing appearances with former years, and speculating thereon. Should the excessive wet weather we have lately experienced be followed by a cold frosty March, the beds that have had most rain will probably suffer; it is not when the plants first shew themselves above ground that any ill effects of too much wet having been allowed to fall on the bed will be apparent; more than likely they will exhibit themselves at a later period. A genial growing spring—should we fortunately get such—will help those that have hitherto been neglectful, and benefit all.

Keep heavy rains from them; when we get warm April showers, let them have them in moderation; from frost, hail, and cold storms, we need scarcely say, on all occasions protect them; care at the same time being taken not to weaken or draw them by excessive covering.

I have observed some excellent papers of late in the *Midland Florist* on exhibiting Tulips; but one point appears to have been entirely overlooked. While I admit that the Tulip makes a good addition to a general exhibition, I am surprised that so little is said or written in favour of the magnificent appearance of a well-arranged and well-grown bed, under canvass, at home. This appears to be quite lost sight of in the midland counties. Have Tulip-shows by all means, with stands, and limited class-showing; but the principal object should always be home exhibition. Who is not affected by the striking display which a fine bed produces, particularly if the visit is made between the hours of ten o'clock and mid-day?

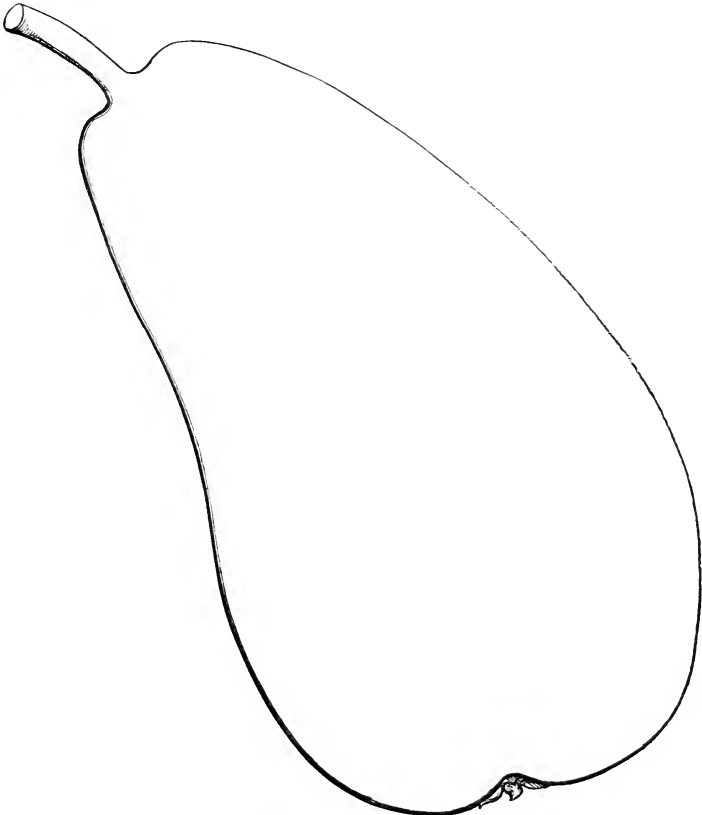
And now having touched on this subject, why is it that a good bed of Tulips is not planted at Chiswick or Regent's Park? They have their American Plant shows and Rose shows. It is my opinion that a good opportunity has been lost this season, seeing that one of the *May Exhibitions* falls as late as the 19th, which will not be far from the height of the Tulip-bloom about London. A bed the length of Mr. Groom's would indeed be a novelty and a great attraction at these floral *fêtes*, as it would be seen by thousands that had never before had the opportunity of witnessing the display this flower is capable of making. I would suggest that the managers of our great exhibitions should visit the principal beds round London next May, and judge for themselves concerning the probable effect such an exhibition would produce. On the other hand, Tulip-growers should readily embrace such a chance, if offered, as a certain means of restoring the Tulip to its former popularity. Almost every other flower can be brought in perfection in some shape or other (cut or plants); the Tulip alone is an exception to this rule. The plan for carrying out such a scheme successfully must form the subject of another article.

H. B.

## DESCRIPTIVE LISTS OF FRUITS.

PEARS (*continued from p. 7.*)

18. *Louise Bonne* (of Jersey). Fruit pyriform, middle-sized, very handsome and even in its outline. Skin very smooth, yellowish green, brownish-red on the side next the sun, and dotted all over with red and grey specks. Stalk about an inch long, rather slender, and inserted without a cavity. Calyx short, open. Eye slightly sunk. Flesh white, buttery, very juicy and excellent in flavour; ripe in October, and soon decays; but its season may be prolonged by gathering a few at a time. The tree is of upright growth, hardy,



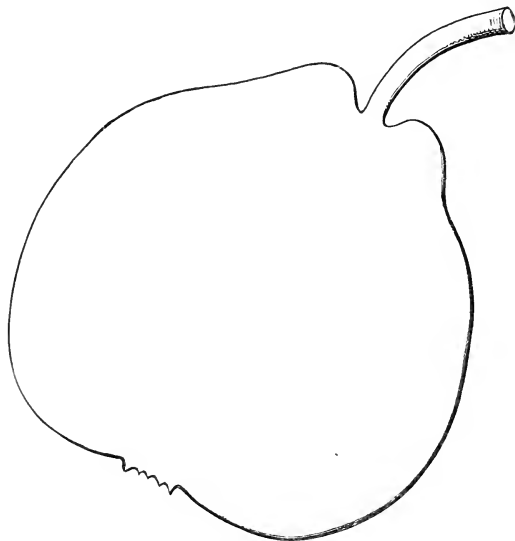
[Van Mons Leon le Clerc.]

and fruitful. It is difficult to trace the origin of this Pear: some suppose it to be a native of France; while others, with more probability, say it belongs to the Isle of Jersey, as the first fruit seen in England was sent by General Gordon of Jersey, in 1820.

19. *Van Mons Leon le Clerc*. Fruit large, oblong, obovate in form, and even in its outline. Skin yellowish brown, mingled with russet, more particularly near the stalk. Calyx small, reflexed, shewing a small shallow basin. Stalk about an inch long, inserted in a slight cavity. Flesh melting, juicy, and rich, nearly coneless, and seldom producing seed: in eating from the beginning to the end of November. The tree is of peculiar habit, and when trained to a wall requires different treatment from many other kinds, its fruit being principally produced from small shoots of one year's growth, therefore the leading branches should be kept thin, and a portion of the small young shoots laid in. Trained trees under this treatment prove good bearers.

This magnificent autumn Pear was raised by M. Leon le Clerc of Leval, in France, who named it after himself, coupled with the name of Dr. Van Mons. The latter having previously raised a large winter pear of little merit and named it *Leon le Clerc*, caused some confusion between the two kinds; the bad kind being sold in this country for the true variety, to the great disappointment of many.

20. *Winter Nelis*. Fruit below the middle size; roundish-obovate in form, narrowed a little towards the stalk. Skin dullish green, intermixed with numerous grey russet dots, and patches of russet on the side next the sun. Stalk about an inch and a half long, rather slender, and deeply inserted in a funnel-shaped cavity. Calyx short,



open. Eye slightly sunk. Flesh yellowish white, buttery, very melting and juicy, and possessing a rich musky flavour; fit for use in December and January. It bears well as a standard in favourable situations and dry soil; but in wet or clay land the tree is very sub-

ject to canker, and the fruit will be full of cracks and spotty : on an east or west wall it is a very abundant and sure bearer.

This excellent winter Pear was raised by M. Nelis of Mechlin, and is known in many gardens under the name of *Bonne de Malines*.

*Frogmore.*

J. POWELL.

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## CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.

If the soil is in good order, lose no time in potting the above for blooming ; a little cold weather (should it set in) will do but little harm, provided the plants have been properly wintered ; therefore proceed with this operation till all have been potted up. For details concerning this important part of the culture of our favourites, we cannot perhaps do better than refer to the excellent advice given by "Omicron" in last Number of the *Florist*. In running the eye over the frame, it will be apparent which should be first commenced with ; any one can pick out the strong healthy-growing kinds, which fill the small pots full of roots much sooner than those of an opposite character.

As regards Carnations, we shall commence with Puxley's Prince Albert and Princess Royal, Brutus, Duncan, and leave such as Admiral Curzon and Martin's Splendid till the last.

In Picotees, we shall begin with Juliet, Mary, Prince Arthur, Portia, &c., and finish with those varieties that would suffer by too much wet, hail, or severe cold, such as Green's Queen, and others known as "bad doers."

We do not know that we can help our amateur friends, or give more useful information to Carnation and Picotee growers generally, at the present time, than telling them to divide the strong from the weak growers, in order that the error of overstocking one pot, while others have a meagre appearance, may be avoided. This is often the case ; and yet the same number of plants may have been put into each pot, the robust and the weak kinds alike. We must here state that the division is made under the impression that all the plants are in good health. Who has not seen Mrs. Barnard in such a condition that six plants would not make a respectable pot ? while of good healthy stuff, two or three would be sufficient. The number of plants we prefer and recommend for one pot, as a general rule, is three ; yet there must be exceptions ; for instance, in purchasing a new kind, in most cases, a pair will be the outside number, and some, rather than not have the variety at all, are content with one plant ; therefore one of two things must be put up with ; either a smaller pot must be used, which is not so convenient for getting the layers down, or the pot must be poorly filled. With a choice of plants, however, three will be the better number, unless they are very strong, when a pair only will be sufficient. We have often heard that Flora's Garland should be grown singly, or one plant in a pot ; we have tried it in that way, and also with three, but we have found no difference in the quality of the bloom.

The pots should be 11-inch ones, *i. e.* 12 to the cast; we use a few 8-inch or broad 16's. for yellow-ground Picotees, and for a few of the other kinds that may not be strong, or varieties with a weakly habit.

The following should be grown three in an 11-inch pot, or a pair, if very strong.

CARNATIONS, *Scarlet Bizarres*: Brutus, Bardolph, Bolingbroke, Lord Lewisham, Lord Rancliffe, Prince Albert (Puxley), Prince Albert (Hale), Emperor, Howard. *Crimson Bizarres*: Count Pauline, Duncan, Georgiana, Jenny Lind (Puxley), Monarch, Nulli Secundus, Owen Glendower, Queen Victoria (Puxley), Queen of Trumps, Rainbow (Cartwright), Rainbow (Hastings), Sir J. Reynolds, South London, William the Fourth (Wood). *Pink and Purple Bizarres*: Faulconbridge, Henry Kirke White, Lady of the Lake, Prince Albert (Puxley), Sarah Payne, Twyford Perfection, Princess. *Purple Flakes*: Beauty of Woodhouse, Earl Spencer, Great Northern, Princess Helena, Poins, Queen of Purples, Squire Trow, Squire Meynell, Superb. *Scarlet Flakes*: Africana, Cradley Pet, Duke of Devonshire, Hero of Middlesex, Justice Shallow, Lydia, Mars, Queen Victoria (Simpson), Sir H. Smith (Hale), Standard (Puxley). *Rose Flakes*: Antonio, Ariel, Duchess of Kent, Flora's Garland, Lorenzo, Lady Gardener, Princess Royal (Puxley), Romeo.

PICOTEES, *Red Edge*: Christabel, Conspicua, Duchess of Sutherland, Elizabeth (Robinson), Gem, Giulio Romano, Hogarth, Isabella (Wildman), James the Second, Mrs. Norman, Mary Ann, Magnificent, Mary, Prince of Wales. *Purple Edge*: Alfred, Beatrice, Constance, Duke of Rutland, Exquisite, Ganymede, Jupiter, Juliet, Lady H. Moore, Lord Nelson, Mrs. B. Norman, Minerva, Ophelia, Prince Arthur, Portia, Pallas, Willoughby. *Rose and Scarlet Edge*. Attraction, Countess Howe, Captivation, Grace Darling, Jeannette, Mrs. Hemans, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Trahar, Phoebe, Princess Royal (Willmer), Princess Royal (Marris) Rosamond, Venus.

The subjoined may be grown four plants in an 11-inch, or a pair of plants in an 8-inch pot.

CARNATIONS, *Scarlet Bizarres*: Admiral Curzon, Captain Edwards, Knowsthorpe Pet, Lamartine, Omnium Primus, Splendid (Martin). *Crimson Bizarres*: Black Diamond, Duke of Bedford, Lord Milton, Thomas Hewlett, Victory. *Purple Flakes*: Rubens, Premier, Perfection (Puxley). *Scarlet Flake*: Dido (Hollyoake). *Rose Flakes*: Madame Sontag (Puxley), Lovely Ann, Lady Ely.

PICOTEES, *Red Edge*: General Bem, King James. *Purple Edge*: Ernestine, Fanny (Dodwell), Lorina, Nymph, Prince Albert (Marris), Viola (May). *Rose and Scarlet Edge*: Alice, Queen Victoria (Green).

It must not be presumed that those varieties in the latter class are to be disbudded to one bloom because they are not the strongest growers; it contains some of our fullest flowers: at the proper season such varieties that will carry only one bloom to advantage will be pointed out, and also the character and habits of the others, as far as the bloom is concerned.

Secure such plants as require it with short sticks before they are



removed from the potting bench: many kinds do not need such support before the stakes for blooming are placed in the pot; but, such kinds as Mrs. Barnard, Flora's Garland, &c., are never secure without some kind of support. If a sheltered south border is available, place them there on strips of wood for a few weeks after potting.

For Yellow Picotees we mix a little peat with the soil at the time of preparing the compost, and also more sand than is used for Carnations or white-ground Picotees. Our soil for Picotees varies but little from that used for Carnations, a little more manure is the only difference.



### GENERAL REMARKS FOR THE SEASON.

Now comes March, with its blustering winds, rocking the trees, and sending the light clouds flying over the face of the heavens. If from the eastward, as they frequently are in this month, do not look for the growth of your plants; for true is the old saw—

“When the wind is from the east,  
’Tis neither good for man nor beast.”

No, nor for plants either. It is, however, most favourable for the production of insects, and amongst them—the gardener's pest—the green-fly. At present there is no known remedy equal to tobacco-smoke; and pity it is that Brown's Fumigators have not been manufactured with more of an eye to durability; for a more economical and useful contrivance has not been produced, to be ruined in character by bad-workmanship. I speak under correction, having found the three I possess very quickly quite out of order. Some amateurs may be tired of the frequent instructions to destroy unsparingly every aphide the eye detects; but the slightest observation will shew the necessity of doing so. I remember once pointing out to a gardener the quantity disfiguring and destroying his plants; when he observed, that he “liked to see a good family before he smoked.” I ventured to suggest that he would find the destruction of the parents attended with considerable advantage; but he differed from me; and soon afterwards I was not surprised to find that his mistress and he had differed also.

But to the cares of the month. These have been greatly lightened to the careful and provident amateur. His plants are in fine health, his houses and pots are all clean; he is, if an exhibitor, prepared for the struggle, conscious that if he does not win, he shall merit no disgrace. He is beforehand with his work. As he looks over his stock individually, he sees at once where the knife or a stick is required,—where a plant will be benefited by a shift, or by any of those little nameless attentions which it is a real pleasure to bestow; and conscious of no neglect in time past, he looks forward with hope to those soft sunny days, when his reward will be found in an abundant and beautiful head of bloom.

*Worton Cottage, Isleworth.*

E. BECK.

## BRITISH PLANTS.

WHILE your excellent periodical is devoted chiefly to the cultivation of Florists' flowers, one may perhaps be permitted to introduce also some remarks on a few of our most important and conspicuous native plants. Many of these, if subjected to judicious treatment, would doubtless admit of very material improvement, both in regard to the character and beauty of the plant, and also in respect to the size and colour of the flower.

Who, *e.g.*, could object to have numbered among our numerous herbaceous plants the common Loosestrife (*Lythrum Salicaria*)? A more showy and elegant plant probably could not be grown, while it admits of the easiest possible culture.

*Sedum Telephium* or *Orpirie* is already occasionally met with in borders; but it merits a more extensive cultivation. The flowers of this exhibit almost a purple. The plant is common in this neighbourhood in many lanes and fields.

*Helianthemum guttatum*, or *Rock-rose*, would well repay any labour bestowed upon it. I remember sowing some of its seeds, where the plants were allowed to bloom, and then taking them to an exhibition, at which, as a choice and delicate annual, and being in full bloom, they attracted considerable attention, and were much admired.

*Geranium pratense*, with its flowers of a beautiful blue colour, and which contribute largely to adorn our different pastures in the months of June and July, is in general considered to be a showy plant, and may deserve experiment. Its height is about two feet.

*Verbascum nigrum*, as an opposite colour, its large corolla being yellow, would succeed well if planted in our borders; and when once an inmate, from the attractive character of its flowers, it would not be likely to be again set aside.

The *Alchemilla alpina* boasts of a very pretty satin foliage, by which it powerfully recommends itself to our culture and care. Speaking of this species, Dr. Hooker observes, "this is one of the most elegant of our native plants."

*Calamintha sylvatica*, or the "New Calaminth," as so called, has been only rather recently discovered, though the distinguished discoverer, Dr. Bromfield, is now no more. This has been grown by me in the following manner: the young plants were potted in autumn, and during winter were afforded shelter in a cold frame. In the month of April I transferred them to pots of a larger size, repeating the operation in June. They were then watered copiously, and placed in the shade. With such treatment I have grown them to a prodigious extent; one plant consisting of upwards of fifty spikes, the whole of which have at one time presented themselves in the most complete mass of bloom. This method of growing the New Calaminth produces both plants and flowers unusually large, besides rendering the plant exceedingly prolific in respect to bloom.

*Lysimachia vulgaris*, the corolla of which exhibits a handsome

yellow, prefers a moist situation ; and when so indulged, amply repays for the trouble of a removal from its natural site. Who can walk by the side of the Thames in the summer season, or on the borders of wet woody land, and doubt this ?

*Lysimachia nemorum*, as a trailing plant, delights in similar conditions.

*L. nummularia*, however, when in shade seldom blossoms ; though if planted in some sunny place, and abundantly supplied with water, the reverse will shortly be seen. This plant may be recommended as exceedingly ornamental and appropriate for vases or flower-baskets. When planted near the edge, it soon very gracefully suspends itself, and continues to afford beauty during a great part of the summer. These do well for forming a mixture with the blue trailing *Lobelia*, so frequently and advantageously employed for the same decorative purposes.

WILLIAM WHALE.

*Englefield Green, Feb. 14th.*

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#### ON THE CULTURE OF VINES IN POTS.

ALTHOUGH the Vine has been successfully grown and fruited in pots in many places for years, still I think a proper system of pot-culture is not generally followed, or we should not hear of so many failures as occur with it under this kind of management. After trying various plans, and carefully watching the results, I am enabled to offer the following with some degree of confidence, having practised it with perfect success myself.

It is possible to grow Vines in pots fit for fruiting in one season from the bud ; but this plan is not to be recommended : for if they are not grown under very favourable circumstances, they will not, generally speaking, be sufficiently strong to produce many bunches of fruit, and bring the same to maturity ; therefore plants of two years' growth will prove more advantageous in the end, even if half the number be grown.

The buds or eyes should be selected from well-ripened wood. In preparing them, leave about half an inch of shoot on each side of the bud, cutting them in a sloping direction from the under side ; place them in seed-pans in a mixture of sandy-loam and leaf-mould, after which plunge them in heat, where there is a moist atmosphere. If this is done in February, they will be ready for potting in April, which will be quite soon enough ; pot them in 32-size pots, and plunge them again in a little heat till they get established ; then remove them to a cold frame, where they can remain till they finish their growth without being again shifted. If they make a shoot a foot long, it is quite sufficient for the first year. After the wood is well ripened, plunge them near a south wall for the winter.

The following season cut them down to one eye, and place the pots in a gentle heat ; but do not shift them until they begin their growth, and are making young roots ; after which they can be

potted in 24-size pots, using rich turfy loam from a pasture in a rough state, mixing with it some manure from the sheepfold. Pay attention to draining; but at every shift the crocks must be removed from the ball before repotting. The plants (if the weather is bright) will require shading for a day or two after shifting.

Stopping the Vines during their growth will now be the principal thing requiring attention, and on this all chance of success depends. Although this system of stopping will at first appear difficult to understand, yet by a little practice, and adhering to the following directions, the operator will soon become conversant with it. It being very important that it should be properly performed, I shall endeavour to give as clear an idea of it as I can. Suppose the plants to have made a growth of six inches, stop them at the sixth eye, or lower, according to the strength of the plants. The top lateral eye will start first, which must be removed as soon as it makes its appearance; this will encourage the top natural bud to start.\* Keep the extreme points of the shoots quite erect, by tying them to stakes. The lateral shoots below the top eye must be stopped to the first joint; but when the leader has a fair start, they can be cut off quite close.

The only danger in cutting the side-shoots off too soon, is in starting the fruiting buds; but, as I before stated, if the leader has a fair start, the lateral shoots may be removed without danger of the fruiting buds bursting.

Continue stopping every fifth or sixth eye, as before recommended. Do not allow the leaders to run and then stop them back to the required length, but pinch out the points as soon as they make five or six eyes: as this is of great importance, the Vines should be daily examined; a day's neglect would make a material difference. Continue shifting, as the plants may require it, using plenty of drainage and 11-inch pots at the final shift. Liquid manure should be used often, but not immediately after shifting. When the rods are from four to five feet long, discontinue stopping, allowing the leader to grow at will till the wood has ripened up to the last stop, when they can be removed and tacked to a south wall to harden off.

There are some desirable advantages attending this system of stopping. Firstly, the wood is hard, short-jointed, better ripened and stronger than when allowed to run; at every stop the rods gain in size, in consequence of not allowing them to make headway. Secondly, when forcing commences the buds break readily; and more regularly from the base to the point, and of equal strength; by stopping, and managing the lateral shoots properly, the fruiting buds will be very prominent.

At every place where they seem stopped, there will be a knot or burr formed, which will have a tendency to check the direct flow of

\* In order to make the system of stopping better understood, I have used the above terms to distinguish the buds. The *natural* bud is the one from which the fruit is produced the following season; but the leading shoot, after every stop, must be obtained from a natural 'eye.' The *lateral* eye is the small bud situated close to the fruiting bud, and always starts during the summer's growth, a shoot from which never should be permitted to become a leader.

sap, causing the lower buds to break more readily and much stronger. I have seen pot Vines in many places grown without stopping, and generally I have observed the base of the shoots quite bare, a thing I never saw on the stopping system.

The season to commence forcing of course depends on the time when ripe fruit is required; generally speaking, it takes five months to bring Grapes to maturity from established Vines; but in pots it is possible to grow them in much less time, owing to the roots being under command of heat. The treatment given to fruiting Vines generally answers for the pot-culture; the only difference is, the Vines in pots require no more young wood than is absolutely necessary to bring the fruit to maturity; but the want of space prevents me from entering into details on this point. I will now proceed with directions for feeding the fruiting plants, &c.

When the fruit is set, place bottom-pans under each pot with some strong manure in each, and mulch the surface of the pot with the same; cut round pieces of turf to surface each pot with; but it must be cut a little larger than the pot it is intended for, and when placed (grass downwards) it will be raised in the centre in the form of a small mound, a small hole being left in the centre of the turf for air, and the convenience of watering. A very great advantage is derived from covering the surface of the pots with turf; it not only shades the top-roots from the scorching sun, but encourages the plants to make new feeders at the base of the stem, from which the plants receive their principal support. They will now require liquid manure; and as the Vine is naturally a gross feeder, it should be given in abundance during the first and second swelling, but clear water should be used during the process of stoning. As soon as the fruit begins to colour, discontinue manure-water; at that stage do not allow the bottom-pans to remain full of water, or the plants to suffer for the want of it, otherwise the fruit will not colour, and will also be deficient in flavour. Should any worms make their appearance in the pots, give a good watering of strong lime-water, which will soon destroy them, and not injure the plants.

All kinds of Grapes are not suited for pot-culture; therefore in the following list those only are enumerated which I have proved and found serviceable for this purpose:

- |                        |                       |                          |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Black Hamburg.*     | 5. Black Tripoli.     | 9. White Muscadine.*     |
| 2. Black Muscadine.    | 6. Black Esperione.   | 10. White Bual.          |
| 3. Black Frontignan.*  | 7. Royal Muscadine.   | 11. Grizzly Frontignan.* |
| 4. Black St. Peter's.* | 8. White Frontignan.* | 12. Dutch Sweet Water.   |

The Black and White Corinth (or the currant of commerce) is a nice little Grape, and worthy of cultivation; the berries are small, but they are very sweet and stoneless; both varieties are admirably adapted for pot-culture, and produce enormous crops.

The best compost I have found for pot Vines is turf from an old pasture, using it as taken from the field, with a mixture of leaf-mould, and a fourth part sheep or other strong manure. In potting, do not press the soil too firmly in the pots, otherwise the plants

\* Where six varieties only are grown, those marked thus \* are most suitable.

would soon become pot-bound, as the Vine makes an abundance of roots; the soil should be used in a rough state.

I have found burnt earth very good for drainage, as it will retain all the food the plants want, allowing nothing but clear water to pass from the pots.

*Frogmore.*

J. POWELL.

NOTES FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW,  
AND OF NEW OR RARE PLANTS  
FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

The *Botanical Magazine* for last month has plates of:

HADWEN'S BIFRENARIA, a rather pretty Orchid, resembling Steel's *Scuticaria*.

The purple ROSCOEA of Smith, a smaller variety than that usually cultivated.

IMPATIENS FASCULATA, a Balsam of apparently no great beauty.

A yellow-flowered ECHINOCACTUS, which is rather handsome, and

DRYANDRA NOBILIS, a pretty Protead, sent by Mr. Drummond from Swan River.

In Paxton's *Flower Garden* we find:

AZALEA INDICA CALYCINA, a species like *Phœnicea*, and wanting in many of the essential properties which are esteemed by Florists.

The true PENTSTEMON GENTIANOIDES, which is quite a different plant from the *Pentstemon* usually known by that name, and which is in future to be called *P. Hartwegii*.

PHALENOPSIS ROSEA, which is now to be found in most collections of Orchids.

The account of the following plants is supplied from Kew:

HYPOCYRTA GRACILIS. This trailing evergreen herbaceous Gesnerad has a habit similar to the trailing species of *Æschynanthus*. The leaves are fleshy, and about an inch long; flowers large, according to the size of the plant, between funnel-shaped and bell-shaped, of a creamy white spotted with orange in the inside of the tube. They grow from the axils singly or in pairs. If this species is grown in a basket suspended from the roof of a moist stove, where its slender stems can hang downwards, it will soon cover the basket, and have a very pretty appearance when in flower.

ADAMIA VERSICOLOR. When well-grown this species is truly beautiful, and one that deserves extensive cultivation. The flowers are produced in large heads six to eight inches in diameter, on the ends of rather erect branches, and are of a light-blue colour, remaining for a considerable time in perfection. It grows freely in the moist atmosphere of an ordinary stove, or in an intermediate house, but requires to be stopped back several times while young; then, with a liberal allowance of pot and head-room, it forms a compact bush about two feet high. A compost of good mellow loam, one half fibry peat, a little leaf-mould and silver-sand, is best to pot it with. It is not a scarce plant among collections, though not often cultivated so as to form a good specimen and develop its real character.

BLETIA HYACINTHINA. It is somewhat surprising that this hyacinth-like terrestrial Orchid should not be more generally cultivated, considering that it has been introduced to English gardens nearly fifty years. It is one of the best of the genus, grows about a foot high, and is easily managed in an ordinary stove, while making its growth; when the leaves are decayed, the pseudo-bulbs may be kept in a dry airy situation on a back shelf or under the stage, until they begin to move, when they should be repotted in a mixture of good mellow loam and fibry peat. A fine variety of it has been lately introduced to Kew from China.

SOPHRONITIS GRANDIFLORA. This beautiful little gem is one that should be found in every collection of cultivated Orchids. It is the best of all the small kinds; the plant does not exceed four or five inches in height, and has flowers two inches across, which are of a very deep bright red colour. It is beautifully in flower at Kew now (February). It is a native of Brazil, and was introduced in 1840.

*Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.*

J. HOULSTON.

## FANCY DAHLIAS.

IN giving a descriptive list of this class of Dahlias, it must not be lost sight of that there are more grown for decorative purposes than for exhibition. Whether for clumps, avenues, or interspersed in the shrubbery, a striking Fancy Dahlia, possessed of a good habit, is a most desirable plant to cheer us through the autumn months. As a flower for exhibition, if "well done," it is a great attraction. Have Fancy Dahlias made equal improvement with the other class? We unhesitatingly answer, yes. It is but a few years since that Oakley's Surprise was a perfect wonder amongst its compeers: long as that variety held its ground, it is now beaten out of the field, and is only grown as a border flower.

If the number of good flowers sent out last season was not great, it was fully compensated for by the quality of a few of them. Foremost amongst the latter stands Mrs. Hansard, with Rachel, Mrs. Willis, Miss Weyland, Elegantissima, and Phaeton.

As a rule, leave more buds on Fancy Dahlias than on the other class: thinning the shoots, and their general treatment, should be the same.

*Belle de Pecq.* Dull yellow, striped and spotted with red; full size, good habit; 3 to 4 feet.

*Mrs. Hansard.* Deep yellow tipped with white; size full, fine form, substance good; should be grown strong, with moderate thinning; 2 to 3 feet.

*Conspicua.* Purple and white; a bold showy flower, of good habit, rather flat and uncertain, but good for a border; 5 feet.

*Elegantissima.* Lavender-purple tipped with white; a novel pleasing variety; tall good habit; moderate thinning and disbudding; 5 ft.

*Elizabeth.* Rosy purple, divided by a blush striding down the centre of each petal; fine form and constant; average growth 4 feet.

*Empereur de Maroc.* An old favourite, but uncertain; colour very rich, deep maroon and white; should be got as forward as possible; leave plenty of buds; free growth, with plenty of moisture; 4 feet.

*Floral Beauty.* Maroon and white, colours of Jenny Lind; but not so good in form, grows taller; 3 to 4 feet.

*Forget-me-not.* White and purple; a neat pleasing flower, but often produces blooms out of form, and is rather flat; 3 feet.

*Gasparine.* Maroon tipped with white; a conspicuous flower, the colours being so strongly contrasted; rather thin, grow strong, and disbud freely; 3 feet.

*General Cavaignac.* Purple tipped with white; a piece of the old root, grown in a stiff soil, or it is liable to come thin in the centre; 5 feet.

*Highland Chief.* Salmon tipped with white; generally too coarse for exhibition; leave all the buds, and it is a handsome plant late, if well grown; 4 feet.

*Jeannette.* Carmine, white tip; dissimilar, inclined to have a small green eye; 3 to 4 feet.

*Jenny Lind.* Maroon and white; a neat good-shaped flower, of fine substance; requires strong growth and disbudding freely; 2 ft.

*Kingfisher.* Dull red and white; fine form, but not showy enough for the border; 5 feet.

*Lady Cullum.* Yellow tipped with white; small, rather uncertain; requires good growth; 4 feet.

*Lady Grenville.* Red and white; stout good-shaped flower, medium size; requires the best growth, with plenty of moisture; average thinning and disbudding; 3 feet.

*Madame Bresson.* Nankeen, with small white tip; small, good shape, uncertain; should be grown in strong soil; 3 feet.

*Madame Wachy.* Purple tipped with white; large, good shape; too often a hard green eye; plants should be made to grow freely, with plenty of moisture; 2 feet.

*Miss Compton.* Salmon, white tip; full-sized, good-shaped flower; average growth and thinning; 4 feet.

*Miss Weyland.* Amber edged with bright red or scarlet, tipped with white; full size, very dwarf grower; scarcely 2 feet in height.

*Mrs. Labouchere.* Scarlet, white tip; small showy flower; thin and disbud freely. This is also very dwarf, being about 2 feet, and, like Miss Weyland, is adapted for the flower-garden. In beds of large size they answer admirably; but the small shoots must be cut out from time to time, similar to those grown in quarters for exhibition; and for this purpose leave all the buds.

*Mrs. Willis.* Maroon with white down the centre of each petal; a full-sized fine flower; the early blooms best; not to be disbudded hard; 3 feet.

*Nonsuch.* Maroon, white tip; showy, good habit; should have plenty of water; 3 feet.

*Phaeton.* Rose tipped with white; medium size; requires considerable thinning of the shoots; 2 feet.

*Postsecrétaire Hane.* Purple tipped with white; a little uncertain; average growth 3 feet.

*Pretty Polly.* Rosy salmon and white; stout flower, best early in the season; should be grown strong, in an open situation; 3 feet.

*Rachel.* White and rosy purple, the white very pure. This is the best purple and white, or, as will be understood by many, it is of the "George Clayton" class; average growth, moderate disbudding; 3 feet.

*Princess Charlotte.* Purple tipped with white; full size; small green eye occasionally; likes plenty of water; 4 feet.

*Vicomte de Ressequier.* Purple and white; full size and flat; good and showy for border; 4 to 5 feet.

*Reine Pomare.* Scarlet tipped with white; small and showy; grow strong, and thin moderately; 3 feet.

*Roi de Points.* Maroon and white; small, quilled, and hard in the eye; a showy border flower, if grown freely in a moist situation; 4 feet.

*Striata Perfecta.* Blush, striped and spotted with purple. This is the best of this not very popular class; they are not so showy on



the plant, and any thing but desirable in a stand. They are curious, and that is all that can be said in their favour; 3 feet.

Of the thirty-two varieties just named, eighteen are of English, and fourteen of foreign origin. Our continental neighbours have hitherto been much more successful in raising Fancy Dahlias than selfs; but of late there has been a great falling off beyond the Channel in both classes. General Faucher, Phaeton, Princess Charlotte, Reine Pomare, and Belle de Pecq, are all we received last season of any note; and these had to be selected from among about thirty varieties which were received and proved by us.

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### PINKS.

THIS old but neglected flower deserves a passing notice. Here we are in 1852 with only about six additions in the shape of real improvements since 1848. The Pink is both "old and slow;" we want to see it merge from the old coach pace; nothing short of "Express" will now satisfy us.

In 1850 four or five new flowers were sent out. One (Sappho) is a very fine one; the other three could have been dispensed with. The last autumn I have only seen one new variety advertised. Now if this is an improvement, it is certainly an improvement also on 1850, as "all" will be good of the last season. Yet it brings us to this question, Shall we not be without one new flower next autumn to tempt us to part from our cash? Will there be nothing warranted "smooth on the edges" and of "good substance?" I hope there will for novelty sake; not the novelty of having a flower "warranted first-rate," for there is nothing new in that, but something dissimilar, with as many additional good points as we can get. I am not without some hopes that an improvement is at hand. In the year 1849 there was an unusually large quantity of good seed secured, which, according to the treatment usually adopted, would flower last summer (June 1851); but we never hear much about them from the seed-beds, even should there be something out of the common way; but we are close upon the time when we shall know if this large batch of seedlings (the produce of 1849) was a blank or not. Next June we shall anxiously look about us for a reply, in the shape of something, not only of average quality, but of a different shade of colour: we want more variety; there is too great a sameness in Pinks.

It has been reported that Dr. Maclean has some good things in store. It is also to be hoped that Mr. Smith is not far behind. We must then look to Messrs. Norman, Bragg, Turner, Costar, Colcutt, Looker, &c., to make up the season. There are plenty of opportunities to exhibit them, and we hope that 1852 will not be altogether a blank.

D. KENT.

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## ELVASTON CASTLE.

MOST of our readers know that this is the seat of the Earl of Harrington, and that it is one of the most noted places in the kingdom. Its Pinetum, of world-wide notoriety, will shortly be accessible to the public, by means of tickets and the payment of a small sum of money, which, we understand, is to be devoted to charitable purposes. This will be welcome news; for in the late earl's time Elvaston was a sealed book. We have recently had an opportunity of going over the grounds, and inspecting the specimens they contain, whose beauty individually, and great numbers, are perfectly astonishing. Choice varieties of hardy Coniferæ, such as we see but a few isolated specimens of in most places, are to be met with here by the hundred, and, in some instances, by the thousand. One hundred acres is the extent of this magnificent "garden of evergreens," in variety embracing all that is choice and hardy from all parts of the world. It is said that there are 11 miles of evergreen hedges, which bound the various terraces, avenues, and gardens. It will be seen, therefore, that it would take more space than we can spare to enumerate even the most conspicuous of the trees that the place contains.

Mr. Barron, the intelligent gardener, informed us that it is a popular error to imagine that most varieties of Coniferæ will not succeed unless they have been seedling plants: here they are growing all alike luxuriantly from layers, cuttings, and grafts; and except a person was told, no one could distinguish them from those raised from seed. It is also an error to suppose, as some do, that because a plant is hardy, it may be placed in any hole or corner, without due preparation for the roots, &c. If it is even a hardy tree, to make it thrive, a proper attention to these points is essential to success. As much care and attention is paid here to the preparation of good soil for out-door planting, as many observe for their Pelargoniums or Carnations.

An instance occurred in our presence of the ill effects of keeping this tribe of plants in pots. A good-sized specimen was lying on the grass, that had been planted some years; but instead of getting a firmer hold of the ground, it annually raised itself out of it, until a brisk wind laid it prostrate on the turf: a little root on one side was all it had to support itself by. But this is now a conceded point. Transplant often, so long as they are in the nursery; but the shorter time they are in pots the better.

As a visit to this original and novel garden is necessary in order to form any conception of its beauty and extent, we may mention that Elvaston is about four miles from Derby, on the high road to London. It is therefore easy of access; and we would advise all who have opportunity, to see it, and judge for themselves, which will yield far more gratification than any description, however elaborate, that we can give.

## ON BEDDING AUTUMNAL ROSES. No. I.

I PROPOSE in this first letter to give your readers a few instructions for bedding Roses, and reasons why I consider many autumnal kinds particularly adapted for bedding in parterres. It has been generally assumed by gardeners that, as a class, Roses are unfitted for placing in the beds of a neat garden. That this is true of most kinds I grant, but there are some Autumnal Roses, both Hybrid Perpetual and Bourbon, which may be made to form most charming beds of constant flower unsurpassed by any thing in cultivation; and, provided a little care and attention be given to them, they will last in brilliancy of bloom from June till the end of October.

There are six essential things requisite for obtaining a really fine bed of flower:

1. As the Roses, unlike common bedding plants, ought not to be moved from year to year (more than may be necessary to replace failures or other accidents), in order that they may become well established, they should not be placed where the beds are at all liable to become filled with roots of trees and shrubs, which are very fond of extending themselves to the rich soil used to induce the Roses to throw up plenty of bloom; the vicinity of the Elm is especially to be avoided.

2. The Roses should not be vigorous in growth, for I have observed, from long experience, that those kinds which throw vigorous shoots are deficient in constant flowering properties, generally speaking, and are certainly out of place in a neat garden.

3. The colours should be either dense and brilliant, or as nearly white as may be consistent with their other qualities.

4. In order that the colours should shew to the best advantage, I think that the Roses should be *massed*, that is, should be all of one kind in *each bed*.

5. With me (and I presume it must be the same with other Rose-growers) almost all kinds of Roses bloom better when worked on briars than they do on their own roots; I should therefore recommend the Roses to be on short stocks, about six to nine inches in height, they should not be less than six in order that the suckers, which will certainly appear more or less on all worked Roses, may be quickly perceived and eradicated, as if they are suffered to remain, they wear a very untidy appearance, and soon exhaust the plant.

6. In order that the bloom may last in character, and in order to command a succession of flowers and buds, the beds ought to be liberally watered in summer with diluted liquid manure at stated times in the evenings, about once a week in hot weather, care being taken not to distribute it over the foliage; and ought to be shaded with *very thin open canvass* during the heat of the day in midsummer, when the sun darts his fiercest rays, *i. e.* from 10 A.M. to 4 o'clock P.M. Great caution must, however, be used in the employment of this canvass, which should be of the most open texture possible, so as rather to break the force of the sun than to exclude it; and if the

greatest care be not taken not to allow the canvass to be over the beds longer than absolutely necessary, a great injury may ensue to the Roses themselves; indeed, unless the sun be very hot, it should not be used.

My reasons for preferring good Autumnal Roses, when well-grown, for bedding purposes, are 1. that they require little or no protection during the winter months, when perhaps every house and pit is full of other bedding plants; and some, it may be, in spite of all care, suffering from damp and mildew; 2. that as the Rose is confessedly the queen of flowers, and may with care and attention be made to look as brilliant and beautiful as any other bed of flowers, while, *ceteris paribus*, it is superior to them in many respects, it is surpassed by none; 3. that it requires no supporting sticks, no tying, no pegging to the beds, or other unsightly methods, for the preservation of a due appearance of neatness. I am well aware, however, that unless these methods be pursued *con amore*, the beds will fail to present that beautiful appearance so much to be desired; and unless it is determined to devote a little attention to them, they had better not be tried, as a Rose-bed ill-cared for is a most scrubby and unsightly object.

In my next letter I will enumerate a few Autumnal Roses which I think particularly adapted for the object of this letter. I will also give the novice the benefit of my experience as to the proper compost to be used in making the beds; and if any thing should have escaped my recollection relating to this subject, I will mention it.

R. P.

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### LISIANTHUS RUSSELLIANUS.

HAVING been requested to give your readers the result of my experience in growing this truly splendid plant, I shall now endeavour to do so as briefly as possible.

The seed should be put in about the first week in March, in 4 or 5-inch pots, well drained, using a little finely-sifted soil on the top, pressed flat, and well watered; the seed should then be sown thinly, and a little silver sand sprinkled over it: a pane of glass or a bell-glass should be put over each pot. A cucumber-pit is as good a place as any to place the seed-pots in until the plants come up, which will be in about three weeks. As soon as they can be well handled, they should be potted off singly into small pots, and moved into a pit with a nice warm moist heat; in a few weeks' time they will require to be shifted into a size larger pots, and placed again in the pit, until about September or October, when they will be nice stout plants, in 5 or 6-inch pots. A light shelf, near the glass, in a house, where the temperature is not allowed to fall much below 50°, is as good a place as any to winter them in; keeping them rather dry, never watering them over head, as they are very liable to damp-off in the winter months.

About the middle of February the strongest plants may be shifted

into 8-inch pots, using a compost of about one-half rough turfy loam, the rest peat and leaf-mould in about equal proportions; they should then be put into a pit plunged in tan, or any other material where a bottom-heat can be commanded of about from  $75^{\circ}$  to  $85^{\circ}$ , with a top-temperature of from  $65^{\circ}$  to  $85^{\circ}$ , with plenty of moisture. As the plants grow (which they will do very rapidly), they will require shifting into larger pots. I consider a 12-inch pot quite large enough to grow a good specimen in; they will also require frequent stopping until enough shoots are got to form a good head, when they must be tied out. In their growing state they delight in plenty of heat and moisture, with a good bottom-heat, and frequent waterings with weak manure-water. As the plants begin to open their flowers, which will be about the middle of June, they must be gradually hardened off to stand a cooler temperature; they will then form splendid objects for the greenhouse or conservatory from July to September.

*Hillingdon.*

H. CONSTANTINE.

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## REVIEW.

*A Treatise on the Chrysanthemum.* By W. Taylor, Park Street, Stoke Newington.

THOSE who have been in the habit of attending the Stoke Newington and Highgate Chrysanthemum Shows do not require to be informed of the high state of perfection in which Mr. Taylor brings forth his productions. Each bloom in his stands is a specimen in itself, being nearly the size of a Dahlia. This is confirmed by the recent regulations of the Stoke Newington Society, which enforce uniform stands of the same dimensions as the Metropolitan Dahlia boards, the latter measuring six inches from centre to centre. We cannot, therefore, be wrong in recommending this really practical, but unpretending little work to the notice of our readers. In addition to every thing relating to culture, descriptive lists are furnished of all the best varieties. The following are the kinds Mr. Taylor recommends to grow for cut blooms; the first nine being especially adapted for cultivating against a wall, viz.

Aristides, red.  
 Beauty, blush and pink.  
 Campestroni, deep rosy purple.  
 Clustered Yellow, golden yellow.  
 Duke, blush.  
 King, rose.  
 Princess Marie, rose.  
 Pio Nono, Indian red.  
 Vesta, white.  
 Annie Salter, canary yellow.  
 Cyclops, straw, and brown back.  
 Christine, lilac.  
 Defiance, white.  
 Duchesse d'Abrantes, deep bright rose.

Dupont de l'Eure, purple and orange.  
 Formosum, creamy white.  
 Gem, white tipped with pink.  
 Goliath, white.  
 Lysias, bright cinnamon red.  
 Nonpareil, dark rosy pink.  
 Phidias, rose and white.  
 Rabelais, reddish carmine.  
 Rebecca, light rose.  
 Sydenham, light red crimson.  
 Queen of England, blush.  
 Two-Coloured Incurved, red and yellow.  
 The Warden, orange.

Six of the best Anemone or Aster flowering varieties, are,

Gluck, bright yellow.  
Fleur de Marie, fine clear white.  
Nancy de Sermet, white.

Madame Godereau, white.  
Marguerite d'Anjou, nankeen.  
Reine Marguerite, lilac blush.

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CHOROZEMA CORDATUM.

AMONG the more beautiful and interesting of shrubby greenhouse plants, the genus *Chorozema* stands pre-eminent. It contains some of the most useful and likewise the most beautiful species in cultivation, flowering freely, as they do, nearly throughout the whole year, especially during the winter and spring months, when their flowers are most acceptable and valuable for decoration, or, with a few others, in the formation of bouquets. Their native country is New Holland. They are not difficult to cultivate; and with a little timely attention they may be easily trained to form very handsome plants. There is a specimen of *Chorozema cordatum* in one of the greenhouses at Kew, trained in the form of a spread umbrella; it is seven feet in diameter, and four feet high from the pot. Being a slender-growing plant, the branches hang down so as nearly to hide the pot altogether; it is at present (February) in a very healthy condition, and is completely covered throughout with its beautiful bright-coloured flowers. It is a well-known fact in plant cultivation, that, under good treatment, free-growing kinds may be extended to an extraordinary magnitude by sufficient allowance of pot and head room; and so long as they can be made to retain healthy foliage and symmetrical proportions, they may be considered well-cultivated specimens; but they rarely can retain large dimensions long without becoming faulty, either naked at bottom, one-sided, or with an unhealthy appearance, and consequently produce but a few flowers; hence the propriety of keeping a stock of young plants to succeed the present ones as they dwindle away, is obvious. Oftentimes the pot which a plant is cultivated in destroys the natural beauty and effect of the plant, by its being over large; under such circumstances it is quite as unsightly and unnecessary, as too small a one is inimical to the formation of a good specimen. The pot which the above-mentioned *Chorozema* is cultivated in, is seventeen inches in diameter, and about seventeen inches deep; the compost in which it is grown, is a mixture of peat, silver-sand, and a little leaf-mould.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.



RHODODENDRON JAVANICUM.

At the present time, when Dr. Hooker's Sikkim Rhododendrons are occupying every body's attention, seeds of them having been extensively distributed, and one species having blossomed at two different establishments, we have taken the opportunity of introducing to the notice of our readers the fine variety represented by our plate, and of coupling some account of it with our notice of the Sikkim kind which has just flowered.

We need hardly state that the Java Rhododendron is one of the most handsome plants of rather recent introduction to be found in English gardens. Its beautiful glossy bright-green foliage and orange-coloured flowers will always render it an especial favourite; but, unfortunately, it is tender, which offers a great drawback to its general cultivation. Those, however, who have accommodation and convenience for growing stove-plants will never have occasion to regret adding this one to their collections; for it succeeds perfectly under the ordinary treatment which such plants usually receive, and seldom fails to favour the admiring cultivator with a fine truss of charming blossoms at the end of every shoot. The plant in the collection of H. Collyer, Esq., of Dartford, from which our figure was prepared, was purchased at Messrs. Rollisson's nursery two years ago. We are informed by Mr. Cole, the gardener, that it was then about six inches in height, and that he succeeded in blooming it last spring, when it produced one truss. This season the same plant has four trusses; and it is now a fine specimen 2 feet 6 inches high, and nearly as much through. It has been grown in a moist stove, and has always been treated as a tender plant, except in the height of summer, when it was placed out of doors in the shade, under a north wall. Mr. Cole is of opinion that, after it has made its growth and set its flower-buds, it may be transferred to the greenhouse, where it may be summered, to be again placed in heat in winter. He considers that it may be brought into bloom at any season, and that it will make a capital plant for exhibition. Messrs. Rollisson have found it to succeed under the treatment usually given to Indian Azaleas. With respect to soil, it thrives well in a mixture of fibry peat, leaf-mould, and silver-sand; but it must have plenty of drainage, or it will not grow satisfactorily.

We learn that Messrs. Rollisson's variety of this Rhododendron was found by their collector Mr. Henshall on Mount Salak, at an elevation of about 4000 feet, and also at 7000 and

8000 feet upon the volcanic range of mountains which extend through Java. He mentions that it is in some instances epiphytal, but that it more frequently inhabits the sides of mountains, where it forms a branching shrub from seven to ten feet in height.

It is but fair to add, before quitting this subject, that Messrs. Veitch have also been successful in importing this beautiful *Rhododendron*, through their collector, Mr. Lobb.

As regards the Sikkim varieties of this showy genus, about which such high expectations have been formed in consequence of the magnificent drawings of them published by Dr. Hooker in his *Himalayan Rhododendra*, we can only say, that we trust the worst has blossomed first; for the *R. ciliatum* shewn at late meetings of the Horticultural Society in Regent-street, (first) by Messrs. Standish and Noble of Bagshot, and (second) by Sir Joseph Paxton from Chatsworth, proves to be almost as colourless as the white Indian Azalea. Of the two, the one from Bagshot was the best; but although pretty enough, it had nothing in particular to recommend it, except perhaps its dwarf habit, which by cross-breeding may possibly be communicated to some of our larger-growing kinds. It is, however, impossible to form any thing like an accurate judgment of the merits of this species from the two small plants of it exhibited; for it is very likely they have been forced into flower, and we all know that blossoms produced during the dull months of early spring are not, even under the most favourable circumstances, particularly remarkable for brilliancy of colour. Let us hope, therefore, that this *R. ciliatum* may improve in this respect, although we much fear it will never realise the beauty of Dr. Hooker's representation, which is reddish purple. It seems, as we have said, to be a very dwarf-growing kind, with small pale-green hairy leaves; and if it should acquire colour, it will be very useful for many purposes. Dr. Hooker states that in Sikkim it is a small shrub growing in clumps, two feet high, generally in moist rocky places, at 9000 to 10,000 feet elevation, in valleys flanked by snowy mountains. It blossoms in May, each floret being an inch and a half long, and nearly as much across at the mouth.

As the mean temperature of the year in the Sikkim portion of the Himalaya, the native country of the *Rhododendrons* in question, is stated to be 55° Fahr., and as the winters are said to be severe, with often heavy falls of snow, we may entertain some hopes that all the fine *Rhododendrons* from that quarter will be hardy in this country; and if this should turn out to be the case, and if they should ever be found to ap-

proach in Britain the beauty of Dr. Hooker's charming drawings, which we have no doubt are correct representations, they will certainly be great acquisitions to our gardens. Such being the case, we wait with patience the blossoming of some of the larger and finer species, which we have little doubt the skill and perseverance of English gardeners will early effect. As soon as they appear, we shall not fail to record their merits—a pleasing task with so lovely a genus.

NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

March 4th.—Mr. E. Beck in the chair. At this the anniversary general meeting, the report of the Society's proceedings was read and adopted. The receipts for the past year were stated to be 161*l.* 14*s.*, and the disbursements 158*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, shewing a balance of 3*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* in the hands of the treasurer, with outstanding subscriptions still unpaid amounting to 34*l.* 13*s.* We cannot therefore allow this opportunity to pass without congratulating the Society, not less on the good it has effected, than on its success; and we are sure all will join us in thanking those who have given its interests so much of their time and attention. If the expenditure for the first season has been large, it must be remembered that a Society like this could not be made known without it. There were also many expenses of a miscellaneous character incurred at starting, which will not again be required.

With the exception of four changes in the committee, all the officers were re-elected. Three new members (Messrs. Vaux, Machin, and Newton,) were added to the list, and several others were proposed for election at the next meeting.

We trust that the Society will steadily carry out the object it has in view, and that continued success will attend its operations, which must at no distant date confer a great benefit on Floriculture.

The second part of the Transactions (which has just been issued) gives the following list of flowers that have received awards, viz. :

First-Class Certificates to Hollyhocks, Safranot, Pillar of Beauty, Triumphant, Pourpre de Tyre, and Model of Perfection; to Dahlias, Miss Ward and Morning Star; to a Statice, apparently a cross between *Imbricata* and *Macrophylla*.

Certificate of Merit to Hollyhock, Penelope; to Dahlias, Una, Sir F. Thesiger, and Bob; and to Chrysanthemum Versailles Defence.

Label of Commendation to *Pentstemon variabilis* and to *Cyclamen persicum rubrum*.

SHADING THE DAHLIA.

“How beautifully *clean* your flowers are! how brilliant in colour! How *do* you contrive to bring them into such condition? Now tell me how many hours did it take you to wheedle, and coax, and coerce all these petals into such perfect order and regularity? They

never so arranged themselves of their own free will." Such were the exclamations of an enthusiastic lover of flowers, as he discussed with me the merits of a stand of Dahlias I had put up for exhibition in the course of the past autumn, and to which was appended a ticket bearing the magic words, "FIRST PRIZE."

"My good friend," I replied, "you appear to be labouring under a mistake. You attribute the brilliant condition of these flowers to some 'artful dodge,' some dexterous sleight-of-hand, or some ingenious system of 'cookery;' while, in sober truth, their clean appearance is due, in my opinion, solely to the absence of any such devices. These blooms have never been handled or manipulated in any way. Nought except the pure breeze of heaven (and not too much of that) has ever touched their beautiful forms. A very simple instrument, at once a parasol and, to a certain extent, an umbrella, is the sole means by which their complexions have been kept so pure and delicate. I will gladly tell you all about it; for there is really no art, no secret—in a word, no quackery in the matter."

But I am becoming prolix, whereas I would simply offer a very few remarks on the shading of the Dahlia; a subject of some importance to the exhibitor, as, I presume, it will be universally admitted, that no degree of care, no amount of labour, no skill of cultivation, could produce blooms fit for exhibition in the present day, unless shading, in some form, is resorted to. I have been a grower and exhibitor (on a small scale) of this magnificent flower for several years, and have tried every description of shading with which I have been made acquainted, with various success. The result of my experience is, that there is no shade so efficient as moderately coarse canvass (such as drapers use to pack their goods in), stretched over a frame of wire-work, and attached to a stake of fir, by inserting two ends of the wire, projecting horizontally, into equidistant holes in the stake, corresponding with the distances between the said horizontal projections; by this means the cover is held sufficiently firm, and may be raised or lowered with very little trouble. The advantages of this shade are—

1. It is very cheap and portable.
2. It wards off completely the rays of the sun without intercepting too much light.
3. It admits of a free circulation of air about the bloom.
4. It keeps the flower cool, and herein I consider it superior to the tin-cover in use at Slough.
5. The flower is easily retained in any position that may be desired by passing a needle and thread round the flower-stalk through the sides of the canvass, and thus securing it by tying.

"But," asks some ready objector, "what about rain? will not a smart shower penetrate your flimsy cover, and sorely bespatter your pet beneath?" Just so; a *heavy* shower will pass through the canvass; and after such a shower, I often find the bloom covered with "pearly drops." But is it injured thereby? I opine not. The force of the rain is broken, and I think the flower benefited, rather than deteriorated, by the gentle bath. Nothing is more easy than

to render this shade impervious to water ; but I would not attempt it, as by so doing I should completely check the free percolation of air through the interstices of the canvass, which I hold to be the great desideratum. I have now discarded nearly every other description of covering. It is true there are one or two obstinate gentlemen, and, I fear me, ladies too, who will not be persuaded to "come out" except in the dark. These must be bloomed under a pot ; but I find, almost invariably, that flowers so bloomed cannot be depended on *to travel*.

While on the subject of the Dahlia, let me remark that there appears to exist a great delusion about the necessity of fresh ground for its growth. Now mine have continued to occupy the same quarter for many years—eight or ten at least—and my neighbours tell me I grow them better and better every year, which I believe to be correct. Of course, they get plenty of help in the way of manure, and the soil is thoroughly cultivated.*

One word respecting our inveterate enemy the earwig, and I have done. Oh, the war that I have waged with this insinuating scamp, and the deep-laid schemes I have devised to entrap and lure him to his ruin ! To annihilate him is next to impossible, for his name is legion ; still I find he may be kept at a respectful distance.

The Dahlia, for the most part, loves water ; the earwig abhors it. Behold herein an agent of twofold potency ; I keep my plants and the ground around them well saturated, and consequently suffer but little from the ravages of this detestable pest.

I have thrown together these remarks very hastily ; for aught I know, there may be nothing in them either new or valuable. But it strikes me, that if amateurs would occasionally contribute the results of their experience to the pages of the *Florist*, or some kindred publication, the cause of Floriculture would be sensibly benefited thereby.

A. S. H.

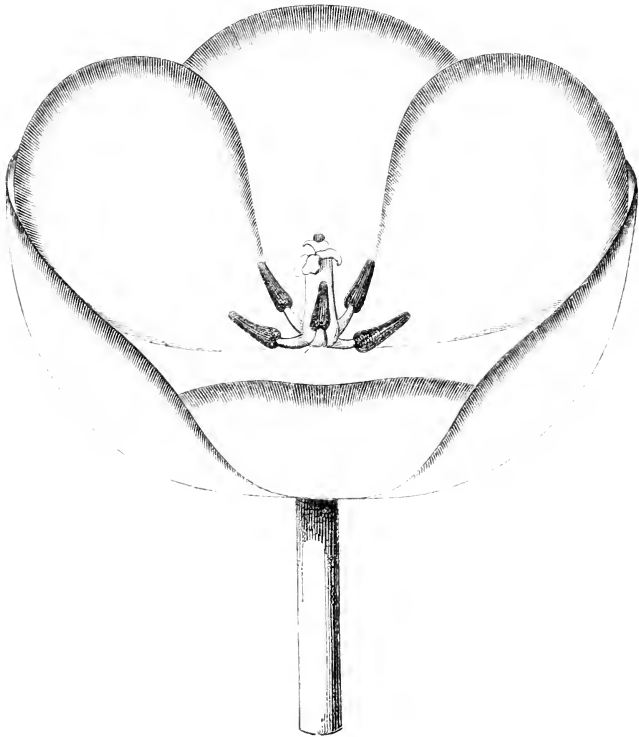
THE TULIP. No. II.

I LAST month suggested the practicability of having an exhibition of Tulips at Chiswick or Regent's Park, as an additional attraction at the May show, and I promised to point out the way in which such a desideratum might be accomplished ; a duty which I now proceed to fulfil. It will be obvious that nothing is easier than to say that it cannot be done ; all new schemes are almost certain to have cold water thrown on them ; I do not therefore expect that my suggestion will be an exception ; but I shall not complain,—a warm shower will do no harm to a bed of Tulips.

But to begin : let us suppose that the bed contains 400 rows ; it could be supplied by four growers, each planting 100 rows with their best bulbs and varieties ; or a larger number might contribute, should that be considered desirable. The soil should be prepared in

* We can confirm this statement. The best blooms produced at Slough are from a quarter which, with one or two exceptions, has had Dahlias on it for the last twenty years. Our experience also coincides with that of our correspondent with respect to earwigs.—Ed.

the usual manner, and a day fixed on for planting. If properly made and drained, the bed might then be left till the first Tulip appeared above ground, when a person experienced in their growth should have charge of them until they are in bloom. The usual iron hoops and mats would be sufficient covering until close upon their opening, when a slight framework should be run up, and covered with canvass to protect the bloom. It should be made so as to be open at the sides on the day of exhibition, in order to admit of free ingress and egress. In the event, however, of a boisterous windy day occurring, canvass on one side should be provided.



As what is called "The National Tulip Exhibition" has hitherto been confined to the northern and midland counties, it is time something was done in the south.

The month which has passed since the appearance of my last paper has been one of continual cold easterly winds; the Tulip has made very little progress, but it does not appear to have suffered any injury. In many places they are looking very healthy and strong; but it is probable that the bloom will be later this season than usual.

The National Tulip-show for 1852 is to take place at Birmingham on the 27th of May. It is with some little interest I look for-

ward for the Schedule, which is promised shortly, and which is to be arranged by a committee of Birmingham gentlemen, who have undertaken to carry it out. I hope it will be of a more liberal and universal character than that of last year, with less of the strait-laced system of showing in it. The only part of the arrangement the southern growers were allowed to participate in was,—finding the money. The system of class-showing as carried out at Derby was very absurd, and not warranted by the Schedule itself; instead of taking a liberal view of the regulation which said “all flowers should be fairly open, to enable prizes to be offered for the best blooms,” the judges give them to buds, which could never have been intended: neither purity nor form can be ascertained unless the flower is fully developed.

The accompanying woodcut represents what I consider a feathered Tulip should be, and the state in which it should be when exhibited.

H. B.

BRITISH PLANTS. No. II.

WITH lovers of English Botany it proves at all times a source of delight to be engaged in contemplating the beauty and varied characteristics of our various native plants; and their actual cultivation is scarcely attended with a less degree of pleasure. Confirmed as I am in this impression, I may perhaps be permitted on this occasion to notice a few additional inhabitants of our climate. Undoubtedly there are many plants which, if better known and their improvement more regarded, would enlist on their side a host of excellent admirers, who would be both competent and willing to advance the interesting study of Botany far beyond its present limited range. Were the present disregard of indigenous plants attributed to any want of fine form, or had it reference to blossoms insufficiently conspicuous to arrest attention, then the neglect could at once be accounted for; but the reverse being the case, I am convinced that agitation alone is wanted to presently add sensibly to the number of growers of *select* English flowers.

Hypericum androsæmum, or common Tutsan, may be considered truly ornamental; and though by some botanists stated to be rare, it is frequently to be met with. In a rural district in the southern part of England it is found distributed in many places over the village. Near here, also, it adds splendour to some of our sheltered banks, preferring in general a loamy soil. The same plant is occasionally to be observed in Windsor Park. If planted in an exposed situation, I do not find it to thrive equally well. It flourishes always best in places moist and retired.

Hypericum pulchrum abounds wherever the soil is heathy, and it is admitted to be exceedingly graceful in our woody districts. The flowers are golden yellow, tinged with scarlet. This species is of much easier cultivation than that last mentioned. It succeeds in almost any soil.

Hypericum calycinum grows in most shady situations. It has

extended itself from a shrubbery near this town over some considerable portion of a field laid down with grass; and, from the attractive colour of its flowers in summer, it arrests the attention of even the most negligent beholder.

Hyacinthus nonscriptus, when cultivated with the two less common varieties, displaying colours white and carnation, contributes its full moiety of beauty to the early adornment of our gardens.

Malva moschata, frequently to be found by our road-sides, boasts of a hue that resembles many of our Roses. If grown in good soil, well watered, and carefully attended to in other respects, we become rewarded with a strikingly alluring plant, producing blossoms abundantly; and one which may well vie with many of the highly proved herbaceous plants that are taken to some of our country exhibitions.

Oxalis acetosella, common Wood Sorrel, when planted in shady portions of a garden, presents in its handsome drooping white flowers, much calculated to attract. It may be as often discovered in wet and cold, though sheltered places, as in dry sunny banks; such a circumstance shewing it to be a plant of a very accommodating nature.

Ononis arvensis: spurious as this shrub may be, it is nevertheless entitled to some spot in the garden. The flowers are a handsome rose-colour. Troublesome as it is to extirpate wholly from fields, owing to the running character of its roots, we must admit that it is equally difficult to bloom it under cultivation. The white variety, which is more rare, adorns a plot of unbroken ground near here in the months of June and July.

If these natives and others were grown in pots, they might possibly become favourites, and the prejudice to their culture, merely because they are *wild flowers*, be removed.

Englefield Green.

WILLIAM WHALE.

NOTES FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW,

AND OF NEW OR RARE PLANTS

FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

PAXTON'S *Flower-Garden* for March has coloured plates of—

The RETUSE ECHEVERIA (*E. retusa*), a handsome winter-flowering greenhouse succulent from Mexico, belonging to the Order of Houseleeks. Few plants are better suited for window-gardens than the Echeverias, all of which are very easily managed.

The THYRSE-LIKE BILLBERGIA (*B. thyrsoides*), a stove perennial from Brazil, with rich crimson bracts arranged in a cone. It belongs to Bromeliads.

The GOLDEN SWAN-ORCHIS (*Cynoches aureum*), a noble Epiphyte with clear yellow flowers, from central America. It is a good addition to this "masquerading" genus.

In the *Botanical Magazine* for the same month we find—

A very handsome pink-flowered ECHINOCACTUS, which is found to be only an elliptical variety of *rhodophthalmus*.

The PILLARED ARAUCARIA (*A. columnaris*), a branch with two cones on it. It is a tender kind, discovered on the little islands off New Caledonia by Captain Cook, in his second voyage round the world. Singular enough, the first tree of this Conifer noticed by Captain Cook in 1774 still stands, and is in a flourishing condition.

LONG-FLOWERED OXYANTHUS (*O. tubiflorus*), a moderate-sized tropical evergreen shrub, of apparently no great beauty. It of course requires a warm stove.

The COCCUS-BEARING GUM-TREE (*Eucalyptus coccifera*). This is a native of Van Dieman's Land, and requires a conservative wall in this country. At Exeter, however, it succeeds as a standard,—one of which, about twenty feet high, may be seen in Messrs. Veitch's Nursery. It flowers beautifully, and is very ornamental.

Mr. Gunn's OLEARIA (*O. Gunnjavia*), another plant from Van Dieman's Land, which will brave the cold of England, when trained against a wall. It is an evergreen shrub, with white Aster-like flowers, having yellow centres.

The following notices are supplied from Kew:

ERIOPSIS RUTIOBULBON. This beautiful flowering Orchid is one of the best of the tribe, and is a valuable acquisition to any collection. It is rather a scarce plant in cultivation, owing to its being but little imported. It is most suitable for the warmest division of the Orchid-house, where it grows freely; it has a stiff habit, and is about two feet high. From the base of each pseudo-bulb arises one or two flower-stems, each from one to two feet long, or more, bearing from thirty to fifty flowers each, which are of a good moderate size. The sepals and petals are brown, lip brown and white with a few dark spots, and column green; such a contrast of colours, especially as the brown is of two or three shades, has a very striking and lively appearance. This plant was introduced to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (where it is at present flowering in great perfection), from New Grenada, a few years ago.

NEMATANTHUS LONGIFES. This straggling-growing evergreen stove-plant, with the habit of an *Aschynanthes*, is not a new or rare plant among collections, though it is seldom found with many flowers upon it, being rather a shy bloomer; but with a great deal of surface-room, and a rather light situation, in an ordinary stove-atmosphere, it becomes very showy when in flower. It is growing at Kew on the trunk of a tree, treated as an Orchid, where it climbs up to the height of seven or eight feet, and forms a large spreading plant, growing freely and flowering copiously. The flowers being pendulous and of a bright red have a charming appearance; this mode of treatment appears to suit it far better than when cultivated on a pan or basket, as the foliage and flowers are of a better colour. It is at present in flower at Kew, and has been in that condition for several weeks past.

CENTROSOLENIA PICTA. This is one of those interesting plants whose foliage is the chief portion of its beauty, owing to its being of various colours. It is an herbaceous stove-plant, belonging to Gesnerads, of a creeping habit, and rooting at the joints. It is a suitable kind for rockwork, or is easily managed in broad shallow pans, as it requires chiefly surface-room. The leaves are rugose, very hairy, with the upper surface of a yellowish green down the centre, brownish next the margin, and purplish beneath. The flowers are white, streaked and spotted in the inside of the tube with bright lake; they are produced freely from the axils of the leaves, and are of a good moderate size. This is rather a scarce and new plant in cultivation; it was introduced to Kew, about two years ago, from South America.

CYRTOPODIUM PUNCTATUM. Few Orchids are more attractive when in flower than this species. It is a tall robust-growing terrestrial kind, which produces flowers in the absence of leaves. In cultivation, it requires a rather high temperature, with abundance of moisture while growing; and when at rest, it may be kept about 50° temperature and dry, so as not to shrivel. The flower-stems are erect, and are produced from the base of the pseudo-bulbs, springing up with the young growth, and attaining the height of three feet or more, forming large panicles. Both flowers and branches have a large spotted tract at their base, which has a very conspicuous appearance. Two fine specimens of it are at present in flower at Kew.

AMHERSTIA NOBILIS. This exceedingly beautiful flowering evergreen stove-tree (of which a woodcut and description are given at page 80 of the *Florist* for 1851,) is at present in flower at Kew. The plant is about seven feet high, much branched, and about seven feet in diameter.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

POMPON CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

IN offering a few remarks on this lovely class of autumnal flowers, I shall first endeavour to solve a brief article which appeared in last Number, headed "A Chrysanthemum Puzzle," which certainly, from the complicated and totally different descriptions of one particular variety referred to, would very much embarrass an amateur, and lead him to suppose that several sorts were being called by the same name; any light, therefore, that can be thrown upon such a subject must be of service to the interests of Floriculture.

The variety in question is named "Sacramento," and was figured in the *Magazine of Botany* for January as a yellow flower, with very full reflexed petals. This drawing was taken at the nursery of Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son, Wellington Road, St. John's Wood, and appears to represent its proper character, although later in the season, and as the flowers were more advanced, I remarked in some a lack of petals in the centre, and a few of the last blossoms appeared quite like an Anemone-flowered variety. I also saw it at Mr. Salter's, answering to this description, and was informed, that from the commencement of the plants coming into blossom it had the appearance of belonging to the Anemone-flowered section; but I must say, that the greater number of plants I saw last season had too many petals in the majority of the blossoms to appertain to this class. As respects its being figured in the *Greenhouse and Garden* for February, as an Anemone-flowered variety, with bright-red guard-petals, and a dull yellow centre, I have only to say, that I saw it at one of the Chrysanthemum shows very much answering this description, or perhaps more of a dull brownish colour; but the flower was then going off and changing colour, and it must have been from a flower something like this that the last-mentioned drawing was prepared. One thing is certain, that Chrysanthemums, like many other flowers under different circumstances and treatment, assume very dissimilar colours, especially as they have naturally a tendency to materially change their hues as the blossom expands, and after it is fully open. To elucidate this, I may mention, that a pure white Pompon, named "Argentine," changes to a beautiful blush; clearly shewing that it is rather difficult to describe the colours of some varieties. I have no hesitation in saying, that "Sacramento" is one of the best yellows, and however grown, or in whatever stage the blossom may be, this variety can always be distinguished by its beautiful reflexed and well-formed petal.

This class of Chrysanthemums is commonly designated "Lilliputians;" a term appropriately applied, for it embodies the diminutive blossoms with the dwarf and compact habit of the plants. They are also frequently called "Chinese;" which would be as fitly given to the larger-flowering kinds; for the Pompons now cultivated were not imported from China, but are descendants of a variety introduced in 1846 by Mr. Fortune, and generally known as the Chusan Daisy. This new acquisition being communicated to our continental neighbours, they immediately set about hybridising it with the Pompon variety, which they previously possessed; and from its being a single,

Daisy-like flower, seed was produced in abundance, which would not ripen, even with artificial encouragement, in this country; these seedlings having been again hybridised, results the most satisfactory have been obtained.

I will say little about the cultivation of these Pompons, as the general culture of the large-flowering kinds is equally applicable to this new class; a few cursory remarks are therefore all that are necessary. About March or April select good suckers or cuttings from the old plants, giving the preference to such as appear stout and short-jointed; put one in a pot, say a large sixty; mix together a good rich soil, taking equal proportions of loam, rotten dung, and leaf-mould, to which may be added a sufficiency of rough sand to make the whole porous; when potted, put them in a house or frame, and keep them close for some time, say three weeks, by which period most of them will be well rooted; then gradually harden them off, and about the middle of May give a shift into larger pots, say 40's; after which place them in the open air, in a situation sheltered from the easterly winds, and at a sufficient distance from each other to admit of a free circulation of air; about the middle of June give them their final shift into 12's or 16's, using the same compost as before; they should then be plunged in an open border, where they can receive the full influence of the sun, two-thirds of the pot being buried, and placed at from two to three feet apart each way, which allows plenty of room for watering, tyeing, &c.; and attention must now be paid that a liberal supply of water be given as occasion requires, for if the plants are allowed to get too dry, besides receiving a natural check, they will lose a portion of their foliage. Care must now be taken to continually top them, as the plants will grow very fast and luxuriantly; their first topping should take place when about four inches high, and be repeated until July or August. One great feature worthy of remark in the Pompon varieties is, that they can be constantly topped until a much later period than the large-flowering kinds, without retarding or diminishing their blossoms; thus they are easily made into handsome and ornamental specimens, and when covered with their innumerable and beautiful double *Ranunculus*-like flowers, they may be truly said to be perfect little gems. Before the blossoms expand, the plants can be taken from the ground and removed to the greenhouse, which will be of great assistance to their development; no check will be experienced by the removal, if plenty of water be given them.

I had nearly forgotten to mention one very beautiful characteristic of the Pompons, which is, that they blossom much earlier than any of the other kinds, thus obviating the great complaint against *Chrysanthemums* when grown in the open borders; namely, that the frost destroys the plants before the flowers have time to develop themselves. A variety is now offered to the floricultural public, which is said to blossom quite a month before any other sort now generally known: persons in the habit of forming masses in the flower-garden will best judge of the merit of this novel and peculiar sort.

I have prolonged my remarks upon these valuable acquisitions to

the garden and greenhouse, because a little prejudice to the name of Lilliputian Chrysanthemums is existing, from the fact, that some of the varieties previously introduced did not meet the expectations of those who procured and would have cultivated them. It is also well known that last season several varieties were introduced which were comparatively worthless, while others were truly exquisite in form, of the most varied and pleasing colours, and, in short, their *tout ensemble* so unique and pleasing, that they cannot fail of becoming very general favourites.

The following are the names of the best Pompons of last season; and I have added a list of large-flowering and other Chrysanthemums which should be procured by those about to form or add to their collections.

Pompons of 1851 :

Adonis.	Perfectum.	Ninon.
Asmodee.	Solfaterre.	Sacramento.
Colibri.	Argentine.	Surprise.
Fenella.	Autunnum.	Daphnis.
Modèle.	La Gitana.	

Anemone-flowered Pompons of 1851 :

La Ruche. La Sapajon.

Large-flowered Anemone Chrysanthemums :

Gluck. Nancy de Surmet. Marguerite d'Anjou.

Large-flowering Chrysanthemums :

Dupont de l'Eure.	Ne-plus-ultra.	Peruvienne.
Lady Salfourd.	Jenny Lind.	Temple of Solomon.
Pilot.	Campestroni.	Rosa Mystica.
Queen of England.	Madame Camerson.	Madame Laborde.
The Warden.	Madame Poggi.	Pio Nono.
Madame Audry.		

Wellington Road, St. John's Wood.

WILLIAM BALL.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

March 2.—By far the most striking plant exhibited on this occasion was the Nepal Ash-leaved Berberry (*Berberis nepalensis*), from the Society's Garden. Fine as all the Berberries are, this is certainly one of the most interesting; the main stem in this instance terminated in a cluster of six spikelets (each nearly six inches long) of fine dark-yellow flowers, which, if it should fruit in this country, will be succeeded by beautiful purple oblong berries. The leaves are of a yellowish green, large, and very handsome; and if the plant should prove to be hardy, it will be a great acquisition. It was mentioned that Mr. Fortune had met with a Berberry very much like it in China; and that another (the Acanthus-leaved Berberry), resembling it, but still very different, and equally handsome, was to be found in the Neilgherries, near Ootacamund, from which seeds of it might easily be obtained. The latter, which has round fruit, may, however, be more tender than *Nepalensis*, which comes from the more northern Himalayas.

FURTHER RECOLLECTIONS OF ELVASTON.

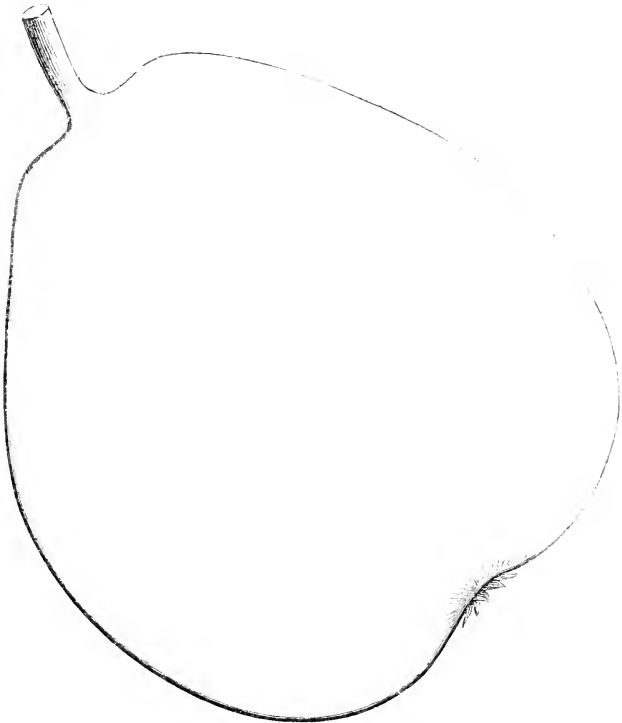
WHO has not heard of Elvaston; of its wonderful avenues and quaint parterres; its clipped evergreens and arbour'd walks; of its unrivalled collection of Conifers; of the marvels there performed in transplanting; and, above all, of its rock-work and water? Hitherto thousands have heard and read of them; but now, according to your account in last Number, we are to be enabled to look upon the reality. May the day speedily arrive when they are to be thrown open to the public! from thence will be dated a new era in some departments of ornamental gardening. If they contained nothing beyond the lake and rock-work, it were sufficient to render them celebrated. As a general rule, no departments of design in gardening are so badly conceived and executed as rock and water; and but few examples could be pointed out which are not burlesques upon what is intended. Artificial water, too, is in a like condition; good examples of either are rarely to be met with. But at Elvaston the highest aim of art has been reached—that of concealing art. The water, the rocks, the bridge, the planting, are each individually excellent and perfect as a whole. The difficulty is, not to imagine it a natural work embellished by art, but to conceive it a work of art at all. The most enthusiastic disciples of Price and Knight could scarcely see cause for condemnatory criticism. An artist might spend days about it, and record in his sketch-book dozens of beautiful and different views. Now you look upon a broad expanse of water, dotted with numerous water-fowl. The turf slopes gently down to the water's edge, and the water ripples at your feet. On the opposite side tower masses of rock, crag upon crag, amongst which shrubs and trees and creeping plants are flinging their festoons of foliage from ledge and cranny, and casting deep shadows on the lake below. For aught you know, the lake is part of a river, and the rocks the valley through which it flows. You pass on. The water has disappeared; you are in a narrow gorge. Rocks are on your right hand and on your left; you look up at large trees rooted above your head. Here is a fissure. The water ripples and glistens in the sunbeams. In the distance, the spire and towers of a church appear bosomed amid the trees. You would fain linger; but we must pass on. What a change! Rocks, water, and all their accessories, are gone! You are on a lawn, amongst rare trees and shrubs, which arrest your attention, and would detain you. At every step the scene changes. Some new feature is constantly occurring, and you never tire of the change. You take advantage of a seat which commands one of the principal views, and ruminates on what you have seen. Surely, you inwardly exclaim, the natural advantages must have been great to have succeeded so admirably; much must be due to the genius of the spot. By no means is it so; nature has done nothing, art all. The place you stand on, the beautiful views which have so delighted you, have all been created. Twenty years ago, the site was but a flat meadow!

G. L.

DESCRIPTIVE LISTS OF FRUITS.

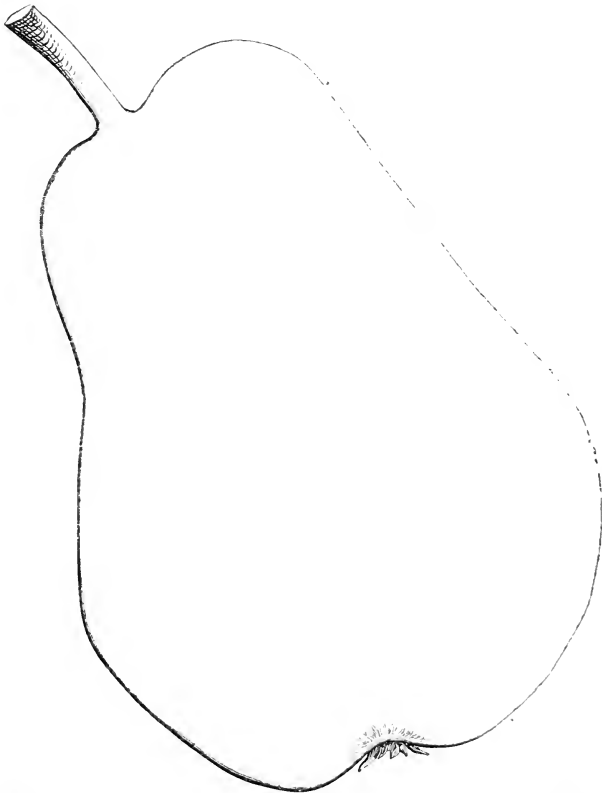
PEARS (*continued from p. 49*).

21. *Gansel's Bergamot*. Fruit large, roundish obovate, much flattened at the crown. Skin light brown, mingled with russet and numerous grey specks; slightly tinged with brownish-red on the side next the sun; the whole changing to a creamy-yellow as maturity is approached. Calyx small, set in a shallow basin. Stalk short, stout, and fleshy. Pulp whitish, a little gritty, but rich, sugary, and aromatic. Ripe in November, and soon decays. This description is taken from a specimen grown against a wall. The fruit from standard trees is much smaller, and nearly covered with russet.



This excellent Pear is a native of this country. It was raised by Lieutenant Gansel, at his seat near Colchester, about the year 1766. Although an old variety, it still ranks among the best of autumn pears. It will bear well as a standard, if planted in light dry soil. Some authors do not admit this; but I have seen excellent crops from standard trees. Trained trees are often shy bearers. The fruit is generally produced on small short shoots; therefore the system of management recommended for the Van Mons Leon le Clerc, at p. 48, may be applied with advantage to this variety.

22. *Napoleon*. Fruit large, obtuse, pyriform, at times compressed in the middle, and angular at the crown, varying often in shape. Skin smooth, of a bright green, and remaining in that condition till the fruit begins to ripen, when it changes to a pale greenish-yellow. Flesh white, melting, and full of sweet refreshing juice. Stalk from half an inch to an inch long, straight and stout, inserted a little on one side in a slight cavity. Calyx short. Eye slightly sunk. In season from the middle to the end of November. Tree vigorous, of upright growth, and remarkable for its fine large glossy foliage. It bears well as a standard; but in that case the fruit is much smaller than that represented by the woodcut, which was prepared from a specimen gathered from a wall.



We are indebted to Dr. Van Mons for this Pear, as well as for many other fine varieties which he has sent to this country; but it seems doubtful whether it was raised by that gentleman, as mentioned by some; probably it was raised by M. Liart, at Mons, as it was exhibited by him previous to its being known in this country. Instead, therefore, of its being raised by Van Mons, it very possibly

originated at Mons in Belgium. Such a mistake might have easily occurred.

23. *Williams' Bonchretien*. Fruit large, of long irregular shape, and very uneven in its outline. Skin thin, mottled green, and full of russety specks, slightly tinged with red on the side next the sun, and changing to a clear yellow when ripe. Eye prominent. Calyx short. Stalk an inch long, stout and fleshy, inserted in a slight cavity. Flesh tender, melting, very juicy, and musky. In season from the end of August to the middle of September. The tree is of upright growth, hardy, and fruitful.

This is an English pear of great merit; it originated in the garden of Mr. Wheeler, of Aldermaston in Berkshire, about eighty years ago, and was named after a Mr. Williams, a London grower. No garden should be without it. It stands unrivalled as an early pear.

Frogmore.

J. POWELL.

REVIEW.

Practical Observations on the Cultivation of the Pelargonium; with Calendar of Operations. By John Dobson, Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.

THIS is a highly useful pamphlet, consisting of fourteen pages. If we do not discover any thing very new in it, there is nothing that is not good; and such as we can recommend to be followed. The Calendar will be found to afford great assistance to the inexperienced in Pelargonium culture.

CULTIVATION OF THE EPACRIS. No. III.

(Concluded from p. 45.)

General management. Summer culture commences about the month of March. If the plants have been rightly managed the previous season, they will not require potting (except young ones); all that will be necessary will be to remove a thin portion of soil from the surface and replace it with a covering of fresh earth: this is called top-dressing, and is very beneficial. Fresh roots will strike into it, and thus enable the plants to bring out their blooms finer and more perfectly. As soon as it is done, give a good watering to settle the fresh earth, and then give a trimming up by so training-in the blooming shoots that the whole bush will be equally covered with them. Afterwards fresh arrange the plants on the stage. If the pots are dirty, or covered with moss, let them be clean washed. Nothing gives a greenhouse a more slovenly, unhealthy appearance than dirty pots; the plants themselves, though managed rightly in every other particular, do not thrive so well in pots covered with dirt or moss. Air is necessary to the roots as well as the leaves, and it cannot penetrate through a thick coating of dirt so well as through a clean-washed pot.

As the season advances, abundance of air and light is necessary for the well-being of the plants. When the sun attains great power, and they are in full bloom, a thin canvass shade will be of great advantage, both for their health and for prolonging the flowering season. The air at this season is often dry and parching, abstracting moisture from the plants through the pores of the leaves, and drying the soil quickly in the pots. This waste of moisture must be counteracted by copious supplies of water at the root, and by frequently wetting the walks and platforms, and even the outsides of the pots, and also by syringing the plants when not in flower. These applications give a freshness to the plants and a pleasant coolness to the air.

As soon as the bloom is over, the plants must be taken out of the greenhouse, and the long flowering shoots cut down close to the place from which they sprung. When thus pruned, they should be placed either in a cold frame or upon a bed of coal-ashes, in a place shaded from the mid-day sun; the former situation is the best, because they can be sheltered from heavy rains, which are injurious to them in consequence of having lost such a large portion of foliage. This infers also that they do not require much water at the root till fresh growth takes place. If there is not the convenience of a frame or pit, they may be set out of doors; but precaution should be taken to shelter them from heavy showers by a covering formed with hoops and mats, or oiled canvass.

When the new shoots have progressed about an inch, give the plants a liberal shift. As soon as that is effected, give a good watering to settle the soil, and replace them in their former quarters, where they may remain for a month or six weeks, due attention being paid to give them liberal supplies of water, and if in frames, abundance of air; the first to induce plenty of shoots to push forth, and the other to give a short-jointed, stiff, and robust character to the branches. As the shoots advance, they must be so trained as to give the plants a handsome form. To effect this well, slender sticks, painted green, will be necessary. These should be as long, or nearly so, as the shoots are likely to grow. Place them so that the branches will be equidistant from each other, and so arranged that the strongest will be in the centre, and the next strongest surrounding them, whilst the middling ones will be on the outside, the whole forming a handsome pyramid of blooming shoots. Any weak branches that are not needed should be cut away, to allow more light and air to the best shoots. This arrangement of the branches should be looked to three or four times during the period of growth.

So soon as the leaves are in some measure proportionate to the roots, expose the plants to the full influence of the light, except for about two or three hours, that is, from eleven till two, in the middle of the day; more or less shade would be injurious. When the days shorten, and there is the least fear of frost, remove them into a good airy greenhouse, or into a deep pit. If in the latter, let them be covered up securely every night with garden-mats, or any other effectual protection.

T. APPLEBY.

DAPHNE INDICA RUBRA.

THERE are probably few plants in cultivation possessing a more agreeable fragrance than the red Indian *Daphne*. Although not of recent introduction, its successful management appears to be but imperfectly understood; not that its merits are insufficiently appreciated, for the presence of one or more plants in bloom generally produces an exclamation of delight from every beholder. Though not endowed by nature with the gaudy attractions which characterise many of the inhabitants of our plant-houses, yet this *Daphne* possesses peculiar claims upon our attention. The long duration of its charming flowers, and the facility with which they may be obtained in abundance during the dreary months of winter—a season when fragrant blossoms are indeed valuable—combined with its freedom of bloom, and adaptability for the decoration of the conservatory or the drawing-room, render it deserving of extensive cultivation.

The common method of propagating this plant is by grafting or inarching it on young stocks of the free-growing hardy kinds; but, after some years' experience, I find it to grow equally strong, and to be generally more durable, when raised from cuttings. These may be obtained when the wood of the young shoots begins to harden. They should be taken off with a heel, cut smoothly over, and one or two of the lower leaves removed; they may then be inserted in a well-drained pot, in a compost of equal parts silver-sand and fine-sifted peat or leaf-soil. After insertion, they should receive a gentle watering, be covered with a bell-glass, and placed in a close pit or frame where a gentle bottom-heat is maintained. With due attention to watering, and guarding against excess of damp, in a month or six weeks they will be well rooted, and may then be potted singly into 4-inch pots, and placed in a close house or pit until they become well established; after which they may be removed to the shelter of a cold frame, and be supplied liberally with air on all favourable occasions. If the young plants have been potted off early in summer—say the middle of June—when well rooted, they may receive a second shift into a larger-sized pot, continued growing to a later period, and in due time be removed to the greenhouse for the winter, during which season they should be secured from frost, and a sufficiency of water given to preserve the foliage in a healthy condition. As a general rule, I prefer wintering them in the pots they are first shifted into. By so doing, the wood becomes perfectly matured, and they are consequently enabled to make a more active growth in spring.

About the middle of February the best plants are selected and potted into 6-inch pots; they are then placed in a temperature of 45° to 50°, and encouraged to grow. The leading shoot should now be stopped, in order to induce the progress of the lateral or side-shoots, so as to eventually form a compact bushy habit. As the plants advance in growth, and the pots become filled with roots, a second shift into 8 or 9-inch pots, proportionate to the strength of the plant, will be requisite. A second stopping should take place a few

days before or after the shift; a gentle use of the syringe over the plants in warm evenings, and a slight shading during bright sunshine, must be attended to. A little observation will indicate the formation of flower-buds, and the consequent maturation of the wood; after which they should be gradually hardened, and finally placed in a shady situation out of doors. Here they may remain until the latter part of September, when they must be removed to the greenhouse, where they will soon commence flowering, and continue to do so during the winter.

When the season of blooming is over, the plants may be pruned back half the length of the flowering-shoots, and removed to a warm house previous to re-potting, which in this and subsequent years should be performed when they have commenced a young growth, care being taken to remove all stagnant soil or unhealthy roots. They should afterwards be removed to the house in which they were started, and encouraged to perfect their growth as early as possible, previous to removal to the open air. Little stopping will be needed further than to regulate the shoots so as to preserve a compact head. By timely attention and judicious treatment they will continue in good condition for some years; and when eventually overgrown, or straggling in appearance, they may be thrown away, and their place supplied by younger stock.

The soil in which this *Daphne luxuriates* is composed of equal parts peat and strong fibrous loam, to which is added a sufficiency of sharp sand, to preserve porosity. During the growing-season, an occasional watering with clear manure-water will be found advantageous. Should green-fly or thrips make their appearance, fumigation should be resorted to; but if the plants are kept in good health, the visits of these pests will be few and far between.

VERITAS.

THE CAMELLIA.

WITH the exception of the Rose, the Camellia is the flower most favoured by the ladies; for although wanting fragrance, its fine Rose-like form, and rich or delicate colours, make it a valuable auxiliary to the bouquet, or a graceful ornament to the dress. Since the first introduction of this plant from China in 1739, numerous fine sorts have been raised from seed in this country, principally, in the first instance, by Messrs. Chandler of the Vauxhall Nursery,—an establishment still celebrated for its collection of this popular flower. Many valuable varieties have also been originated in other nurseries, as well as by private growers, the best of which will be found described at p. 94 of Vol. II. Nearly every season, however, now brings forth one or more new sorts, which generally so much excel most of the older varieties, that, with a few exceptions, the latter will in no long time be driven out of our gardens; and, in addition to those of home origin, a few surpassingly fine varieties have been received from the continent, especially from Italy, where the Camellia

appears to produce seeds more freely than in this country. I am informed, however, that the really good kinds among those recommended by foreign dealers, and sold to English nurserymen at high prices, do not exceed eight or ten in a hundred; good new flowers are therefore necessarily costly. Of the new flowers which have come under my observation the following are the best:

Aulica (Loddiges), delicate flesh-colour, slightly tinged with yellow in the interior of the flower, and occasionally veined with red; distinct and showy.

Alcmene (Herbert), rose-colour, occasionally marked with white; a well-formed imbricated flower, and very handsome.

Saccoi Nova (foreign), light rose, imbricated form; a beautiful flower.

Duc de Bretagne (foreign), rosy red, imbricated, and very good.

Reine des Fleurs (foreign), light red; finely-formed flower.

Albertus (Chandler), bluish white ground, striped with red; not very new, but one of the very best striped kinds.

The foregoing varieties will not disappoint the purchaser; and, in addition to them, I am informed by a competent authority that the following are very desirable sorts: *Mathotiana* (said to be the finest red known), *Pirzio*, *Montironi*, *La Reine*, *Ariosto*, and *Pieta*.

The list given in Vol. II. contains more sorts than could conveniently be grown, except in large establishments; and the following will be found a desirable selection from it:

Alba Plena, or Old
Double White.
Alexina (Low's).
Amabilis (Smith's).
Bealii (Palmer's).
Candidissima.
Donkelaarii.

Duchess d'Orleans.
Eximia.
Fimbriata.
Francofurtensis.
Hendersonii.
Henri Favre.

Imbricata.
Lowii (Low's).
Marchioness of Exeter.
Ochroleuca.
Sweetiana.
Tricolor.

J. B. W.

THE CORRÆA.

WHEN this genus consisted of plants with small rusty foliage and dingy-coloured flowers, it was more generally cultivated, and received more attention than at present, when it comprises many splendid varieties, with glossy leaves and bright-coloured blossoms. Well-grown specimens of the better varieties are exceedingly useful, and form no mean substitute, during the cheerless months of winter, for the gay and various-coloured *Fuchsia*, to which, in general appearance, and in the habit of producing, under proper treatment, a long succession of bloom, the *Corræa* bears some resemblance.

Propagation is easily effected, either by cuttings, grafting, or inarching; but as any of the varieties grow freely on their own roots, it is unnecessary to resort to grafting or inarching. *C. alba* being a hardy variety, with a vigorous habit of growth, is preferable as a stock. If short-jointed pieces of the young wood, in a half-ripe state, are selected for cuttings, planted in sandy peat, covered with a glass,

and placed in a close, cool situation for about a month, and then removed to a very gentle bottom-heat, they will root freely. When the cuttings are obtained early in the season,—but unless plants are placed in heat this will seldom be the case,—it will be easy, with ordinary management, to have them rooted, potted-off, and established in 4-inch pots previous to winter; and in case that the cuttings are not fit for potting singly early in autumn, it will be better to keep them over the winter in the cutting-pot. When potted-off, whether during autumn or spring, it will be necessary to keep them rather warm and moist till they have become established.

In February, or early in March, place the young plants in a moist temperature of about 50°, and keep them properly supplied with water. As soon as they commence growing, examine the state of the roots, and shift into pots two sizes larger such as require more pot-room. Water must be very carefully administered for a week or two after potting, and the soil, as well as the ball of the plants, must be in a proper state as to moisture when potted. If these important although apparently trivial matters are rightly attended to, the young plants will soon burst into vigorous growth, and should be allowed a free circulation of air during bright warm days. It will probably be necessary to regulate the growth by pinching-out the points of any over-luxuriant shoots, so as to secure a compact habit of growth. The *Corræa*, like many other hard-wooded plants, grows freely in a moist and moderately-warm atmosphere; but when kept in a hot and dry temperature, the young wood becomes prematurely ripened, and ill health ensues. Perhaps the equal temperature and moist atmosphere most congenial to the growth of the plant is more easily secured during the summer months in a cold frame than elsewhere; but the removal must be carefully effected, and the plants should be kept freely supplied with air for a time, previous to the change, and the frame so managed as to maintain the temperature and atmosphere sufficiently warm and moist to prevent them sustaining any check. During summer, a slight shade on the forenoon of bright days will be highly beneficial, and the plants should be sprinkled over-head night and morning. Air should be freely admitted, except during the occurrence of cold drying winds, when the lights should be raised at the back only, and the temperature kept down by means of shading. When the nights become warm, the lights may be thrown off late in the evening, and again replaced to protect the plants from the intense heat of the sun's rays during the day. The stronger-growing specimens may require a second shift towards August or September; and this should be attended to as soon as the pots are full of roots. Discontinue the forenoon's shade early in September, and gradually expose the plants to the sun's rays and the freest possible circulation of air, merely guarding them from heavy rains and autumn frosts. They should be removed to an airy part of the greenhouse about the middle of October, where they may remain during the winter, and will require no further attention than a supply of water and protection from frost.

When they have done flowering, any straggling shoots should be

cut back, and the plants may be treated this season as recommended for last; or, if rapid growth is not particularly desired, they may be removed to a sheltered warm situation out of doors, instead of to a cold frame; but if they have been excited into active growth by a close, moist atmosphere, they must not be rashly exposed to the drying winds and bright sunshine which frequently occur in May. When greenhouse plants are removed to the plant-ground, they should be placed in a shady situation, and gradually prepared for full exposure to the sun and air. During summer they must be freely supplied with water, and a sprinkling over-head on the evenings of bright days will be beneficial. When the nights become cold, or drenching rains occur, they should be removed to the greenhouse, and be there freely exposed to sun and air. If it is desirable to have a portion of the plants in flower early in winter, they should be placed in the warmest end of the house, and kept as close as circumstances will permit. If treated thus, and if the young wood was properly matured, the plants will speedily be covered with bloom; and if they are properly supplied with water, they will continue in full beauty for many weeks. It will be unnecessary to place them in heat after the desired size is attained; but if the early-flowering plants are induced to start into growth early in spring, they will be ready to blossom early in winter, and by these means a long season of floral beauty will be easily secured.

The *Corræa* will be found to thrive in a soil composed of three parts fibry peat, and one part light sandy turfy loam, with a free admixture of silver-sand. The peat and loam should be carefully broken up into small pieces, divested of all inert soil and grassy litter, and carefully intermixed with the sand; and a sprinkling of clean potsherd, broken rather small, will assist to secure perfect drainage of the mass after the decay of the fibre has taken place. In potting, the soil should be made rather firm about the old ball, and should be in a proper condition as regards moisture when used. The plants will flower more abundantly if they are potted late in the season; and, unless they are allowed plenty of root-room, their blooming season will be comparatively short; but those who are partially unacquainted with the culture of pot-plants will act a wise part in resting satisfied with a moderate display of floral beauty rather than to risk potting their plants late in the season.

With an annual shift, and attention to the simple hints which I have just laid down, the *Corræa* will remain many years in perfection, and, by its abundant display of blossom during the winter months, will well repay the trifling care which its culture requires. When the plants become too large to be conveniently shifted, it will be better to throw them to the rubbish-heap, and to supply their places with young plants, as if kept after they become pot-bound, they seldom flower satisfactorily.

S. J.

ON BEDDING AUTUMNAL ROSES. No. II.

BEFORE I enter on the chief part of my present letter, let me advert to what I said last month on the subject of shading for beds of Autumnal Roses. I have said that the canvass for covering the beds should be of the thinnest possible texture consistent with strength; I now wish to add a few lines on the subject of support for the canvass. The most suitable, light, and, at the same time, economical supports, are bows or arches of stout iron-wire (about half an inch is the most serviceable thickness), bent so as to range at least eighteen inches over the heads of the plants, and so to allow sufficient space for the free passage of air all round. These arches should be of a length enough to penetrate the edges of the beds to the depth of eighteen inches at least in the mould (or more, if the nature of the soil be loose and open), and the arches may be tied together with twine, thin wire, or not tied at all, as may best suit the fancy of the amateur. I should advise no tying at all, as it seldom happens that it is required, unless heavy storms of wind are prevalent, accompanied with hot sun; and the want of them greatly facilitates the rapidity with which the gardener is enabled to remove the whole apparatus when it is not required; for this should always be done, as every one must be aware that the iron arches and canvass give an unsightly and nursery-ground appearance to the pleasure-garden. The great advantage, therefore, of using the wires as I have described them consists in the facility they offer for immediate removal when they are not of use, it being quite within compass to erect the whole apparatus and attach the canvass, which should be tied to the arches with tapes fixed at the corners, or to remove it altogether, in five minutes; in addition to which I may add, that the expense is a mere trifle. I need not here say that, in addition to using the canvass during the brilliant mid-day sunshine, it is of the utmost advantage to put it over the beds during heavy storms of rain or hail. Who is there who has not sighed at seeing the fruits of his patience and toil totally ruined for a time by the too impartial pelting of the pitiless storm?

I now wish to mention the soil and composts best adapted for growing Roses; and this applies equally to standards, dwarf-worked Roses, or those on their own roots. I must first premise that the Rose is in general more or less destitute of fibrous roots, depending chiefly for nourishment on long, thick, and sometimes clubbed roots, and not penetrating very deeply into the soil (hence its liability to be torn up in high winds), and therefore, contrary to most bedding plants, requires a more adhesive soil than they do. Next, that it may be safely laid down as a good general rule, that the Rose (to bloom it to perfection) requires a richer soil than most other plants; indeed, I am not aware of ever having found the soil too rich for a Rose. What in other tribes of plants seems to encourage growth and foliage, repressing the inclination to bloom, is with them the reverse. Of course, I do not mean by this, that this, or, in fact, any principle may

not be carried to extremes ; but I know this, that night-soil in a raw state may (where practicable) be laid on the beds of Roses in the winter season, not only without injury, but with the best possible results, which, I think, cannot be said of many other plants. It is, however, scarcely ever practicable on many accounts, and judgment must be used in the application of such strong measures as I have mentioned.

The amateur will find the following an excellent compost for growing his Roses. About the month of October, take a quantity of the top-soil of an old pasture, or any sweet maiden loam (proportioned to the number of beds to be made), which is rather stiff than otherwise, laying it up, with the sods among it, in a heap ; then add an equal portion of old, stale, rotten manure, such as has been used as linings for the forcing-pits the preceding spring, and have them well mixed with a spade, chopping up the sods into pieces about two inches square, and laying the compost again in a heap ; and in order to allow the frost to get thoroughly into it, have the heap periodically turned over, and any large sods which may have escaped the eye chopped up ; let there be occasionally thrown over the compost a few pails of liquid drainings from the dunghill, or the refuse water from the dwelling-house, if the former be difficult to obtain. In about March the compost will be ready for use, and should then be transferred into the beds, after first having it sifted through a coarse riddle, the stones and rubbish taken out, and those parts of the sods which have not decayed laid apart to form the basis and foundation of the beds. Let the sods be put in at once, but the soil to form the main part of the bed will be benefited by lying to sweeten till the plants are ready to put in. As the soil will sink more or less according to the quantity and quality of the manure, let the beds be made somewhat higher than they are intended to remain when they are filled with Roses, and avoid having them laid up in a very rounded form, or the water in summer will be unequally distributed to the roots, the edges of the beds getting an undue share of moisture, and the crown left dry. I need give no directions as to putting in the plants, as that depends so much on the size of the beds and the taste of the grower, but bearing in mind that the larger plants be in the centre. I think there cannot be a better time than the present for transferring the plants (which, of course, ought to have been potted all the winter) into their respective situations, as the hard frosts may now be said to be past.

As I have been led into longer detail than I expected in giving the amateur my idea of the best soil for Roses, I must defer till next month my letter on the varieties of Autumnal Roses adapted for bedding.

R. P.





Camellia Japonica

THE CAMELIA.

It is so seldom that we get a new *Camellia* in any class superior to already existing kinds, that we consider ourselves fortunate in being able to present our readers this month with the beautiful variety which forms the subject of our Plate. It is one of a good many seedlings raised by Messrs. Jackson of Kingston from *C. Carswelliana*, and flowered for the first time in 1847 (quite a small weakly plant). Messrs. Jackson thought it of very promising character, and "worked" some plants of it; from one of which the flower sent to Mr. Andrews to figure was cut. Its chief merit we consider to be its nearer approach to scarlet than any *Camellia* of good form yet out.

As regards its name, it was called *Martinii* in compliment to William Byam Martin, Esq., of Bank Grove, Kingston, Surrey, a liberal patron of horticulture, and the possessor of a magnificent specimen of *Camellia reticulata*, the finest in the kingdom we believe, and most probably not surpassed even in its own country; it is seventeen feet high and nineteen feet in diameter, with the vigour and density of a common laurel. Last year it formed 6200 flower-buds, 3000 of which were picked off by thinning, and the remaining 3200 produced their handsome blossoms, some of them measuring ten inches in diameter.

The beautiful light *Camellia*, Countess of Ellesmere, figured in the *Florist* for 1850, p. 115, and which received a first-class certificate from the National Floricultural Society on the 8th ult., also belongs to the same nurserymen, who have thus been enabled to furnish the lovers of this charming flower with two varieties of first-rate merit. Both sorts, we doubt not, will find a place in every collection.

With respect to the cultivation of the *Camellia* little need be said to the experienced; but as in the science of culture, as in all other sciences, we must have beginners, we have thought it well to add a hint or two for its management in pots.

The *Camellia* may be propagated by cuttings; but the usual practice is to graft or inarch on the single and Middlemiss reds, cuttings of which root freely. After being prepared, and potted in very sandy soil and watered, they should be placed in a cold frame till calliced, and then introduced into gentle bottom-heat, where they will soon form roots; they may be potted singly in small pots early in spring, or as soon as they are rooted, and kept close and warm until

they have completed their growth, when they should be gradually hardened off. The best plants will be ready to be used for stocks at the proper season, but the smaller ones will require another year's growth. Grafting is generally performed in autumn, and the plants should be kept in a close house or pit until a union is effected. The best time for inarching is just before the plants begin to grow.

A soil consisting of equal parts light turfy loam and fibry peat, broken up into pieces about the size of a nut, and liberally mixed with broken bones, lumps of charcoal, and sharp sand, will be found to suit perfectly. In potting, care must be taken to secure perfect drainage. It will be found best to select some of the most fibry pieces of the peat, and to cover the draining materials with them; this, mixed with small pieces of bone or charcoal, is more liked by the roots than moss. The proper time for potting, perhaps, is when the plants are about to start into growth; but some growers prefer potting after they have made their wood. Water must be carefully supplied after shifting, until the roots get hold of the fresh soil.

With a sufficient stock of plants, and the necessary accommodation, a supply of *Camellia* blossoms may be obtained from August to May. To secure this, place a portion of the stock in a temperature of 60° or 65° in January or early in February, and others at intervals of a month or six weeks, leaving the latest batch to make their wood and set their flower-buds in a cool house; it may, however, be necessary to remove the late plants to a higher temperature to induce them to form flower-buds; but except in the case of very vigorous young plants, this will hardly be required. The plants should be freely supplied with weak manure-water at all seasons, and especially while growing, and they will be benefited by frequent syringings. As soon as they have made their wood and formed their flower-buds, they should be removed to a cooler situation; and as soon as the weather will permit, they may be placed in a sheltered shady place out of doors. Those which were in heat in January or February will probably be in flower in August; but if not, they may be transferred to a warmer atmosphere, to encourage them to push their buds.

When they have done flowering, they should be permitted to have a season of rest, and should not be overwatered, nor excited by a high temperature; from 35° to 45° will be sufficient at that time. It is also necessary to select for early growth such plants as have their wood-buds in a forward state.

The *Camellia*, if well managed, will seldom get into ill

health; but if it should, the plants had better be turned out of their pots, all sour soil removed, and then repotted in smaller pots, using soil of a more sandy nature than that in which they have been growing. They should also be cut back, and, as soon as convenient, place them in a gentle bottom-heat, and keep them close and moist, but water very carefully until the roots have become established. When they have done growing, harden them off, and remove some of the flower-buds. The plants will probably be in a fit state for a moderate shift at the beginning of next year; but they must not be allowed to bear more than one flower to a shoot this season. Indeed, no doubt ill health is frequently induced by allowing the plants to carry more flowers than they can support; two on a shoot are as many as ought to be permitted upon healthy plants; and if they are weakly, this number should be reduced.

THE DAHLIA.

WE cannot perhaps do better than put our readers in possession of the following directions at this most important time for the Dahlia. To grow a good plant during the time it is in the pot is of far more importance than early planting. "Pot them into 4-inch pots, using rich soil: the pots should be drained with coarse partly decomposed leaf-mould, so that in planting out there will be nothing to abstract from the ball of earth. A good start is of great importance; therefore care should be taken that the plant is grown to a fair size without drawing during the time it is in the pot; the stouter it is the better, without being tall; and it should not be pot-bound at the time of planting out: both the roots and the point of the plant should be in a thriving condition, and free from aphides.

It may perhaps be unnecessary to state that the plants must be carefully hardened off before they are turned out. If the soil and plants are in a proper state, the first week in June will be a good time for the general planting, which, with ordinary care and attention, will produce good blooms in time for the earliest exhibition.

A short period will suffice to have plants of a good size; but it should be borne in mind that hours lost in repotting them when in a young state will make a difference of days in the time of blooming, and it is important that this should be clearly understood, that no neglect in the matter may be permitted to take place. Examine the plants often to see if any require water; by no means let them become dry so long as they are in pots. Secure them with proper and strong fastenings at the time of planting; water whenever they require it, and sprinkle the foliage slightly almost every evening with soft water. Tie out the branches, and, as the plant increases in size, secure the side-shoots firmly to extra stakes."

AMARYLLIDS AND DWARF CACTI.

AMARYLLIDS and dwarf Cacti are two very dissimilar orders of plants, and at first sight it may appear strange to unite them in the same article. They are both objects of much interest, many of the varieties in both orders producing flowers of great beauty, and most of the dwarf Cacti are attractive at all times; but how rare is it that we see a collection of them in any thing like perfection! The Cacti appear more or less numerous in almost every greenhouse, and generally as objects of great and long-continued neglect, disgracing instead of adorning the place they occupy. The Amaryllis is frequently grown for years without flowering. Now I believe this state of things is mainly to be attributed to want of attention to their natural habitat and climate. Bulbs, natives of the sunny plains of South America, are expected to flower in the shade with the subdued sunlight of Britain; and Cacti from the tropics are generally left to themselves, here and there and any where.

It is not my intention to give the routine culture; in many respects, especially in soil, great differences may be alike, or nearly alike, successful; but my chief object is to direct attention to one point applicable alike to both, which it is indispensable to attend to, and that is, *affording the plants, whilst growing and ripening their growth, a due amount of the solar influence, both heat and light.* The best structures for them in summer are pits or frames, so that the plant can be brought *very near* the glass; and for the tropical Cacti, such as Echinocacti and Mammillaria, the glass should be as nearly horizontal as will allow the rain to run off; for being accustomed to a vertical sun, they "bow the head" to greet him at any angle; they require his direct rays on the crown of the plant, and bend and become unsightly when the light comes horizontally; of course, attention must be given to soil, re-potting, and watering; moisture, heat, and light should always bear relative proportions during the growing season; for Cacti the water should be gradually withheld early in autumn, that the growth may be fully ripened.

The Amaryllids, at least many, such as the beautiful *Hippeastrum aulicum*, may be continued always in a growing state, and *Amaryllis formosissima* might be cultivated in a bed like Tulips, care being taken to put it deep enough to be out of reach of frosts, or they might be covered with spent bark or litter, until fear of frost is gone. Some varieties require a winter's rest; others, as *Amaryllis Belladonna*, begin to grow in autumn, and should continue to grow through the winter, kept just free from frost, gradually drying them about the end of May, and resting them until the end of July, when, on receiving moisture, they put forth their bloom, and again commence growing. Nerines do the same; but as I have said before, my chief object is to direct attention to the necessity of giving them all the sunlight possible, as one indispensable element in their successful cultivation.

OMICRON.

THE VINE MILDEW.

(Oidium Tuckeri.)

ALTHOUGH this pest has received many hard blows from gardeners of energy and determination, yet I fear that much misapprehension still exists on the subject generally. Without pretending to throw much, if any, new light on the *cause* of the evil, perhaps three years' experience and observation of its *effects* may not be unacceptable. Might I also be permitted to take this opportunity of strongly protesting against the statements of those who presume to say that mildew has never attacked *their* vines because of their own uniform good treatment, which has acted as a preventive. This is all a mistake; for although we may alleviate and even subdue the fungus when it shews itself, I firmly believe that the primary cause of its appearance is, at least at present, beyond the reach of both practice and science.

Whatever this first cause may be, I have no doubt that the evil is aggravated by a cold atmosphere. It is also extremely local; for I have seen vineries infested in comparatively low situations, while those on higher ground, in the immediate neighbourhood, have been entirely free from it. Another favourable condition for the development and subsequently rapid propagation of mildew, is a cold, strong, retentive soil, filling both old and young wood with crude unassimilated sap, rendering leaves, shoots, and fruit, in their earlier stages, more easily assailable by the insidious foe, and shewing the paramount importance of having the wood thoroughly ripened. This fact may be constantly observed during the summer months, when outdoor vines are completely smothered as with flour; from which we may infer that no bad management can be essentially *the* cause of the indoor malady, how much soever it may afterwards encourage and disseminate it.

From the foregoing observations it may be gleaned that vines are more susceptible of disease when exposed to the separate or combined influences of cold atmosphere, cold retentive soil, or a low situation. Of these, a cold atmosphere has perhaps the greatest influence, as I have always observed that the more cold air admitted, without strong fire-heat to counteract it, the worse the disease has been. Grapes, having the appearance of being thrashed, as it were, with rods, is owing to denuding the vines too suddenly of laterals and foliage, when the fierce rays of a summer sun injure the tender skin. By many this effect is supposed to be caused by mildew, and it is more frequent under sheet-glass than any other kind. Muscats are especially liable to this accident.

Now, premising the above conditions to be favourable to the increase of mildew, the cause of treatment to be pursued in order to save the crop from ruin when attacked is sufficiently obvious and simple, and may be summed up in a few brief directions: Keep up a strong-fire heat, but let that be guided by sound judgment; economise sun-heat, to ensure an early and thorough ripening of the wood; ventilate carefully and cautiously, to avoid cold draughts and sudden changes of internal temperature; if possible, only give air at the top

of the house ; choose a fine morning for watering the border, that the superabundant vapour may be dissipated before the house is closed ; and last, but not least, keep a vigilant eye for the most minute symptom of mildew, and instantly check it by a timely application of flour of sulphur, puffing it lightly on the affected parts. In this way the enemy will be vanquished. The "bane and antidote" are both before you ; and by strict attention to the above simple rules this otherwise destructive pest is no more to be dreaded than red spider or green-fly.

Windsor.

J. W. L.

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### A PLEA FOR AN OLD FAVOURITE.

It cannot perhaps be said that Florists do not conform to the advice conveyed in the song, that

" 'Tis well to be off with the old love  
Before you are on with the new ;"

but they certainly are very fickle in their loves, and can scarcely be said to even have an old one ; so that the transfer of their affections becomes a matter of small moment, and little remorse can arise from it in the bosom of the most sensitive of the craft. To-day admiration is exhausted in gazing on some new candidate for favour ; its form, its hue, its general contour is perfection. To-morrow, how are its glories fallen ! eclipsed, outvied, thrust in the back-ground, neglected, forgotten. Again does novelty succeed novelty, only to push the former from its stool ; yet each succeeding favourite during its brief reign, like that wondrous animal the last-born, is "the finest ever seen." And so 'twill be to the end of time.

But I am forgetting my "old favourite ;" *Fuchsia corymbiflora* I mean ; a plant worthy of a post of honour ; but having been allowed to love it for a season or two, is now

"Neglected and forgot."

Yet what a fine plant it is ! Look at its noble foliage, its large corymb of splendid flowers ! Who does not admire its noble bearing, a very aristocrat amongst plants ! But not as one generally meets with it certainly. To enable it to develop its real beauties, it must be grown as a standard ; and when it has attained the height which it is wished to attain, it must not be allowed too much liberty at the roots. The ordinary treatment which others of its race receive is all it requires. Any cool out-of-the-way place will suit it in winter when at rest. The conservatory is its proper home when growing and when in flower ; the most showy of the occupants then will not be disgraced by companionship with it.

G. L.



## CULTURE OF THE JAPAN LILY.

ALTHOUGH all the varieties of this magnificent Lily are easily cultivated, they are very seldom managed so well as they might be with a very little extra trouble. I have successfully adopted the following mode of culture for some years.

About the latter end of December I get my mould prepared for potting. It consists of equal parts turfy loam and fibry peat, with about one-eighth of silver-sand, using the whole without sifting. For large specimen-plants I employ 15-inch pots, filling them with the above compost to within four or five inches of the top, according to the depth of the bulbs. In pots of the dimensions just stated, I place five bulbs of nearly equal size in the following manner: one in the centre of the pot in an upright position, the other four at regular distances round it, placing the latter a little on their sides, so that when they begin to grow, the stems of the four outside bulbs come up over the rim of the pot. I insert the bulbs so that the crowns may be about half an inch above the rim of the pot, filling-in the mould between them, and giving a slight watering. Station the pots under the stage of the greenhouse or in any cool place, taking care that their occupants do not get too damp or too dry until they begin to grow, when they must be removed to as light and airy a situation as possible. I set mine in the front of a lateinery where the vines have not yet started. When the shoots are about five or six inches long, I tie a piece of bast round the pot under the rim, to which I fasten the outside shoots, taking care not to break any of them; and by moving the bast as the shoots grow, they are kept growing outwards, which gives more room for those in the centre of the pot.

When the shoots are about seven or eight inches long, I get some pieces of turfy peat and cut them about four inches square, a little wedge-shaped, to make them fit round the pot better. I place these all round the rim of the pot, letting the side-shoots come out between the pieces of turf. I then put a little silver-sand and charcoal-dust round each stem, about an inch and a half up it, filling the space between the stems and the pieces of turf with rich mould prepared as above, with about one-half good rotten manure in it. They soon throw out a mass of roots all round the stem into the mould above the rim of the pot. Your plants will then have all the mould in the pot to grow in. I am more particular in mentioning this, as a writer has recommended 12-inch pots, and the bulbs to be placed four inches deep from the crown, which with four inches for the depth of the bulbs themselves, the roots could only have four inches of mould to grow in.

As soon as the weather will permit (say about the middle of April), they must be removed out of doors, somewhere behind a low wall, where they can be protected with a mat, in case of a frosty night. I place mine on planks behind a pit until the end of May, when I set them in a shady situation where they can get sufficient air and plenty of room, keeping them well watered, particularly when the flower-buds are being formed. You must also examine them now

and then, or green-fly is very apt to attack the tips of the shoots. For its destruction I use snuff and sulphur in equal parts mixed together, dusting the shoots with it when quite dry. I often dust them with this mixture, even if I see no signs of the enemy, as prevention is better than cure.

By selecting bulbs all of one size, *i. e.* bulbs that will throw up three or four stems each, I secure specimens possessing from fifteen to twenty stems; and by treating them as above, I get from twelve to eighteen blooms on each shoot, thereby producing from two to three hundred blooms on each plant, which is not more than three feet high, with fine large foliage down to the pot. I remove them to the greenhouse about the end of August, when they keep in bloom all the autumn months; and as they go out of flower, I place them under the stage of the greenhouse, laying the pots on their sides; but I do not cut off the stems until the end of December, when I remove all the surface-mould down to the crowns of the bulbs. I then twist out the old shoots, turn out the ball, and remove all the old mould to within an inch or so of the base of the bulb, repotting in the same-sized pot, and placing the crowns about half an inch above the rim, as before directed.

The bulbs require to be separated only every second year; but by doing a few every year, you have always plenty of specimen-pots, without having to separate all your pots at one time.

By the above treatment I get splendid specimens, the bloom of the outside shoots being nearly as low as the pot. By the stems being tied down as they grow, they are kept very dwarf; they require no sticks to support them, and the little extra trouble is well repaid in the blooming season.

*Clewer Manor, near Windsor.*

JOHN BLACK.

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## ROYAL SOUTH-LONDON FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

(HORNS TAVERN, KENNINGTON.)

*April 15th* (evening meeting), for seedlings. *Cinerarias* and *Pansies* were the principal subjects produced. A first-class certificate was awarded to Turner's Pansy Sir J. Cathcart: eight blooms of this variety were exhibited; it is very true, and decidedly the best yellow-ground variety.

*April 22d.*—This was the first of the Society's public exhibitions for 1852, and is held thus early in order to patronise the *Auricula* and *Polyanthus*; but the latter is now but little grown in the south. *Auriculas* were shewn rather numerous, but the coldness of the season has been much against them; the pips, instead of being flat, were in many instances rough and irregular. In the Amateurs' class, for four varieties, Mr. Miller was first, with Maclean's Unique, Duke of Wellington, Matilda, Champion; 2d, W. S. Ginger, Esq. Nurserymen: 6 plants, 1st, Mr. C. Turner, Slough, with Ne-plus-ultra,

Ashton's Prince of Wales, Lovely Ann, Ringleader, Sir John Moore (Lightbody), Lancashire Hero (Cheetham); 2d, Mr. James Dickson, Erixton, with Crucifix, Conqueror of Europe, Glory, Boliver, Champion, Duke of Wellington; 3d, Mr. Willmer, Sunbury.

*Polyanthuses.* 1st, Mr. Chawner, Sydenham, with Buck's George IV., Gold Lace, Exile, King; 2d, C. P. Lochner, Esq., Alexander, Lord Raneliffe, King, Bang Europe. Nurserymen: 1st, Mr. J. Bushell, Invincible, Royal Sovereign, and Eclipse were the only varieties dissimilar from the above.

*Pansies.* Amateurs: 24 blooms, 18 varieties, 1st, Mr. A. Lane, High Wycombe, with Almanzor, Constellation, Queen of England, Duke of Perth, Climax, Commander-in-chief, Pompey, Ophir, Masterpiece, Notabilis, Thisbe, Duchess of Rutland, Mr. Beck, Leader, Viceroy, Maid of Athens, Wallace, Lucy Neal, Polyphemus, Rubens, and Plutarch; 2d, J. H. Brown, Esq., Tulse Hill. Nurserymen: 24 varieties; these were large and very rich in colour; 1st, Mr. Turner, with Duke of Norfolk, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Beck, Ophir, Duke of Perth, Robert Burns, Disraeli, Sir R. Peel, Elegant, Rainbow, Thisbe, Keepsake, Euphemia, Juventa, Climax, Sambo, Sir J. Franklin, Belona, France, Cycole, Caroline, Pompey, Pandora, Duchess of Rutland; 2d, Mr. Bragg, Slough. The kinds differing from the first stand were, Lady Carrington, Africanus, Queen of England, Fire-King, Aurora, Constellation, Master Lacon, Kate, Grace Darling, Constantine, Supreme, Ibrahim Pasha, Wallace. Seedlings: six blooms were shewn of Turner's Sir J. Cathcart; three of Hale's Monarch, a rich yellow-ground variety, very dark top-petals and margin, and smooth on the edges. Three blooms were also shewn of Turner's National, a creamy-white ground, with blue-purple top-petals; lower petals having a narrow margin of the same shade, thus leaving a large shield or ground-colour round the eye, which is dense.

*Cinerarias* were but scanty: a first-class certificate was awarded to Messrs. Ivery and Son of Dorking, for Lady Flora, white, tipped with pale blue; large and showy, with very small disk. Mr. G. Smith sent good specimens of Queen of Beauties and Alba Magna, two fine whites; we prefer the former, having a neat small disk, but both are of fine form; and Lochner's Surprise, slate-purple; a flower of good properties.

Several neat collections of miscellaneous plants were shewn. For 15, Mr. Rosier was awarded the first prize, in which we noticed a good Pimelea, and a small but charming plant of *Erica elegans*; 2d, Mr. Oner, who had a fine *Epacris grandiflora*; 3d, Mr. Hamp. Nurserymen: 18 plants, 1st, Messrs. Fraser, of Lea-Bridge Road; 2d, Messrs. Fairbairn, Clapham. The plants generally consisted of Azaleas, Pimeleas, Ericas, *Aphelexis*, *Epacris*, *Polygalas*, &c. &c.; but nothing particularly new.

## PROPAGATION AND WINTER TREATMENT OF THE EPACRIS.

At the end of the summer the plants will have completed their growth and formed their flower-buds. Previously to placing them in their winter-quarters, let the pots be washed quite clean, and see that the holes at the bottom are not stopped up. To have the drainage perfect is of more consequence during winter than at any other season; if it is imperfect, the water will lodge in the soil and turn it sour; the young roots will then perish, and the plant will soon shew the ill-effects of such conditions; it will droop, and then the thoughtless operator will pour in more water, expecting it to revive, whilst it will, in fact, increase the evil to such an extent, as in all probability to kill the plant entirely. This point cannot be too strongly pressed upon the attention of the young cultivator. Should any worm-casts appear on the surface of the soil, means must be taken to get rid of them; if only one or two pots are infested, the most certain remedy is carefully to turn the ball out of the pot, and if the worms are outside, to gently remove them, without disturbing the roots; but if they are embedded in the soil they will be more difficult to come at. If the ball be gently struck with the hand, they will creep out of their hiding-places, and may then be destroyed. Should these means fail, let the plants become moderately dry, and then give a good watering with lime-water; this will effectually displace them: but it is not desirable to apply it too often, for though it is said to be harmless, I cannot entirely subscribe to that opinion.

The green-fly sometimes prevails in the early part of winter on the young shoots; these are easily got rid of by smoking with tobacco.

The application of water during winter is necessary, but only in very moderate quantities, merely just sufficient to keep the soil somewhat moist, care being taken that the ball is moistened to the centre. All the artificial heat that is needed for the Epacris is just enough to keep out frost. If the plants, or part of them, are kept in cold pits, they should be securely covered up every night when frost prevails; in very severe long-continued frost, it may be necessary to keep them covered closely up even during the day. They have been kept so covered up for a week together without injury; but on all favourable occasions uncover them, and give them fresh air to dry up damps and keep the plants fresh and healthy. Air must also be given plentifully to the greenhouse, both to keep down the temperature and sweeten the atmosphere. Once or twice during the winter let the surface of the soil be stirred, and all mosses and lichens removed as well as weeds. Towards the spring, when the flower-buds are beginning to push, a top-dressing of fresh mould will be acceptable and useful.

In order to perpetuate choice varieties already known, the only way is to strike them from cuttings; they are by no means difficult to propagate in this manner, though certainly not so easy as a

Geranium or a Chrysanthemum. The materials necessary are, some good sandy peat, some pure white silver-sand, and two or three clear bell-glasses, together with a rather warmer house to place the cutting pots in than the greenhouse. The best time is when the plants have plenty of young shoots upon them, which generally happens about the end of May. The best cuttings are such as are growing on the side-shoots, because these are not so gross and full of sap as the leading branches. The shoots being in a fit state to take off for cuttings, select some pots of such a size as will allow the bell-glass just to fit within them; fill the lower parts of the pots with broken potsherds for drainage, lay upon the drainage a thin layer of the rougher parts of the peat, then fill up with roughly sifted peat to within an inch of the top, and fill up the remainder with pure silver-sand; give a gentle watering from a very fine-rosed watering-pot to settle the sand, then prepare the cuttings; take them off about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch long, trim off the lower leaves carefully with a very sharp knife, without injuring the bark; set the bell-glass upon the sand to make a mark, and within that mark put in the cuttings in neat rows across the pot, keeping each variety to itself. Proceed till the number desired to be multiplied is all planted; then give a second gentle watering to settle the sand close to the cuttings, let them stand half an hour in the shade to dry the wet off the leaves; then place the bell-glasses upon them, and set them in a gentle heat, shading them every day when the sun shines; also let the glasses be wiped dry every morning for a month, and by that time the cuttings will begin to grow. To check them from drawing up weak, uncover them for an hour or two every morning; and when they are rooted, remove them into a cooler house for three or four weeks, leaving the glasses off in dull weather, and shading them from hot sunshine; by that time they will be fit to pot off. If there are a considerable number, and room is scarce, they may be put into 3-inch pots, four in a pot, and allowed to remain in them till the following spring. When they are potted off out of the cutting-pot, place them in a cold frame close to the glass, and shade till they are fairly established. To cause them to form branches close to the pots, nip off the tops as soon as they begin to grow afresh; and when they have filled the small pots with roots, re-pot them, and afterwards treat them in the same manner as the established plants.

T. APPLEBY.

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#### OUT-DOOR CAMELLIAS.

IN a small garden here a Camellia has stood the test of several winters without injury. It is now well established, and loaded with flower-buds, which, should the weather become more favourable, will soon be fully developed. It is planted in ordinary soil, and is fully exposed to the north and east winds. It has never had protection until within these few nights.

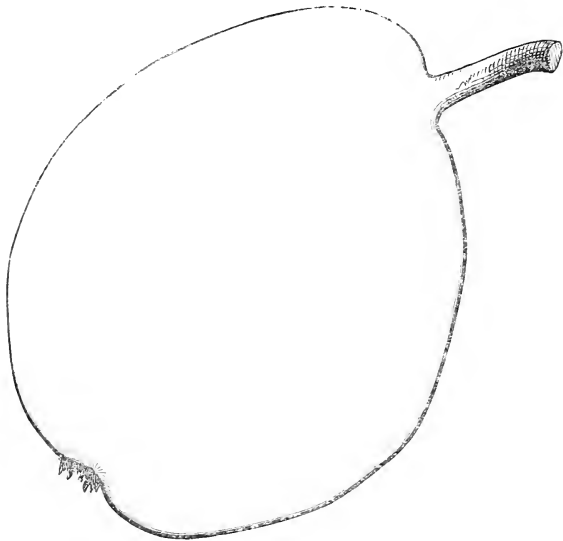
*Englefield Green, March 19.*

WILLIAM WHALE.

## DESCRIPTIVE LISTS OF FRUITS.

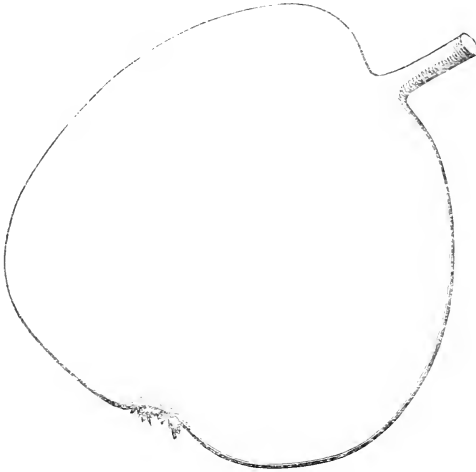
PEARS (*continued from p. 80*).

24. *Bon Chretien Fondant*. Fruit middle-sized, roundish oblong in form, and even in its outline. Skin smooth, palish green, dotted all over with small brown specks; tinged with brownish red on the exposed side, and a portion covered at times with russet. Eye small but slightly sunk. Calyx short, erect. Stalk from half to an inch long, curved, rather stout, but not fleshy, inserted in a slight cavity. Flesh yellowish white, rich, tender, melting, and abounding with refreshing agreeable juice. In season from the beginning to the end of November. This is a Flemish variety, and a most useful and excellent Pear. The tree is hardy and fruitful. Branches slender and pendent; it will bear as a standard, and forms handsome pyramidal trees, for which mode of training it is admirably adapted.



25. *Colmar Van Mons*. Fruit rather below the middle size, roundish-obovate in form, and the whole surface smooth and even. Skin thin, pale yellow, slightly spread with soft golden russet. Eye small, set in a very slight depression. Calyx short, open. Stalk short, moderately thick, and obliquely inserted under a swollen lip, or set in a slight cavity. Flesh white, rich, and perfectly melting. Exceedingly juicy, sweet, and refreshing. Ripens about the middle of October, and will keep good for three weeks. This is a new Pear of first-rate excellence and great beauty; it promises to be a very

desirable variety; the tree is hardy and productive, and will succeed well trained as pyramids or as open standards. As yet it is but little known in this country; and I am not aware if it was introduced previous to 1846, at which time we received plants from M. Dauvesse, Fruit Nurseryman, of Orleans. It was undoubtedly raised by Van Mons, the noted Belgian Pomologist.



26. *Marie Louise*. Fruit large, of a long ovate irregular figure, a little flattened close to the eye, and obtuse-angled near the crown. Skin brownish green at first, but changing as it ripens to a beautiful golden yellow, dotted and mottled with russet on the exposed side. Eye open, set in a slightly plaited basin. Calyx short, pointed, and erect. Stalk long, a little curved, moderately thick, and inserted at times under a swollen lip, but generally in a small cavity. Flesh yellowish-white, perfectly buttery, melting, and abounding in rich vinous juice. The above description was taken from a fruit when in perfection; but unfavourable seasons as well as bad situations make a great difference in its size and colour. It ripens in October; but its season may be prolonged for six weeks by gathering at different times. The fruit hangs well on the tree, and will be equally good by so doing. The tree is hardy and fruitful, and bears well as a standard in favourable seasons. It deserves an east or west wall, where it is a constant bearer. This noble Belgian Pear is every where held in high estimation; it is one of the few varieties in which large size, beauty, and all other good qualities are combined.

27. *Althorpe Crassane*. Fruit middle-sized, roundish-ovate, and regularly formed. Skin pale green mingled with russet, and thickly dotted with brown specks, and tinged with brown on the exposed side. Calyx moderately large. Eye narrow, slightly sunk. Stalk about an inch long, curved, and inserted in a small even cavity.

Flesh whitish, buttery, very rich, and possessing a pleasant perfumed juice. Ripe in the middle of October, and in use during the following month. The tree is hardy, prolific, and a sure bearer; it does remarkably well as a standard. The fruit is large when grown on an east or west wall, but not equal in quality to that from standard trees. It requires to be gathered a little before it will part readily from the tree, otherwise it will be rather mealy. This is a first-rate English Pear, and one of the many fine varieties raised by the late Mr. Knight of Downton.

*Frogmore.*

J. POWELL.

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*April 20.*—By far the most interesting articles produced at this meeting, at least in the eyes of a Florist, were some small pieces of a new Azalea from Messrs. Standish and Noble. It promises to be exceedingly handsome. The flowers are brilliant rosy-purple; and a most curious thing about them is, that they are entirely different in shape from ordinary Azalea blooms, the corolla being perfectly regular and bell-shaped. It will perhaps be found useful in giving a better form to some of our larger-blossomed varieties. For this valuable introduction we are indebted to Mr. Fortune, who fell in with it in the north of China. It is expected to prove hardy in this country; but even if it should fail to satisfy our anticipations in this respect, it will no doubt be found to be a striking and highly interesting object when in bloom in the greenhouse. We hope ere long to be favoured with the sight of a flowering plant of it.

### KESTELL'S GARDEN-LABELS.

THESE are designed and made by Mr. Kestell of Dropmore; they are the most elegant and durable contrivances of the kind which we have seen. They consist of various sizes, and are formed of cast and malleable iron, the smallest size being brass. They are cast with a cavity and rim to receive the composition containing the inscription. They are alike available for roses, shrubs, pot-plants, and forest-trees, especially Coniferæ. The letters are hermetically sealed, and therefore atmospheric moisture cannot affect them. In order to insure a perfect vacuum, every label is placed under the exhausted receiver of a powerful air-pump, while the surface is being covered with glass or tunc, embedded in elastic cement. To neatness of appearance this label has the advantage of being well defended against the effects of violence. For the Pinetum there is nothing like them; and we cannot perhaps render our readers a better service than by calling attention to so useful and ornamental an appendage for their choicest plants. They are largely employed at Dropmore; and having tried them ourselves, we can speak from experience of their utility.



## ON BEDDING AUTUMNAL ROSES. No. III.

As I professed in my first letter, given in the March Number of the *Florist*, I shall, in my present list of autumnal Roses adapted for bedding, adhere to those varieties which present most contrasting colours, combining brilliancy with compactness of growth, hardiness, and facility of cultivation. In this I wish principally to consult the interests of those who, from limited space or means, are unable to cultivate more than a few beds of flowering plants; otherwise I might add to my list many varieties not sufficiently brilliant to be preferred before others, but yet exceedingly lovely, and well adapted for bedding in every other respect, and worthy of the attention of those who have the means to cultivate Roses to any extent.

## DAMASK PERPETUALS.

1. *Celina Dubois*. This is a very desirable Rose; compact, very sweet; colour blush white.

2. *Crimson Perpetual*. An old favourite; surpassed in some points by *Mogador*, but very beautiful; very hardy, but a little shy in flowering sometimes; colour rich crimson.

3. *Mogador*. The best Rose in this group for bedding, having a great many points of excellence; more double than the preceding, more constant in flowering, and if possible more sweet; it, however, will not thrive well in poor soils; colour the richest crimson.

## HYBRID PERPETUALS.

4. *Augustine Mouchelet*. A great favourite of mine, although by no means new; well adapted by habit for beds, free in flowering, exceedingly double, large, and, in my view, the sweetest in perfume of all Roses; colour very deep crimson, the outer petals sometimes lighter than the centre.

5. *Comte Odart*. A very fine Rose; full, and of very good shape; but being a new Rose has had perhaps hardly sufficient trial as to growth; colour very fine deep crimson.

6. *Duc d'Aumale*. A Rose of very compact growth; hardy and robust; flowers rather small, but very double and very sweet, altogether an exceedingly good Rose; colour violet crimson.

7. *Géant des Batailles*. The best of all Roses for all purposes of bedding; this Rose is so well known and appreciated that eulogy is superfluous; it is admirable in habit, colour, and the easiest to cultivate and to work, but deficient in perfume; colour brilliant scarlet crimson fading to purple.

8. *Madame Aimée*. A very pretty Rose; free flowering and double, but rather small; compact in habit, and rather dwarf, but one of the best *light* perpetuals for bedding; very sweet; colour beautiful blush.

9. *Madame Guillot*. A very fine free-blooming Rose of high qualifications for bedding; a little apt, like the *Géant des Batailles*, to be mildewed in the autumn if much wet prevail; very double, moderate in size; colour very rich dark cherry.

10. *Madame Rivers*. A new Rose, which, if it answers to its ap-

pearance at present, will be a very great acquisition to Rose-growers. It is a very pale blush, and very beautiful; as to the growth, it is apparently moderate, and not too vigorous for the purposes of bedding, like *Caroline de Sansal* and others.

11. *Etendard de Marengo*. A very beautiful Rose, very well adapted for bedding, but prefers a cool rich soil, and does not thrive well in light ground; of very erect habit, robust, and much resembling in growth the *Damask Perpetuals*. The flowers not very double, but splendid; colour fiery crimson.

12. *Comte Bobrinsky*. A splendid Rose, perhaps more brilliant in colour than No. 7, but more dwarf, and not blooming so freely: with good cultivation this Rose becomes a perfect gem; colour more approaching scarlet than any.

#### BOURBONS.

13. *Anne Beluze*. A sweet little Rose for bedding purposes; small in growth, and, like almost all of this group, very free in blooming; colour pale flesh.

14. *Charles Souchet*. A handsome variety, one of the best of the dark Bourbons; blooms very freely in the autumn; colour rich dark crimson.

15. *Madame Angelina*. The finest light Rose for all purposes; nothing can be more lovely than this as a contrast to No. 7; perfectly adapted for bedding in all respects; but rather dwarf, and almost scentless, like most of the species; colour dark cream, fading to lemon.

16. *Madame Nérard*. A very pretty Rose of a peculiar silvery tint, very excellent habit, and free-blooming quality; colour very light pink, tinged with silver. This Rose opens very well at all times, which some of this group do not.

17. *Queen*. An old favourite, and a charming one; rather more dwarf than most kinds, but is constantly in flower until the frost cuts the blooms off; hardly double enough, but looks exceedingly handsome in a bed; colour pale flesh, with a tinge of fawn.

18. *Souchet*. A good deal resembling No. 14, but still darker, at times a black crimson; a small grower, but of very easy cultivation, erect in habit, shewing the blooms well; colour very dark crimson.

19. *Souvenir d'un frère*. The best dark Rose in the Bourbon family, all points considered; at times this Rose is apt to die off in the buds before they burst, but this is seldom; colour very rich glowing crimson.

#### CHINAS.

20. *Clara Sylvain*. A very good white Rose, of good habit and free blooming; contrasts well with the next in order.

21. *Cramoisie Supérieure*. This is a very splendid Rose, and not to be omitted from the list, though rather tender; of the richest glowing velvet crimson colour. This and the preceding are the two best Chinas for the purpose, and contrast well.

22. *Maria*. A beautiful white Rose, classed among Tea-scented Chinas, but is hardy, and very desirable in shape and habit.

23. *Devoniensis*. This, like the preceding, is a Tea-scented China, and perhaps is the most delightful of them, though they are a numerous class; for bedding it is a little tender, and apt to be too vigorous, but it is impossible to leave it out; it should be in a sheltered spot, and the soil not too rich. Colour cream, the petals thick, like a Camellia, and the fragrance exquisite.

## NOISETTES.

24. *Aimée Vibert*. A very excellent dwarf-growing Noisette Rose, well adapted for bedding, the flowers in clusters; it is constant in flowering till November; colour pure white.

25. *Miss Glegg*. This is like the preceding, rather dwarfer, but equally good; the colour nearly the same, the white not quite as pure.

It will be seen from this list, that although the class of Hybrid Perpetuals is the richest in dark colours, and is certainly the best in every respect, it is deficient in light Roses: this will, I hope, be supplied in a few years. At present the light Perpetual Roses are deficient in many essential qualities, and are not to be compared with those of darker hues.

ROBERT PROCTOR.

## MR. COLYER'S, DARTFORD.

THOSE who have been in the habit of attending the metropolitan and principal provincial exhibitions do not require to be told what triumphs in horticulture have been achieved at H. Colyer's, Esq., of Dartford, by the assiduous gardener Mr. Cole. Season after season have the plants from this place been looked upon by thousands with the greatest admiration; our readers will therefore perhaps like to know something of a place that sends forth plants which, for health, size, and compactness, have but in a few rare instances their equals.

Mr. Colyer's place, although not extensive, possesses a large amount of glass erections, all of which are good modern buildings, heated with hot water on the most approved principle.

But it is not in plant-culture alone that Mr. Cole is successful; here are also grown, and grown well too, Pines, Grapes, Peaches, and all that is required for table, including forced Strawberries, French Beans, Asparagus, Sea-kale, Cucumbers, &c.

The glass structures consist of a conservatory 51 feet by 16 feet, containing some large and finely-grown Azaleas, Epacrises, Eriostemons, Pimeleas, &c. &c.

Cape Heaths are grown in a span-roofed house 40 feet by 20 feet, situated in the centre of the lawn; the plants in this house stand on a platform near the side-lights, with a stage in the centre: nothing can exceed their health; every thing that soil and attention can achieve has been accomplished. We noticed Ampullacea, 4 feet through; Ferruginea, 5 feet; Eximia, 3 feet; Retorta, 3 feet (very

difficult to grow); *Retorta major*, 4 feet; *Tricolor*,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet; *Ampullacea vittata*, 3 feet; *Shannonii*, 3 feet; with equally well-grown examples of *Cavendishii*, *Ventricosa coccinea minor*, *depressa*, *elegans*, *Massoni*, *infundibuliformis*, *gemmifera*, &c.

The stove is 45 feet long by 14 feet wide, with platform in front, and tan-bed in the centre, in which were *Allamandas* and *Ixoras* growing most luxuriantly. In this house *Rhododendron javanicum*, figured in our last, some Orchids, and the beautiful *Allamanda nerifolia*, were in flower; the latter is a charming and first-rate thing.

A range of glass, 18 feet by 14 feet, is divided into three, forming two vineries and one peach-house; these form hybernatories for New Holland and other plants, among which we noticed *Aphelexis purpurea*,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet through, *Hoveas*, *Leschenaultias*, &c. *Hovea pungens* was in flower, and a charming plant it is; not so deep and rich in colour, perhaps, as *Celsi*, yet larger in the flower, and with longer spikes of bloom.

A pit 85 feet by 6 feet, with divisions, heated with tan and hot water, is found to answer exceedingly well for various stove-plants, particularly some of the *Ixoras*; here *Crocata*, *Silicifolia*, *Alba*, and *Aurantica*, were doing as well as plants could possibly do.

In addition to the above there is a span-roofed pit 59 feet by 12 feet, half for pines and half for stove-plants: the noble *Hoya imperialis* was in flower here. It bids fair to be better next May than it was last; it was much injured at the first Chiswick show last year by the coldness of the wind. *Dipladenias* are grown here, and had started and made considerable growth; Mr. Cole has uniformly good success with this beautiful stove-creeper.

There are two other pits 45 feet by 16 feet, one of which is for succession Pines, and a span-roofed pit 45 feet by 16 feet; all of which are furnished with well-grown plants of the choicest description.

One of Spiller's boilers heats the stove and two pits (in all 1050 feet of pipe).

We venture to predict that those who attend our floral exhibitions of 1852 will not be disappointed with the plants from Dartford. But the trouble and labour of growing and taking plants to the exhibition of the dimensions we have been describing, is such as no one can form any conception of who has had no experience in the matter, yet it is accomplished here with no extravagant amount of labour.

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### THE EXHIBITIONS OF 1852.

As nothing but the "Great Exhibition" was heard of in 1851, horticultural and floricultural shows were scarcely heeded; yet, according to the *Times*, nothing but a Chiswick or Regent's Park *fête* affected the receipts at the Crystal Palace. Our next Number will contain particulars of the first two great Exhibitions of the seasons. We expect, as well as hope, to be enabled to report that great progress has been made in horticultural skill.

The present Number gives our readers some account of the first

public show in London. The weather has, however, been too cold, and the season too late, for the first meeting to be any criterion of what is likely to follow. The Horticultural Society's schedule of prizes for the present year is a liberal one. Pelargoniums are raised to the old figure; Carnations, Picotees, Pinks, and Pansies have all been enumerated and judiciously patronised. For Orchids the prizes are very numerous: it must be a small grower indeed of this delightful tribe who cannot win a prize. We fear we shall be deprived of the pleasure of witnessing Mr. Rucker's noble specimens this season, which have hitherto contributed so much to the beauty and attraction of these exhibitions.

At the Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park, the wishes of the amateur florist have been met by dividing the classes. Nurserymen will not in future compete with their customers. In Pelargoniums there is an additional class for new flowers, in 8-inch pots, in June only. This class will be nearly as interesting to those who grow this beautiful greenhouse plant as the seedlings themselves.

The only feature at the Surrey shows (Royal South-London) is the regulation first adopted at Chiswick, and then at the Park, of having the exhibitor's name attached to the productions before they are judged: this has our hearty concurrence.

At Edinburgh there is to be a grand Dahlia and Hollyhock show in autumn, open to the three kingdoms, at which some of the southern growers intend to compete. It will indeed be extraordinary for a London grower to take his productions to Edinburgh: whether this can be performed successfully remains to be seen.

Carnations and Picotees would stand such a journey, so likewise would cut blooms of Hollyhocks; but we have some doubts about spikes of the latter. Dahlias, if a cool day before the show, or late in September, would in all probability travel tolerably well. We think the southern growers should make an effort to second the exertions of the Edinburgh gentlemen in getting up a good show, both by their subscriptions and presence. Another season it could be so arranged to meet half way, say York; this would embrace three districts.

We shall give our Tulip-growing readers a full account of what is done at the National Exhibition of this flower, to be held at Birmingham, the 27th instant. Tulips are still looking well, notwithstanding the continuance of cold. We have had 12° of frost so late as the 19th ult.; but being so dry, it does not affect them when slightly covered. As will be seen on the cover, there are shows arranged to take place in almost every locality.

At Cheltenham there will be three exhibitions: our friends at Staines have a very liberal schedule of prizes; we hope all will come off successfully.

It cannot be expected that the unsuccessful will be so well pleased as their more fortunate brethren. There must be some losing men, whom we hope to see double their exertions, until they have exchanged places with those above them; and let the winners—the envied of the day—bear their honours meekly.

## A WELL-KNOWN "SPOT."

PASSING through Piccadilly a short time back, we paid a visit to that once oft-frequented spot—the warehouse of the Publishers of the *Florist and Garden Miscellany*, and with a natural instinct walked to the place where the current Number of your *Miscellany* stands ready for delivery; and it was with great pleasure we saw but a small pile, learnt that the sale had increased, and that there was constant inquiry for what, in publishers' phrase, is called "Jan. Feb."—which the uninitiated may learn means the two first Nos. of the present year. Having descended from the superintendence of the work, and taken our place amongst the subscribers and occasional contributors, we now enjoy all the advantages which a looker-on upon a game is said to possess over the players themselves. And truly it is a pleasant exchange. But even this situation has its duties, and we feel it incumbent upon us, now that we are entirely disinterested parties, to state as fully as ever we did when in office, that the beauty and excellence of the work depends upon its subscribers *more than on any one else*. If they choose to exert themselves to increase their number, they will place greater funds at the proprietor's disposal, with which to purchase literary assistance, as well as to provide additional illustrations in the shape of woodcuts or coloured plates. It is very easy to say, "Supply these, and the increased sale will soon repay the increased expense." But there is a virtue termed prudence, which if neglected will lead to results which must fall on the proprietor only; and since it is not carried on for a bookselling profit, he does wisely to act on the homely phrase, "to cut his coat according to his cloth."

When the work was first established, we hoped it would have proved the medium of very general communication amongst Florists for recording interesting facts, &c.; but in this we have been much disappointed. This, we think, arises from the dislike of penning them down and forwarding them to the editor; for we well know how much there is to be contributed of this kind. It would greatly add to the value of the monthly Number, if the results of experiments were given, the effect of certain kinds of weather reported, or the particular treatment of individual plants recorded. No single person can do this; it should be done by all who are interested in floriculture.

For ourselves, we have been, and are at this time, attempting to "spot" some *Pelargoniums* by a variety of means, to see if we can discover the cause of this desperate disease. Hitherto exposure to cold rains and nights, after coming directly out of the greenhouse, during the latter part of last year, has been ineffectual to produce it. Neither have we been more successful by placing them in the heat of the sun, after remaining in a cold wind and shade, and when soddened with water. Now, it is experiments of this kind that we fancy would be found useful, and they can be so easily made that it is really worth while to attempt it. These excursive remarks are not intended as reflections on any one; but are penned with a desire to encourage the subscribers to interest themselves in the advancement of the *Florist and Garden Miscellany*.

EDWARD BECK.

## THE MOSS-ROSE.

HAVING collected a few facts relative to some of the old good Roses, particularly Moss-Roses, which owe their origin to accidental "sports," I beg to present my gleanings to the readers of the *Florist*.

Shailer's White Moss—the Unique or French White of the catalogues—was produced by one of those fortunate freaks of nature, a "sport." It is distinguishable from the Bath or Clifton White Moss by a more robust habit, it is more double, has a peculiar glaucous foliage, and it is not so well mossed as the Bath White, but when expanded it is a much fuller flower. Like its compeer, it often sports in colour, having frequently one or more petals reddish pink, and sometimes one half the flower is of that colour. The period of its discovery was about 1799, and occurred in the following manner. In the nursery of the late Mr. Shailer,\* King's Road, Chelsea (now the site of Messrs. Knight and Perry's, and Dennis's nurseries), a plant of the red Moss was noticed to have forced a sucker under the box edging and through the gravel-walk; its glaucous foliage having fortunately been observed, it was allowed to remain and flower, when, to the great surprise of all, it proved to be indeed at that time a (unique) white Moss.

The existence of such a flower was then considered incredible, and hosts of inquiries were made as to its authenticity. Amongst the earliest inquirers was the then Countess of Carnarvon and the lady of General Carpenter, both of whom ordered two plants.

It was not sent out till the third season after its discovery, when about thirty-six plants were disposed of at five guineas each. The late Marquis of Blandford, a liberal patron of horticulture, called at the nursery, and ordered six plants of it at that price, and six plants of a striped Moss (on which a word hereafter), for which the same amount was charged, and his lordship gave an order on Messrs. Lee and Kennedy of Hammersmith for the amount. Although several offers had been made, it remained in Mr. Shailer's hands until his lordship's purchase brought the variety under the late Mr. Lee's notice, when that much-respected nurseryman made the following offer: that they would take all the sound plants that were propagated of it at one guinea each, provided Mr. Shailer sold none under five guineas; which agreement was carried out for several years, and proved, I believe, advantageous to both parties. It is estimated that this piece of good fortune realised to the original proprietor a sum of from 800*l.* to 1000*l.* It is figured in Andrews' *Rose-Garden*, and the particulars of its origin, &c., corroborate these few notes.

Like all Moss-Roses, it delights in a deep rich soil; and, on the Celine stock, this, like most of the comparatively shy growers, is very much improved.

*Ealing.*

C. G. WILKINSON.

\* For these particulars I am chiefly indebted to the present Mr. Henry Shailer, of Chapel Nursery, Battersea Fields.

## NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*March 25.*—Cinerarias were sent on this occasion in considerable numbers. Labels of commendation were awarded to Dobson's Purity and Lochner's Julia; a first-class certificate was awarded to a Pansy named Sir John Cathcart (Turner). The censors described it as "deep yellow ground, with broad margin of deep bronzy maroon, well formed, smooth, and uniform; eye bold and well displayed." The dark colour is redder than that in most of this class, and it has unusual substance. Thirty-six varieties of Pansies were also exhibited by the same grower. Some novelties were furnished by Mr. Gaines and Mr. Henderson, consisting of a Sikkim Rhododendron, *Deutzia gracilis*, foreign varieties of Camellias, Epacrises, and *Cyclamens*.

*April 8.*—Messrs. Jackson of Kingston received a first-class certificate for their fine light variegated or striped Camellia, Countess of Ellesmere; it has stout petals, gracefully cupped, and is altogether a fine variety. It was figured in our volume for 1850; but it is one of those light varieties that do not look well on paper. A certificate of merit was awarded to Mr. Ivery for *Cineraria Rosalind*, white with purple margin, broad petals, and good habit. Messrs. E. G. Henderson sent a choice selection of the principal varieties of *Cinerarias*. Mr. A. Henderson of Pine-Apple Place exhibited a finely grown collection of Hyacinths, which were also shewn at the Horticultural Society's meeting the week before.

*April 22.*—On this occasion the exhibition was almost entirely confined to *Cinerarias*, which were contributed by Messrs. A. Henderson, E. G. Henderson, Salter, Ambrose, and Edwards; *Rhododendron varium* was reproduced, and a mottled Daisy came from Mr. Salter; *Pelargoniums* were furnished by Mr. Dobson, Mr. Ambrose, and Mr. Ayres; Pansies in pots by Mr. Edwards, and Auriculas by Mr. Coldham of Southgate.

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 CANARINA CAMPANULA.

THERE has been so much searching after novelty of late years, that many of the older kinds of plants have become all but forgotten, though some of them possess attractions greatly superior to subjects of more recent introduction. The *Canarina Campanula* is one of the oldest and best of exotic Bellworts, being a very showy deciduous herbaceous plant, which often attains the height of five feet; the root is thick and fleshy, and it has an erect, branching, succulent stem, with a flower on the top of every branchlet. The flowers are pendulous, an inch in diameter, and of a bright reddish brown, streaked in the inside with purple. To cultivate this species successfully, it should



have a warm greenhouse, and be potted in a compost of good mellow loam, peat, and leaf-mould, in equal proportions, draining well, and it likes a fair proportion of head-room. Under these conditions, it will be found a very ornamental object for several months in the year, as the flowers, when expanded, may be kept a long time in perfection, especially if removed to a cooler atmosphere. In watering, care should be taken not to give too much; the plant being of a rather tender, succulent nature, it would be likely to damp-off. When at rest, it may be kept all but quite dry. A good specimen of it flowered well in a cool greenhouse at Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

## NEW PLANTS

FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

PAXTON'S *Flower-Garden* for April has coloured plates of

The PURPLE GESNERA (*G. purpurea*). A hothouse tuberous plant of unknown origin. Apparently a striking variety.

The MOREL BILLBERGIA (*B. Morelliana*). A Brazilian stove perennial, with variegated leaves and not uninteresting flowers.

The MASTER'S CYMBID (*C. Mastersii*). An East Indian terrestrial Orchid, with white blossoms faintly stained with yellow and pink. Rather pretty.

In Curtis's *Botanical Magazine* we find :

The SLENDER-LEAVED SARCANTHUS (*S. filiformis*). An Indian Orchid, with small flowers thinly set on a long drooping raceme.

The WATERY DENDROBE (*D. aqueum*). An Orchid which was figured in the *Botanical Register* for 1843, and therefore can hardly now be called a rarity.

The STRAWBERRY-FRUITED BENTHAMIA (*B. fragifera*). A very old plant, or rather tree, for it is so in Devon and Cornwall, where it is quite hardy, and is highly ornamental, not less on account of its handsome fruit than its large creamy-white blossoms.

The TUBE-FLOWERED BESCHORNERIA (*B. tubiflora*). A Mexican Amaryllid of no great beauty.

The MYRTLE-LIKE HAKEA (*H. myrtoides*). A Protead from Swan River. The blossoms are small, and half buried among the leaves.

The BROOM-LIKE HAKEA (*H. Scoparia*). Another Swan River plant, which has been supposed to be a variety of *H. sulcata*; but to Sir W. Hooker it "appears unquestionably different."

The *Garden Companion* for last month has two coloured plates, containing :

GASTROLOBIMUM CUNEATUM. A pretty greenhouse shrub of Australian origin.

LINARIA RETICULATA. A Portuguese herbaceous perennial, with dark-purple flowers.

SYLIDIUM ARMERIA. A herbaceous perennial, having the aspect of the grass-leaved Stylewort, and deserving of cultivation.

ACACIA UNDULIFOLIA. A small-growing species, suitable for pot-culture.

This number also contains some pretty woodcuts.

## BRITISH PLANTS. No. III.

PERMIT me to add a few more remarks on what are termed wild plants; and in doing this I will commence with

*Campanula glomerata*, a symmetrical blue flower, which appears in some of our dry pastures during a portion of the summer: it is common in this district. This plant sometimes, though rarely, produces white flowers. Planted in gardens in bleak situations, the stem is less elongated, and the flowers more diminutive; but it will always flourish regardless of the kind of soil it is placed in. It is difficult to assign a reason for the almost non-cultivation of a plant like this, so well suited as it is for borders, and possessing at the same time a corolla so universally admired.

*Campanula Trachelium* is a scarce plant here, being to be met with, I believe, only in one particular situation. It is sometimes admitted into gardens among herbaceous things, and for all the purposes of the cultivator it is certainly in no way an objectionable plant. Its flowers are large, and being generally blue, they are for the most part conspicuous. It may be seen growing in numerous parts of England, preferring in general a loamy soil.

*Oxalis corniculata* is occasionally naturalised. The flowers are a handsome yellow, the stems are prostrate, rising in height only about six inches. This plant is also surely entitled to more extensive cultivation than it at present enjoys.

*Lathyrus pratensis* is an almost universal plant, inhabiting the greater part of our wet pastures and hedges, and when planted in some corresponding situation, it is sure to thrive. Its flowers are yellow, and sufficiently attractive during the summer months to render it worthy of attention.

*Vicia sylvatica*. A writer in the *Phytologist*, while speaking of this graceful climber, says "it invests the bushes where it is found with its festoons of the gayest verdure, and long clusters of pale and azure-pencilled flowers." This plant is, however, somewhat tender, and almost demands shelter. Cuttings may be struck by placing them chiefly in sand and keeping them close for a certain time; but they are liable to damp off.

*Gentiana Amarella* is very handsome and rather dwarf. It is an inhabitant of places dry and exposed. The flowers are purple.

*Aquilegia vulgaris*. This has fine clusters of blue flowers, which often vary to flesh and other colours. It is very frequent in certain woods, and particularly in one with which I am well acquainted, where the timber having been felled during the previous year, the flowers presented an unusually pretty appearance.

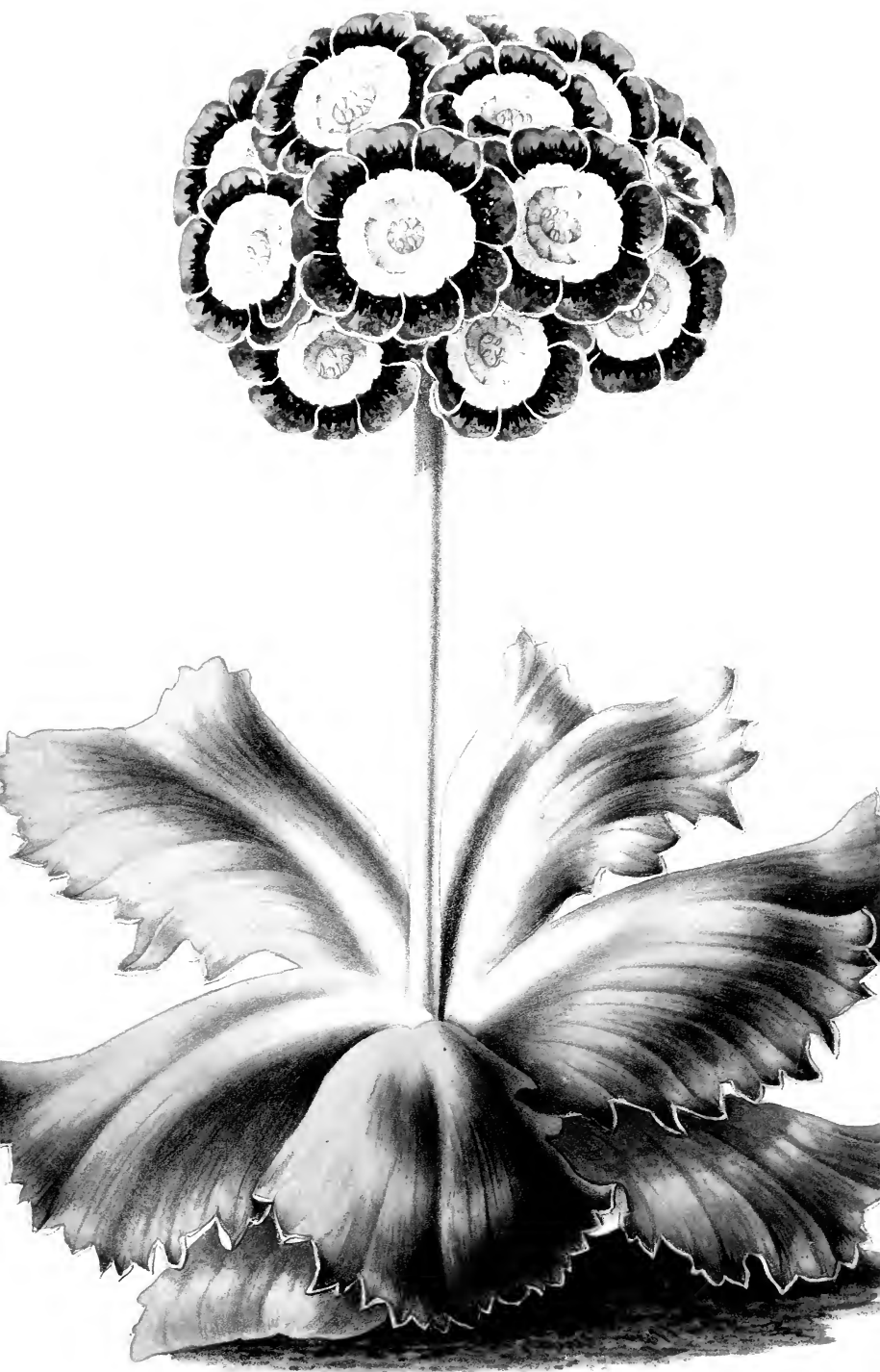
*Berberis vulgaris* is a pretty shrub, which, on account of its berries, has often been highly useful. It is perfectly indigenous, being met with in our hedges. Besides the fruit of this shrub being found serviceable for many culinary purposes, it is also very ornamental.

*Englefield Green.*

WILLIAM WHALE.







## THE AURICULA.

IT fell to our good fortune to be the first to make public one of the very best Auriculas raised in modern times; we refer to it with satisfaction, telling as it does to the discrimination of those who so kindly render us their valuable services, and without which we should be "poor indeed." By reference to our volume for 1850, our readers can behold Lancashire Hero in all its truthfulness, together with a brief account of its early history. At page 161, facing the illustration (1850), will be found these words: "If there is one point to which we have given more attention than another in conducting the *Florist (Fruitist) and Garden Miscellany*, it has been the attempting to insure fidelity in our illustrations;" and in a note at the foot of the article relative to the plate, it is stated that "its fidelity may be relied upon." The seasons 1851 and 1852 have fully confirmed the accuracy of our artist's delineation in every particular, and tend to strengthen the value we assigned to the subject; for not only was it one of six that received the first prize at the Royal South-London exhibition in April this year (see report, p. 97), but we are told (see *Gardener's Chronicle*, p. 279) that it (Lancashire Hero) "proved and was acknowledged to be one of the best Auriculas present, being one in the best collection of four, first in class-showing, and best for the greatest number of pips:" this was at the Rochdale and Middleton exhibitions,—localities that can boast of a larger number of growers than perhaps any others in England.

All that has been stated as to the truthfulness of our illustrations on past occasions may be reiterated on the present, and we most cordially thank the raiser of so valuable a subject as that now under consideration for the opportunity of thus placing in the hands of our patrons a portrait of the highest order, both artistical and truthful, the valuable qualities of the original being distinctly brought out in our representation. Sir John Moore was raised by Mr. Lightbody of Falkirk, N.B., than whom perhaps we cannot boast of a more extensive or first-rate grower, to which must be added that of a successful raiser. Our statistical friends will doubtless be interested in learning that Sir J. Moore was raised from seed ripened in 1839, the result of using the pollen of Star of Bethlehem (Lightbody) to flowers of Colonel Taylor (Leigh), the object being to have a robust and hardy parent on the one side, with vivid green colour on both; from this seed about sixty plants were obtained, most of them possessing good properties; but none were retained in cultivation ex-

cept the very last plant to flower, which occurred in 1844; and it was shewn the following year, when it was rewarded with a certificate. There was no increase made until 1849; each year the quality of the flower has improved, somewhat reversing the usual character of seedling Auriculas, which are generally inclined to deteriorate: this is the parentage of Sir John Moore. Of its general aspect our "speaking likeness" will obviate the necessity of giving any verbal description, further than to merely point out the curiously toothed nature of the foliage.

We need hardly tell Auricula-growers in what estimation the Bear's Ear was held in ancient times. It was at one period a universal favourite, then it fell into apparent disrepute; but lately we seem to have an onward movement in its favour, and we shall not be surprised if, ere long, the old growers find themselves outpaced by some of the "fast" moderns. The limited space required for its cultivation, the little time consumed in its propagation, and the beauty of its general contour, render the Auricula one of the most valuable of the whole range of the Florist's flowers that an amateur can turn his or her attention to; and, for the guidance of beginners, we subjoin a list of varieties that have bloomed fine in and near London this season, and which moreover possess in an eminent degree that sterling quality, constancy. They are as follow:

## GREEN-EDGED.

|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apollo (Beeston).<br>Apollo (Hudson).<br>Champion (Page).<br>Colonel Taylor (Leigh).<br>Duke of Wellington (Dickson).<br>Freedom (Booth).<br>Emperor (Litton). | Lord Lynedoch (Lightbody).<br>Lovely Ann (Oliver).<br>Matilda (Dickson).<br>Prince of Wales (Ashton).<br>Sir John Moore (Lightbody). <i>See</i><br>Plate. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## GREY-EDGED.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Britannia (Hedge).<br>Complete (Sykes).<br>Conqueror of Europe (Morris).<br>Conqueror of Europe (Waterhouse).<br>Duke of Cambridge (Dickson).<br>Lady Jane Grey (Dickson).<br>Lancashire Hero (Cheetham). | Ne-plus-ultra (Fletcher).<br>Privateer (Grimes).<br>Ringleader (Kenyon).<br>Stapleford Hero (Headly).<br>Surprise (Buckley).<br>Unique (Dickson).<br>Unique (Maclean). |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## WHITE-EDGED.

|                                                                                                             |                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Catherina (Summerscales).<br>Countess of Wilton (Cheetham).<br>Crucifix (Clegg).<br>Fair Flora (Lightbody). | Favourite (Taylor).<br>Glory (Taylor).<br>Incomparable (Taylor).<br>True Briton (Hepworth). |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## SELFS.

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Admiral of the Blues (Lightbody).<br>Apollo (Dickson).<br>Jupiter (Kaye).<br>Lord Primate (Berry).<br>Mrs. Smith (Smith). | Metropolitan (Redman).<br>Ned Sud (Scholes).<br>Nonsuch (Barker).<br>Othello (Netherwood). |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## CULTURE OF ACHIMENES.

THE various attractions of this lovely tribe of plants render them especially adapted for decorative purposes. Their numerous gay and pleasing shades of colour, their variety of form and foliage, combined with a generally compact habit of growth and profusion of bloom, their easy cultivation and their flowering in a small state, are all qualities which especially recommend them to the notice of amateurs of limited means. Though essentially summer-flowering plants, the season of bloom may be prolonged for some months by a succession of younger growth, and where a sufficiency of light and heat can be obtained, some kinds, as *Picta*, and others of like habit, may be kept in flower during winter. Their more attractive season is, however, the summer and autumn months. During the growing period they delight in a warm, moist atmosphere, and when in bloom they may be removed to a close part of the conservatory or greenhouse, or, if required, to a sitting-room, but the blooms will not be so fine there as in a more genial atmosphere.

The general method of obtaining plants is from the small scaly-like tubers of the previous year's growth, which are produced in abundance. For winter-blooming it is, however, more desirable to propagate from cuttings put in in the latter part of summer. This method is also adopted for increasing new or rare kinds; but this being more the nurseryman's province than that of the amateur, I shall confine myself to general management.

The time at which the tubers may be started must depend on the season at which the plants are required in bloom; if started in February, the more dwarf-growing kinds will flower early in June, and a succession of tubers planted up to that time will ensure blooming plants to the latter part of autumn. Presuming that a supply of tubers of desirable kinds are at hand, they should be carefully shaken out of the soil they have been kept in during their season of rest, some well-drained pots or pans should be provided, and filled to within two inches of the top with a light rich sandy soil. On this the tubers should be placed rather thickly, and covered to the depth of an inch; they should then be moved to a close warm situation; a pit or frame, where a little bottom-heat is available for plunging the pots in, is most suitable when started early in the season. Water should be given sparingly until the plants appear above the soil, when a more liberal supply will be necessary; but in this and the later stages of growth it should be judiciously applied, as the *Achimenes* is very susceptible of injury by overwatering at the roots. When about two inches high, the plants may be potted into six or seven-inch pots. If it be desirable to flower them in this size, from four to six plants will be sufficient for each pot; but if larger specimens can be conveniently accommodated, a larger number, say eight to twelve plants, will be requisite. After potting, place them in a close warm house for a few days; when re-established, air may be admitted more freely on favourable occasions, and the plants kept

near the glass to prevent their becoming drawn ; a slight shading will be required in bright sunny weather, and a genial moist atmosphere must be maintained.

When well-rooted and in vigorous growth the plants should receive a final shift into pots or pans ; the roots delight to ramble near the surface of the soil, and for this reason I prefer pans for large specimens ; these are from twelve to sixteen inches wide by six inches deep ; over the bottom I place an inch of broken potsherds, and on this a thin layer of fibrous matter to prevent the soil mixing with the drainage. If pots are used, one third of the depth may be safely filled in the same manner. In potting, the ball of soil should be placed as entire as possible in the centre of the pot or pan, sufficiently below the top to allow a slight surfacing of mould among the plants when filling up with soil. After completing this operation, remove the plants to their former quarters, where the advantages of light and warmth can be derived ; and encourage a vigorous growth by keeping up a moist atmosphere. As it becomes necessary, attention will be required to tie and otherwise neatly train the branches, so that they may present a compact mass of bloom. Some of the more erect strong-growing kinds may be stopped once or twice during their growth, to preserve a dwarf habit. When the plants are in bloom they must be carefully hardened before removal to a cooler situation, and they should at all times be guarded against currents of cold air.

After flowering, the plants should be again placed in a warm house, and water gradually withheld so as to mature the tubers. When the soil becomes quite dry and the foliage decayed, it should be cut off down to the surface of the soil, and the pots should be placed on a dry shelf secure from frost, where they may remain until required for the following season.

The soil most suitable for the growth of the *Achimenes* is, equal parts sandy loam, peat, and well-decomposed cow-dung, adding a liberal supply of sharp clean sand. The loam and peat should be broken into small pieces, the cow-dung sifted, and all well mixed together previous to use. For the more slender and dwarf kinds, as *Longiflora* and its varieties, I substitute leaf-soil for cow-dung, which renders the soil of a lighter texture ; during the later stages of growth, watering with clear guano-water once a week will encourage the plants to progress rapidly, and also improve the size and depth of colour of the flowers.

W. Cox.

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### CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.

THE season has now arrived when these will require especial care and attention. Up to the present time our stock has never given us so little trouble, and never since we have grown Carnations and Picotees have we had plants in finer health. The stock generally is all that can be desired ; yet we hear on all sides, "Was there ever such a spring as this before ?" For dryness, perhaps not ; therefore it is evident that Carnations prefer being dry so long as the cold lasts ; after which



they should receive plenty of moisture. Our plants have been staked some time, to enable us to "top-dress," as it is termed; *i.e.* to clean the surface, and cover it with a mixture of half-rotten manure and loam. The sooner they get a good rain after this operation the better.

And now to the practice of disbudding. Our amateur friends have been promised some information on this point; but all we can do is to describe our practice. But it will be said, "Look at the strength of your plants and mine; they cannot carry the same number of blooms as yours." We are happy in stating that we know several amateurs possessing plants equal in strength to our own; and after the favourable season we have experienced, it is for want of attention that all are not in the same condition.

As a general rule, we allow only one leading shoot to start from a plant; but there are exceptions: strong growers, with large flowers, may at times have more with advantage. The majority of our pots contain four plants this season; but where there are three only, with one leader to a plant, which is to carry two blooms, we then have six fine flowers to a pot. If a strong grower and three buds are left, or where four plants are grown together, why then we get a still better display by having eight blooms. But quality here has never been sacrificed at the price of quantity; we never leave more than two blooms to a main shoot, the second bud is left in the usual manner at about the third or fourth joint; we take care that what are to be removed are nipped off as soon as the young buds can be got hold of, in order to strengthen the main stem. Of such varieties as Puxley's Prince Albert, or others that have a very large pod, and are early, we remove the centre bud, and leave two side buds. It is the practice in the north and midland counties to allow each plant to carry more blooms than is done in the south. Our plan is very simple: in the case of small flowers, or a weakly plant, we leave one bloom only; all others have two to a plant. Such as we usually bud to one bloom to a plant are as follows: *Carnations*—Admiral Curzon, Captain Edwards, Duke of Devonshire, Knowsthorpe Pet, Lamarine, Omnium Primus, Splendid, True Briton, Black Diamond, Lord Milton, Nulli Secundus, Paul Pry, Thomas Hewlett, Victory, Earl Spencer, John Wright, Perfection, Africana, Bishop of Gloucester, Cradley Pet, Firebrand, Lady Gardener. *Picotees*—General Bem, Giulio Romano, King James, Mr. Trahar, Ernestine, Fanny, Lorina, Nymph, Viola Surprise, Alice.

We have found the following to carry two blooms with advantage: *Carnations*—Armada, Athelstan, Brutus, Bardolph, Bolingbroke, Falstaff, Hotspur, Lord Lewisham, Lord Rancliffe, Lionel, Malcolm, Prince Albert (Puxley), Prince Albert (Hale), Themis, Count Pauline, Duke of Bedford, Duncan, Georgiana Horsa, Jenny Lind, Monarch, Owen Glendower, Queen Victoria (Puxley), Queen of Trumps, Rainbow (Hastings), Rainbow (Cartwright), Sir J. Reynolds, South London, Vivid, William IV., Falconbridge, Henry Kirke White, Lady of the Lake, Princess Royal, Prince Albert (Puxley), Sarah Payne, Twyford, Perfection Beauty of Woodhouse, Great Northern, Lord Byron, President, Pains, Queen of Purples, Rubens, Squire

Trow, Squire Meynell, Crusader, Dido, Duke of Devonshire, Hero of Middlesex, Justice Shallow, Lydia, Mars, Queen Victoria (Simpson), Sir H. Smith, Standard, Antonio, Ariel, Duchess of Kent, Flora's Garland, Harriett Lorenzo, Princess Royal, Queen of Roses, Romeo, Madame Sontag. *Picotees*—Cristabel, Conspicua, Ernest, Elizabeth, Gem, Hogarth, Isabella, James II., Jenny Lind, Miss Burdett Coutts, Mrs. Norman, Mary Ann, Magnificent, Mary, Prince of Wales, Ann Page, Alfred, Beatrice, Circe, Constance, Duke of Newcastle, Duke of Rutland, Exquisite, Ganymede, Juliet, King of Purples, Lady H. Moore, Lord Nelson, Mrs. B. Norman, Minerva, Ophelia, Prince Arthur, Prince Albert, Portia, Pallas, Witch, Willoughby, Attraction, Countess Howe, Captivation, Grace Darling, Heroine, Jeannette, Mrs. Hemans, Mrs. Barnard, Queen Victoria (Green), Venus.

From this time henceforward they should have great attention with regard to watering. Keep down green-fly as it appears by brushing them from the points of the shoots. Turn the pots round occasionally, and tie the shoots to the stakes carefully as they progress.

We take this opportunity of informing those interested, that the exhibition of the National Carnation and Picotee Society will be held at Norwich this season. The day will be shortly announced. Mr. J. J. Colman, Stoke Holy Cross, near Norwich, has accepted the office of honorary secretary, resigned by Mr. Morgan May. It will be a source of great regret to many to learn that we have not only lost Mr. May as secretary, but that we are to lose him altogether, for we believe he is about to leave England. Mr. May will leave an enduring name among Florists. Who has not been charmed with his Juliet, Jessica, Constance, Beatrice, Portia, Ophelia, &c. &c.; and in Carnations, with Ariel, Duncan, Romeo, Owen Glendower, Justice Shallow, and a whole host of good things? This gentleman's success will shew what can be done in a short time, if perseveringly followed: a few years has accomplished what a lifetime may have failed to effect.

#### NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*May 13.*—This was a highly interesting meeting, at which some first-rate productions were exhibited. First-class certificates were awarded to Mr. Turner's Pansy National, white ground, narrowly margined with purple, smooth, and good in form; to Schofield's Fearless, chrome-yellow ground, margined with very dark purplish maroon, good in form; to Erica jasminiflora rubra, being of excellent habit, having an extra-long rosy-red tube, with large trusses; to E. tricolor Eppsii, tube short and stout, truss large, and habit good, colour scarlet shading into white, and very glossy; these were contributed by Mr. Epps of Maidstone. Certificates of merit to Pansy Sir J. Paxton, light-yellow ground, margined with mulberry, —this was from Mr. Turner; to Cinerarias, Lord Stamford and picturata, from Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son; to Pansy Joe Miller, dark self, remarkably large and bold, from Mr. Edwards; and to Erica tricolor splendens from Mr. Epps.

## CULTIVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE VERBENA.

It appears to me that most of the writers of the various articles that have appeared from time to time in floricultural publications are either unacquainted with the properties of the Verbena, or having cultivated it only as a plant adapted for bedding or for ornamental purposes in pots, or perhaps merely for exhibition in single trusses or in bunches of three or more trusses, have condemned many varieties that were actually essential, because they did not or may not have come up to even usefulness in their individual mode of cultivation. I would therefore wish your readers to consider the Verbena as useful in each of the above capacities, and to recommend, according to my past experience, those varieties most suited to the end aimed at, as well as to give an outline of my general mode of management.

I take it for granted that, for bedding varieties, every person would desire, and strive to obtain, distinctness of colour, form, number, and size of the individual flowers, as well as shape of the truss. Where, then, are we to look? Most certainly the varieties that nearest approach the standard of excellence in these respects are to be found among those exhibited as cut flowers in single trusses. I admit there are many varieties to be found there, which, upon trial, will not answer for bedding; but are they for that reason to be discarded altogether? Do they not answer the purpose of the exhibitor? Are they not useful for saving seed from? I will therefore name the principal kinds that I consider worth growing in pots to obtain single trusses from fit for exhibition. (I mention single trusses, as I feel certain that to be the correct mode in which the Verbena ought to be exhibited in a cut state; so long as we were obliged to cultivate such varieties as Melendris—which I name as being familiar to all—bunches were required. As the size and shape of the pips and trusses improved, three trusses were and are in many places exhibited; but having now approached something like size and shape, no doubt, I think, can exist as to the proper mode.) The varieties I have grown, and found most to be depended on for exhibition, are, British Queen, Cræsus, Defiance, Enchantress, Exquisite, Iphigenie, Lady of the Lake, Laura, Mills or Morphee, Model of Perfection, Napoleon Bonaparte, Psyche, Reine Hortense, St. Margaret, Shylock, Voltigeur, White Perfection; for bedding—Anna, Aspasia, Defiance, Desdemona, Eclipse, Enchantress, Exquisite, Emperor of China, Figaro, Gloire de Paris, Heloise, Iphigenie, King, Laura, Mills, Magnificent, Napoleon Bonaparte, Nigricans, Pauline, Princess Alice, St. Margaret, Tommy, Viscata, Voltigeur, Vulcan Superb, White Perfection. The strongest and weakest growing varieties should be planted not more than nine inches apart, the rest about one foot, and they should be smoked before being bedded out. In the above list nearly every shade of colour can be found except yellow, for the want of which, as I read in an article in one of the floricultural publications, some person's seventy beds, containing seventy varieties, were spoiled. I

would ask, What other description of bedding-plant would look even well from May to November, if ten beds were planted together, containing only ten varieties?

For growing in pots trained on wire trellises, about fifteen inches in diameter, I know of no variety that I have tried that will not answer if properly attended to; but, as a general rule, I find that the most robust and the weakest in their habits are the most troublesome. Madam Buenzod I take to be one of the best in every respect for this purpose, but I have not found it of any other use whatever. Before speaking of my mode of growing, I would just observe that many varieties would no doubt answer admirably planted in single plants in the border. Gloire de Paris will do for a beginning.

If a cultivator has not healthy free-growing plants, no satisfactory result can be obtained; therefore I would recommend that stock be only taken from plants in that condition.

In the first week in September I take my cuttings (which should not be shewing bloom), and strike them at the third joint (that is, leaving two expanded leaves and the crown out of the soil); having placed them to the number of about twelve round a 48-sized pot, using a compost of loam, leaf-mould, and sand in about equal parts. During the winter, I keep them close to the glass in a greenhouse, merely guarding them from severe frost, never watering until they are almost flagging for the want of it. In the beginning of February I gradually supply them with warmth and moisture, and when fairly started into growth, I reduce the number of plants in each pot to about six (cutting them off close to the soil), and pinch the tops off those left. I then find that in about five weeks from first supplying warmth and moisture, I have stout free-growing cuttings, which I strike under small hand-glasses in a bed erected over the flue (the warmth being confined underneath to throw it into the bed), the house being about 65° of heat. I find my cuttings in a week's time fit to pot off into thumb-pots, which I place into a slight hot-bed, and pot on into 60's, taking the tops off from time to time for cuttings, as well as to induce a bushy habit. When well established, I remove them into cold frames, being careful at first of cold winds or frost. It is from the plants in 60's, before turning out into cold-frames, that I make my selection for cultivating in pots. Of those I intend growing to be trained on wire trellises, I place three plants in a 24 or four in a 12 pot, being careful that all the plants are in the same stage of growth, as on this much depends; and these ought to have been stopped about ten days before their final potting, which ought to be about twelve weeks, and the final stop between seven and eight weeks prior to the time required that they should be in bloom, care being taken at this period of stopping also that all the laterals shewing have pushed equally, otherwise the bloom will not be in at one and the same time. When stopped for the last time, the trellis ought to be put on, letting it be four inches at the back and two inches in front from the rim of the pot, and the shoots arranged equally over it, taking care that the flower-shoots, when the buds appear, are arranged equally, and also that, by regulating

the tying, an even surface of bloom may be obtained. Powder-sulphur dusted on the underneath part of the foliage shortly after the final potting, together with light and air on all occasions, and due attention in watering, will prevent any attack of mildew.

I grow cut-blooms for exhibition in the same way, except that I have only two plants in a No. 12 pot, and that I am not so particular the last time I stop that all my shoots are in exactly the same stage of growth, by which, on the day, I am almost sure to catch one or more trusses in perfection.

I should recommend all those in pots to stand on old hot-beds of dung, care being taken as to those trained on trellises that they do not root through into the dung, otherwise, on being moved, the blooms will very soon fade. As to the others, I prefer them to root through.

On cutting my blooms for exhibition, I take care that the water in which I place them is of the same temperature as that of the air in the frame or pit whence they are cut. By taking that care, except in very hot, moist weather, I seldom find any difficulty in preserving the trusses entire for two or three days.

The compost I use is fibrous loam, rotten dung, and leaf-mould, in equal portions, laid up together two or three months, and turned from time to time, mixing sand rather freely at the time of potting.

There are no doubt many varieties adapted for bedding, even perhaps better, and in the same way, than several I have mentioned, more particularly among the foreign varieties, the colours of the majority of which are bright and good; but they are deficient in every other respect, the shape of the truss and size and quality of the individual flower appearing to the foreigner to be of no consequence whatever, which Messrs. Henderson, Turner, Smith, and other nurserymen who import annually, know to their cost, nineteen out of twenty being worthless. I think, however, that this year the *Verbena* will take a rapid stride, not only in the estimation of the floral public, but in itself, as many of the flowers about to be "let out" in the neighbourhood of London greatly surpass, in several respects, those of former years, and also liberal prizes are being offered by different societies to induce perfect cultivation.

I trust that the foregoing remarks (being, as I have stated, the result of experience,) may be useful to those who imperfectly understand the *Verbena* and its culture, and that they may enable them to produce flowers equal, if not superior, to those that may be produced by me.

*Paddington.*

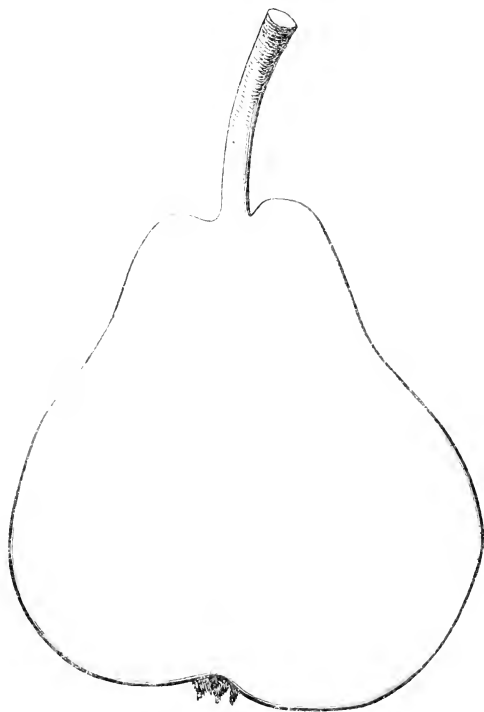
C. P. L.



## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

PEARS (*concluded from p. 102*).

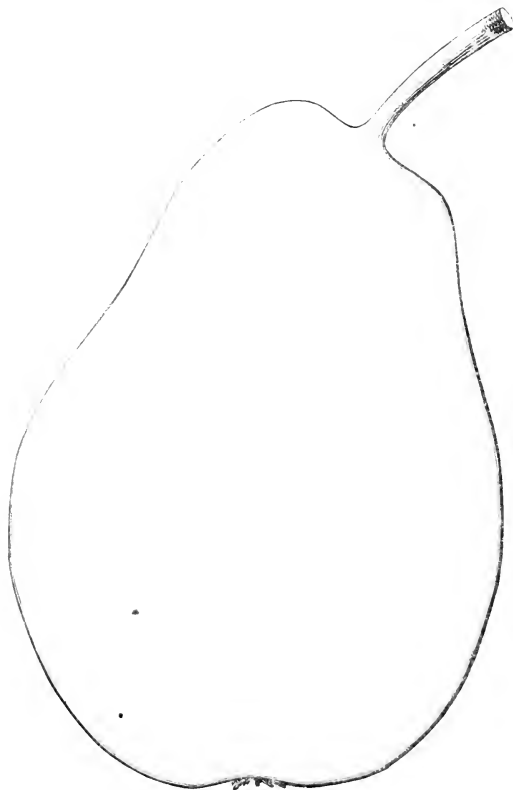
28. *Passe Colmar*. According to the Horticultural Society's catalogue this Pear has twenty-two synonymous or local names, which are mostly of foreign extraction, that of *Passe Colmar* being retained by the Society. It is generally known in this country under that title; but in a few gardens it is called *Chapman's* and *Colmar Hardenpont*. The fruit is middle-sized, uneven in surface, and considerably varying in shape from obovate to obtuse pyriform, and much flattened at the crown. Skin yellowish green, slightly spread with light brown,



and faintly tinged or striped with red when fully exposed. Calyx open, and set in a small shallow basin. Stalk long, rather stout, and inserted at times in an uneven cavity, otherwise without depression. Flesh yellowish white, perfectly melting, juicy, very sweet, rich, and aromatic. It ripens in December, and is in use about a month. The tree is hardy, very productive, free from canker, and in every way superior to the old *Colmar*. It will bear remarkably well as a pyra-

mid, and it succeeds as a standard in favourable situations; but to have the fruit in high perfection it should be planted against an east or west wall. This Pear was raised in Flanders by Counsellor Hardenpont, and it is one of the best and most useful winter varieties we possess.

29. *Beurré Rance*. Fruit rather above the middle size, pretty regularly formed, of an obtuse pyriform figure. Skin rough, brownish green, and dotted all over with russet specks, never changing colour at maturity. Stalk long, slender, and generally inserted without a cavity, but at times under a swollen lip. Eye small, open, but



slightly sunk. Calyx quite short. Flesh greenish white, very juicy, melting, rich, and highly flavoured. The fruit often shrivels in ripening, but even in that condition it is excellent, and retains all its good qualities. It is in use from December till March: it is considered by all growers to be the very best late Pear we have. The tree is hardy, vigorous, and fruitful; and it bears exceedingly well as a standard. Unfortunately a spurious variety has spread through

the country, under the name of *Beurré Rance*, a worthless Pear, having slender, unfruitful, pendulous shoots, and dull-green crumpled leaves, in which respect it greatly differs from the fine glossy foliage and robust growth of the true variety. This ought to be borne in mind by every gardener when engaged in selecting trees from the nurseries: the difference is obvious even in maiden plants.

30. *Ne-plus Meuris*. This pear is by no means handsome, possessing nothing inviting either in shape or colour; it is, however, notwithstanding, a very desirable variety. The fruit is small, of a roundish irregular figure, having blunt angles and swollen parts on its surface. Stalk very short, thick, inserted without a cavity, and at times scarcely protruding from the base of the fruit. Skin rough, of a dull yellowish green, and partly covered with russet. Eye open and prominent. Calyx very short. Flesh yellowish, melting, sugary, rich, and agreeable. In season from January to March. The tree is hardy and fruitful, of upright growth, and having dark-green glossy foliage; it produces its fruit in clusters, from three to five in a bunch. The fruit should be allowed to hang as long as possible on the tree; and when gathered let it be stored in a cool dry place. This and the preceding are two of the best late Pears known in this country: it is a Belgian variety, raised a few years ago by Dr. Van Mons, who named it after his gardener (Pierre Meuris).

*Frogmore.*

J. POWELL.

[With this article Mr. Powell closes his descriptive list of Pears, which, together with those described by Mr. Whiting, will be found to comprise most of the leading sorts at present in cultivation. The subject of Mr. P.'s next communication will, we believe, be Cherries.]

## CARNATION, FLORA'S GARLAND.

THIS old and esteemed variety was raised by Mr. Brooks, a small amateur grower, and a cooper by trade, living at Baptist Mills, St. Paul's, Bristol. It bloomed for the first time twenty-eight or twenty-nine years ago. This fact of itself speaks much in its favour; look at the number of flowers it has had as competitors, which it has seen one by one drop off to be forgotten; and good as some of its contemporaries are, we do not know one in its class of the present day that will wear it out. But who is there that does not know Flora's Garland—what need have we to extol it? The only complaint we have ever heard respecting it was, "We cannot keep it;" every grower has in turn been teased by its fickleness, and charmed by its beauty. The most remarkable thing connected with this remarkable flower is, that it was raised from a yellow Picotee, Louis XVI.; but there is some doubt about this. Lancashire Lass has been mentioned, which we think by far the most likely parent. We expect to be gratified with a fine bloom of this old favourite this season; we have twenty pots with three or four plants in each; they are in the most robust health, such as we have never before possessed.



## METROPOLITAN MAY EXHIBITIONS.

THE Horticultural, Royal Botanic, and Royal South-London Societies have been fortunate in having fine days this year for their first shows; the weather on each occasion was most propitious. At Chiswick the company was not numerous, 2755 being the number that entered the gates, exclusive of exhibitors. Nearly 6000 are reported to have attended the meeting of the Royal Botanic Society; and the Royal South-London was also patronised satisfactorily.

*Horticultural (Chiswick), May 8.*—This was unquestionably the best exhibition the Society has ever experienced. The size and number of the plants, together with their freshness, made it one of the richest of treats to lovers of plants, and fortunate indeed were those who happened to be present. Orchids, Roses, Azaleas, Stove and Greenhouse plants, and Pelargoniums, were all shewn in the highest possible state of perfection.

The large gold medal was awarded to Mr. May, gardener to Mrs. Lawrence, for 20 stove and greenhouse plants, some of which were "mountains of flower." The double-red Azalea, *A. Gledstansii*, *Pimelea spectabilis*, *Epacris grandiflora*, *Eriostemon cuspidatum*, were noble specimens, as were also a fine plant of the graceful *Bossiaea disticha plumosa*, a well-managed *Gompholobium polymorphum*, and the noble *Medinilla magnifica*. Mr. Cole, gardener to H. Colyer, Esq., of Dartford, had the second-best collection; in this class, together with some rare specimens, we noticed *Oxylobium Pultenea*, *Chorozema Henchmanni*, and other difficult plants, produced in fine condition. The other classes of stove and greenhouse plants were well contested, the varieties not differing materially from those generally seen at these exhibitions; but they were on this occasion brought forward in the finest possible condition, shewing great skill in their management, and that considerable attention had been bestowed to get them in on the day. Orchids were fine and numerous, but our space will not admit of our particularising them. Messrs. Veitch's *Dendrobium Pierardi* was perhaps the most striking among this lovely tribe of plants. Mr. Cole's *Dendrobium nobile* was a beautifully flowered plant. Mr. Ingram, gardener to Her Majesty, sent good examples of the curious *Stanhopea tigrina*.

*Azaleas*, as usual at the May show, contributed much to the general effect; they were very numerous, and were exhibited in first-rate condition. As this plant is now becoming so popular, perhaps it may not prove uninteresting to give the names of the varieties shewn. Twelve plants, 1st, Mr. May, gardener to Mrs. Lawrence, with Double-red, *optima*, *sinensis*, *variegata*, *Grenvilleæ*, *præstantissima*, *macrantha purpurea*, *exquisita*, *Broughtonii*, *rosea superba*, *Rawsoni*, and *Gledstansii*; 2d, Mr. Chitty, with *Splendens*, *Duke of Devonshire*, *Fielder's White*, *Murryana*, *præstantissima*, *Broughtonii*, *Prince Albert*, *carminata*, *Gledstansii*, *triumphans*, and *lateritia*. Groups of six plants were furnished by Messrs. Green, Fraser, Carson, Falconer,

Lane, Thomson, Williams, Robins, and Pawley; they consisted of the following kinds: Double-red, Iveryana, variegata, Old White, coccinea superba, lateritia, resplendens, coronata, semi-duplex, Prince Albert, fulgens, triumphans, Falconeri, Woodsii, sinensis, optima, Smithii, Perryana, Bianca, mirabilis, grandis.

*Roses* in pots: 1st, Mr. Francis, who had well-grown plants of Coupe d'Hébé, Paul Perras, Charles Duval, Chénédolé, Blairii, Solfaterre, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Augustine, Mouchelet, Baronne Prevost, Géant des Batailles, La Reine, Aubernon. Messrs. Lane had the second-best collection, namely, Moire, Souvenir d'un Ami, Vicomtesse des Cazes, Baronne Prevost, Duchess of Sutherland, William Jesse, Louis Bonaparte, Meillez, Mrs. Bosanquet, Chénédolé, Comtesse Molé, Emperor Probus. Messrs. Paul were third, with Niphotos, Cels multiflora, Armosa, Madame Laffay, Louis Bonaparte, Aubernon, La Reine, Duchess of Sutherland, William Jesse, Paul Perras, Coupe d'Hébé. The Amateurs were, Messrs. Terry, Chitty, Rowland, Busby, and Roser. Among these were, Lamarque, Comtesse de Lacepède, Bougère, Mansais, La Dauphine, Mrs. Elliot, General Jacqueminot, Fabvier, Devoniensis, Madeleine, Abbé Mioland, Adam, and Madame Bureau.

*Pelargoniums* were more numerous than had been anticipated, and seldom have we seen, even at a June meeting, such plants as those which composed the first collection. They exhibited what is rarely met with in combination, viz. quality with quantity of flower. The plants were large, with foliage in some instances covering a third of the pots. These came from Mr. Turner of Slough, who obtained the gold medal for 12 varieties in 8-inch pots; the sorts were, Magnet, Mochanna, Pulchrum, Pride of the Isles, Constance, Ajax, Chieftain, Magnificent, Virgin Queen, Rosamund, Gulielma, and Rowena. Magnet was the admiration of every body. 2d, Mr. Dobson, Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth, with Chastity, Purpureum, Incomparable, Mont Blanc, Cuypp, Pulchellum, Vanguard, Mulready, Chloe, Arethusia, Rosa, and Rosalind; 3d, Mr. Gaines of Battersea, with Cecil, Aspasia, Mont Blanc, Salamander, Grandiflorum, Negress, Marquis of Stafford, Flying Dutchman, Mars, Rosamund, Alphonsa, and Gulielma. Six varieties in 11-inch pots (private growers): 1st, Mr. Bray, Regent's Park. These were old kinds, with poor flowers. Six *Fancy Pelargoniums*. Dealers: 1st, Mr. Turner, with Hero of Surrey (a fine specimen, with colours distinctly brought out), Fairy Queen, Minerva, Ambrose's Perfection, Statiaski, and Reine des Français; 2d, Mr. Ayres of Blackheath, with Fairy Queen, Reine des Français, Ytolinski, Mirandum, Hero of Surrey, and Picturatum; 3d, Mr. Gaines, with Signor Casoloni, Agnes, Reine des Français, Defiance, Odorum, and Magniflorum; 4th, Mr. Westwood of Acton Lane. Six *Fancy Pelargoniums*. Amateurs: 1st, Mr. Kempster, Blackheath, with Statiaski, Bouquet-tout-fait, Alboni, Formosum, Hero of Surrey, and Jenny Lind; 2d, Mr. Roser, gardener to J. Bradbury, Esq., with Modestum, Madame Meillez, Queen Victoria, Ibrahim Pasha, Alboni, and Cleopatra. *Cape Pelargoniums*: 1st, Mr. Parker, gardener to J. Strachen, Esq., Teddington, with elatum, elegans, Blandfor-

dianum, bicolor, roseum, and tricolor; 2d, Mr. Watson, gardener to Mrs. Tredwell, with elegans, bicolor, Blandfordianum, ardens, and fulgidum.

*Cinerarias*: 1st, Mr. Lochner, with Adela Villiers, Surprise, Effie Deans, Climax, Amy Robsart, and Queen of Beauties; 2d, Messrs. Henderson and Sons, St. John's Wood, with Adela Villiers, Effie Deans, Marianne, Cerito, Catherine Hayes, and Fairy Queen; 3d, Mr. Roser.

In new plants, that which deservedly received the most attention was the *Hexacentris mysorensis*, sent by Messrs. Veitch; it is a novel and elegant stove climber, with red and yellow flowers, which hang in clusters. The same firm also contributed *Saxe-Gothæa conspicua*, and *Fitzroya patagonica*, two new Conifers of great promise. Messrs. Standish and Noble sent two new Azaleas, introduced by Mr. Fortune, viz. *A. vittata*, a striped variety of indifferent form; but it was not seen under advantageous circumstances; and *A. amœna*, a small reddish-purple flowered kind, said to be hardy.

In the seedling tent we noticed *Cineraria picturata*, a showy variety, white, with purple tips, and of passable shape; Prince Arthur, a good crimson; and Mrs. Seagrave, white tipped with pale rose, of good average form: these were sent by Messrs. E. G. Henderson. Mr. Turner had three seedling Pansies in pots, Sir J. Cathcart, National, and Sir J. Paxton, all good flowers, which are described in the account of the Hammersmith Pansy show. Mr. Carmichael sent a *Calceolaria* of very good form; it was yellow spotted with brown. A distinct-looking *Rhododendron* came from Messrs. Lane and Son. Mr. Davis of Liverpool had a fine large seedling Azalea of good form. We also remarked a good specimen of Cheetham's Auricula, Lancashire Hero, with ten expanded pips; it is decidedly the best grey-edge: this plant was grown by Mr. Turner.

There was some excellent fruit: 3 vines (Sweetwater), in pots, were sent by Mr. Jackson, gardener to J. Beaufoy, Esq., of South Lambeth, which contained the large number of 39 bunches on the three plants; good average size for pot-culture.

*Royal Botanic Society, May 19.*—Our remarks respecting the Chiswick show are generally applicable to this meeting, the plants in a great many instances being the same; some were getting a little past their best; on the other hand, the Cape Heaths were in better flower, and there was a larger number of Pelargoniums. To name the stove and greenhouse plants would be to repeat what we have already said above; we will therefore confine our remarks to the Florists' flowers.

*Pelargoniums* were shewn in considerable number in the Nurserymen's class; the gold medal was awarded to Mr. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough, for Magnet, Mochanna, Prince of Orange, Ajax, Chieftain, Chloe, Magnificent, Pride of the Isles, Constance, Rosamund, Little Nell, and Alonzo; 2d, the large silver medal to Mr. Dobson, Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth, for nice examples of Vanguard, Rosamund, Cuyp, Mont Blanc, Arethusa, Loveliness, Harriett, Glow-worm, Incomparable, Delicatissimum, Purpureum, and Exhibitor.

Silver medal to Mr. Gaines, Battersea, for *Aspasia*, *Gulielma*, *Mars*, *Virgin Queen*, *Grandiflorum*, *Salamander*, *Mont Blanc*, *Bruno*, *Rosamund*, *Cecil*, *Marquis of Stafford*, *Nonsuch*. Amateurs: Gold medal to Mr. J. Robinson, Pimlico, for *Alderman*, *Pride of the Isles*, *Ajax*, *Norah*, *Alonzo*, *Salamander*, *Constance*, *Magnificent*, *Nonsuch*, *Star*, *Conspicuum*, and *Forget-me-not*. The large silver medal to Mr. Carragon, gardener to J. E. Lawrence, Esq., Kentish Town, for *Prince of Orange*, *May Queen*, *Major Domo*, *Ajax*, *Mont Blanc*, *Marion*, *Gulielma*, *Alonzo*, *Rosamund*, *Ocellatum*, *Magnificent*, and *Virgin Queen*. Three collections of six plants in 11-inch pots were exhibited by Mr. Westwood, Acton Lane, Mr. Bray, Regent's Park, and Mr. Weir, gardener to J. Hudson, Esq., Hampstead: they were placed in the order in which the names occur. Fancies were numerous, and in good condition. Large silver to Mr. Robinson, for *Empress*, *Madame Meillez*, *Queen Superb*, *Alboni*, *Fairy Queen*, and *Hero of Surrey*; 2d, the silver-gilt to Mr. Roser, gardener to J. Bradbury, Esq., for *Queen Victoria*, *Ibrahim Pasha*, *Modestum*, *Alboni*, *Formosum*, and *Madame Meillez*; 3d, the silver to Mr. Miller, Edgeware-road, for *Jehu Superb*, *Duchess d'Aumale*, *Jenny Lind*, *Statiaski*, *Queen Victoria*, and *Orestes*. Nurserymen: 1st, the large silver to Mr. Turner, for *Hero of Surrey*, *Reine des Français*, *Minerva*, *Carlotta Grisi*, *Fairy Queen*, and *Empress*; 2d, silver gilt to Mr. Gaines, for *Princess Maria Galitzin*, *Signor Casaloni*, *Defiance*, *Odoratum*, *Magniflorum*, and *Fairy Queen*; 3d, silver medal to Mr. Westwood, for *Empress*, *Statiaski*, *Lady Cooper*, *Magnificum*, *Reine des Français*, *Madame Meillez*. Recommended: Mr. Ayres, Blackheath, for *Jenny Lind*, *Fairy Queen*, *Duchess d'Aumale*, *Reine des Français*, *Formosum*, and *Statiaski*.

*Pansies*. A stand of 36 finely grown flowers, in beautiful colour, was shewn by Mr. Turner; they consisted of *Sir J. Cathcart*, *National*, *Sir J. Paxton*, *Gliff*, *Diadem*, *Euphemia*, *Great Britain* (Parker), *Duke of Perth*, *Adela*, *Pompey*, *Sir R. Peel*, *Sambo*, *Blanche*, *Mrs. Hamilton*, *Bellona*, *Thisbe*, *Elegant*, *Rising Sun*, *Duke of Norfolk*, *Juventus*, *Ophelia*, *Royal Visit*, *Climax*, *Queen of England*, *Rainbow*, *Alfred the Great*, *France Cycole*, *Chieftain*, *Lady Emily*, *Supreme*, *Robert Burns*, *Caroline*, *Commander-in-chief*, and three seedlings; 2d, Mr. Bragg, *Star Nursery*, *Slough*.

*Seedlings*. But few seedling *Pelargoniums* were shewn; Mr. Hoyle sent three, namely, *Basilisk*, a bright scarlet, very striking kind, of free habit; *Leonora*, warm rose; large spot on top-petals with white centre, a flower with the best bottom-petal we have seen; *Oscar*, a deep crimson red. Mr. Black, gardener to E. Foster, Esq., sent *National* and *Wee Pet*, two flowers of good properties, with nearly black top-petals; but they were not much in flower. A *Cineraria* of Messrs. E. G. Henderson's had a certificate; it is white with bluish purple tip, good in general form, but notched on the petals; it somewhat resembles *Lady Hume Campbell*. Mr. Turner's *Pansy*, *Sir J. Cathcart*, also had a certificate. *Sir J. Paxton*, *National*, and *Monarch*, were shewn in fine condition.

## NEW PLANTS

FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

PAXTON'S *Flower-Garden* for May contains coloured plates of

The NEPAL ASH-LEAVED BERBERRY. A half-hardy evergreen shrub, of which we give some account at p. 76 in Number LII. It is one of the handsomest of the pinnated-leaved kinds. When grown in a conservatory, the species is remarkable for the delicate light green of its foliage, which spreads gracefully from a stiff erect stem something in the way of a miniature Palm. The flowers are of a rich bright yellow, forming close erect racemes, clustered in the upper end of the shoots, and drooping gracefully. If it should prove hardy, it must be planted in a sheltered place, otherwise rough winds would break its elegant leaves.

The MANY-SPIKED BILLBERGIA. A handsome evergreen hothouse perennial, belonging to Bromeliads, from Brazil.

The ROSY LIMATODE (*L. rosea*). A most beautiful terrestrial hothouse Orchid, from the East Indies. It is nearly related to the genus *Calanthe*. The number contains some pretty woodcuts.

In the *Botanical Magazine* we find:

Mr. Cuming's CŒLOGYNE (*C. Cumingii*). A white-flowered Orchid from Singapore, which first flowered in Mr. Loddige's collection.

The BLOOD-RED PHRYNIUM (*P. sanguinea*), which flowered with Messrs. Jackson of Kingston. It is a stove-plant with the general appearance of a *Maranta*. The undersides of the leaves are deep purple, rendering the plant handsome even when out of flower.

The GIGANTIC WATER-LILY (*Nymphaea gigantea*). This fine water-plant was gathered in the Wide Bay district, North-eastern Australia; it has flowers which certainly vie with the ordinary ones of the Royal Water-lily itself, being a foot in diameter, and purplish-blue in colour. Seeds of it have been received in this country under the name of *Victoria Fitzroyana*. It will be a good addition to our tender aquatics.

The Rose-white variety of the FRINGED RHODODENDRON (*R. ciliatum*). Of this Sikkim species, which was the first that flowered in this country, we gave some account at p. 66. It is well figured in the plate under consideration.

The NAKED-FLOWERED JASMINE (*J. nudiflorum*). This valuable plant has already found its way into most collections, and therefore it would be uninteresting now to describe it. It is perfectly hardy; but its bright-yellow flowers, looking like so many Primroses, have an enlivening effect in the greenhouse in winter and early spring.

The *Garden Companion* has:

Osborn's SWAINSONA and Rooper's HYPOXIS (one plate); the former purple-flowered, the latter yellow.

PASSIFLORA ALATA SUPERBA. A stove climbing plant, and certainly, judging from the plate, one of the most beautiful of Passion-flowers.

Some tasteful woodcuts ornament this number, more especially an alcove aviary, with a fountain in front of it.

The following notes are supplied from Kew:

PRIMULA CORTUSOIDES. Under the genus *Primula* is comprehended a great variety of species, many of which are exceedingly beautiful; they are dwarf herbaceous plants, natives chiefly of mountains or meadows in the cooler parts of the globe; they are easy of cultivation, and well repay any attention bestowed on them by their profusion of lovely delicate flowers during the spring months. The present species is an old plant in gardens; it was introduced from Siberia in 1794; it grows and flowers freely in an open border, in light soil, especially

if a little sheltered ; but it is better to keep it in pots in a cold frame, as it thrives with greater vigour. It is cultivated at Kew in shallow pans, about a foot in diameter, and a few inches deep, with about half a dozen plants in each, which form a compact mass; and when in flower they have a pretty appearance, and can be easily removed to any other station, if that be desired. It is a very distinct species, having hairy cordate leaves, and a flower-stalk nearly a foot high, with an umbel of reddish-purple coloured flowers.

*PRIMULA CAPITATA*. This is one of the handsomest of all the tribe ; it may be cultivated successfully in a cold frame, potted in sandy loam and peat, one plant in each pot, which may be placed in a saucer containing a little water while the plant is growing. Numerous specimens of it are (May) in great perfection at Kew, treated as above ; the flower-stalks are very stout, one to each crown on the plant ; they are erect, about a foot high, with a compact close head of bluish-purple flowers ; two inches in diameter. This species has the habit and resemblance of *P. farinosa*, with each single flower half an inch across.

*P. SIKKIMENSIS*. This is likewise a very interesting and distinct kind ; it answers admirably for cultivation in a cold frame ; the flowers are of a buff-yellow, each about half an inch in diameter.

*ARMERIA CEPHALOTES*. Although hardy, this species is very suitable for cultivating in shallow pots or pans in a cold frame, as it thrives there with more vigour, and produces much larger flowers. It is one of the best of the genus ; it is an old plant in gardens, having been introduced many years ago from Portugal ; it is allied to the *Statice*s. Being a dwarf-growing kind, three or four plants should be planted in one pan, in order to ensure a good mass of bloom. The plant grows about six inches high, and has a flower-stalk a foot or more long, with a globose head of pink or lightish-rose coloured flowers.

*EDWARDSIA GRANDIFLORA*. Amongst half-hardy deciduous shrubs, this is one which, for beauty of foliage and profusion of flowers, can scarcely be surpassed. In the south of England it stands without shelter when planted against a south wall ; in other aspects it requires only slight protection, as, for example, a mat covering over the branches, and a little loose fern against the lower part of the plant during severe weather in winter. It attains the height of about ten feet ; the flowers appear before the foliage, and are in short pendulous racemes, each flower being large, about two inches long, and of a bright yellow. There are various plants of it at Kew, trained on east and south walls, and they are literally covered with their showy flowers.

*VERONICA REPENS*. A little dwarf creeping evergreen herbaceous plant, scarcely exceeding an inch high ; the flowers are large for the size of the plant, and of a violet colour. It should be planted near the margin of a bed or border, otherwise it would be lost sight of. A very nice edging may be formed with it, as it grows freely in light peaty soil, and looks exceedingly neat at all times, especially during its flowering season, which is May and June.

*IRIS PUMILA*. This is one of the dwarfiest of the genus, it scarcely attains the height of six inches ; it has large flowers of a purple and blue colour. It is admirably adapted for forming patches near the margin of beds, borders, or clumps, growing freely in light soil, and has a very neat appearance when in flower.

*IRIS PÆCOX*. This grows about nine inches high, and with *I. pumila* forms a good contrast, the flowers being of a palish yellow. It grows freely in light soil, and soon forms dense patches.

*CORYDALIS NOBILIS*. A very handsome-flowering hardy deciduous herbaceous plant, growing about a foot high, and in light soil forming a very compact dwarf bush ; it flowers copiously, and has large dense heads of yellow flowers, which have a very gay appearance. This species should be found in every garden where there is a collection of herbaceous plants.

*Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.*

J. HOULSTON.



## BRITISH PLANTS. No. IV.

*Daphne Mezereum.* This is a very choice native, which in mild springs flowers as early as January; but it is more frequently in perfection at the latter end of February, or about the beginning of March. The pretty peach-coloured blossoms, coupled with the small amount of attention that is requisite to make this shrub thrive and flower, are surely sufficient to establish its claim to occupy a tolerably dry and protected place in every garden. To its other good qualities it adds that of being powerfully odoriferous.

*Daphne laureola.* On the side of Priest Hill, in this neighbourhood, this is to be found flourishing in different retired spots. As to colour, it must be admitted that the flowers are somewhat dull; but the extremely early period at which they are produced in some measure compensates for this drawback. Being an evergreen, this species is frequently planted in shrubberies, and it thrives even in unfavourable situations, as under trees and suchlike places.

*Digitalis purpurea* is common enough in some places, though the white variety is comparatively little known. The purple colour of the former, always enlivened by a diversity of shades, together with the prettily spotted interior of the corolla, render this plant, during a great portion of the summer season, a most attractive object. The amount of seeds which one plant ripens, and the facility with which these germinate in the same autumn, are circumstances affording the agreeable consolation that, however little regard is paid to the parent plant, in the following summer a numerous progeny may be observed springing up to perpetuate the beauties presented by this species during the preceding year.

*Asperula odorata.* This is common in England, and is occasionally found growing in gardens in shady retreats. This little plant demands more attention and more extended cultivation than it receives. It is highly odoriferous, emitting a perfume not unlike that of the sweet vernal grass. It is not particular as to soil, provided a shady situation for it has not been entirely forgotten.

*Asperula cynanchica,* or Squinancy-wort, is known to abound in most chalky places. Taken up with a ball of earth, and planted in the garden, it seems to have a destination sufficiently suited to it, since it always thrives remarkably well. The corollas are reddish, some even white, and they present a pretty appearance.

*Centaurea cyanus* makes a glorious display in our corn and other fields in summer, where it produces its handsome blue flowers in abundance, and frequently here, as well as in other places, they come white. This plant is regarded as an unwelcome intruder among corn; and certain it is that its absence, however conspicuous and beautiful its flowers may be, would be far more pleasing than its company. Nevertheless we cannot but urge its cultivation in some consistent spot, as among herbaceous plants for instance, where it forms a pretty object.

*Centaurea scabiosa* is less common here than the species last

mentioned, and when in soil not too favourable to an exuberance of growth, it becomes certainly not an unhandsome flowering plant. A white variety has been cultivated by me for some considerable time, and I cannot regard it in any way as a contemptible plant.

The favourable notices already received from numerous correspondents touching the cultivation and study of native plants, all serve to warrant a belief that the day is not far distant when British plants will exhibit an interesting feature in all purposes to which floriculture is commonly applied.

*Englefield Green.*

WILLIAM WHALE.

### HAMMERSMITH PANSY SOCIETY.

*May 12.*—This meeting was well attended; and we are pleased to state that the interest in connexion with this favourite spring-flowering plant is on the increase, for nearly 10*l.* have already been subscribed towards prizes for 1853.

The following are the awards:

Nurserymen : 36 varieties, 1st, Mr. Turner, with Great Britain, Mrs. Hamilton, Robert Burns, Almanzor, Gliff, Duke of Perth, Lady Emily, Euphemia, Thisbe, Seedling, Duke of Norfolk, Sir R. Peel, Adela, Royal Visit, Duke of Rutland, Miriam, Alfred the Great, Privateer, Sir J. Cathcart, National, Morning Star, Pompey, Sir J. Franklin, Sir J. Paxton, Seedling, Diadem, Aurora, Supreme, Sambo, Mr. Beck, Criterion, France Cycole, Seedling, Seedling, Black Diamond, Pandora; 2d, Mr. Bragg, whose flowers dissimilar from the first stand were, Laertes, Queen of England, Hercules, Lady Carrington, Grace Darling, Flower of the Day, Pride, Timour, Kate, Ophir, Elegans, Mulberry, Polyphemus, Constance, Constellation, Royal Purple, Royal White, Rotunda, Commander-in-chief, Masterpiece, Nox, Rubens, Rotunda (Hunt's), Androcles, Lucy Neal, Cowper, Post-captain, Helen.

Amateurs : 1st, Mr. S. Treacher, Wycombe, with Juventus, Duke of Perth, Queen of England, Masterpiece, Lady Carrington, Pandora, Aurora, Timour, Flower of the Day, Royal Visit, Diadem, Duchess of Rutland, Lord Carrington, Maid of Athens, Nimrod, Lucy Neal, Helen, Supreme, Constantine, Thisbe, Almanzor, Iron Duke, Sambo, Kate; 2d, Mr. A. Lane, with President, Climax, Pompey, Ethelred, Royal Visit, Ophir, Matchless, Sir P. Sydney, Maid of Athens, Disraeli, Diadem, Queen of England, Androcles, Mr. Beck, Blanche, Timour, Mrs. Trotter, Elgiva, Helen, Duchess of Rutland, Polyphemus, Aurora, Eustace, Exquisite, Rubens.

First-class certificates were awarded to the following: Fearless (Schofield), a flower in the style of Supreme, but with a better eye; Monarch (Turner), colours of Duke of Norfolk, but a much smoother and better flower; National (Turner), peculiar for the extent of ground-colour and regularity of marking, medium size, a perfect circle in form; Sir J. Cathcart (Turner), already described by us, was shewn in famous condition: these four flowers are valuable acquisitions.



## REVIEW.

*The Orchid-Grower's Manual.* By B. S. Williams. Svo. pp. 108.  
Chapman and Hall.

As far as the mere cultivation of Orchids is concerned, this is perhaps the most really useful book that has ever yet issued from the press, embodying as it does the practice of one of our very best cultivators of this, in some respects, difficult class of plants to manage. In addition to twenty-five pages of excellent introductory matter, it contains a list of upwards of 260 of the best Orchids we at present possess, each of which is treated like the following example :

“*Cattleya Skinnerii*.—A beautiful and free-flowering plant from Guatemala, grows about a foot high, and blooms in March, April, and May; the blossoms are rose-purple, which remain three weeks in perfection if the flowers are kept dry. This fine species of *Cattleya*, when grown strong, will produce as many as nine or ten flowers on a spike. It is one of the finest Orchids that can be grown for any of the exhibitions in May, the colour being distinct, and different from any of the other *Cattleyas*.

“*Dendrobium nobile*.—A magnificent Orchid from India; a free-flowering evergreen species, of upright growth; the blossoms, which are pink and white, with a spot of crimson in the centre of the lip, are formed along the sides of the stems. It blooms during the winter and spring months, lasting three or four weeks in good condition, if kept in a cool house. It will grow either in a pot or basket with moss or peat. This is one of the finest exhibition-plants we have. I have shewn it in the month of May with three hundred flowers on one single plant: a truly splendid object.

“*Oncidium divaricatum*.—A small but abundantly-flowering species from Brazil; its yellow, orange, and brown-coloured flowers are produced on long branching spikes during the summer months: continues in perfection a long time. This is a useful plant for exhibition, when well grown: pot-culture is the best.

“*Cypripedium barbatum* (Bearded Lady's Slipper).—A handsome species, with beautifully spotted foliage; the colour of the flowers brownish purple and white; it produces its solitary flowers at different times of the year, lasting six weeks in bloom. There are two varieties of this plant, one being much brighter in colour than the other.”

As so many Orchids are now being brought to this country and sold by auction—it may be, in some cases, to persons ill-acquainted with their nature,—perhaps the following paragraph respecting the treatment of fresh-imported plants may be found useful.

“When unpacked, these should be sponged over every leaf and bulb, and all the old decayed parts taken away. There are many insects that will harbour in them, such as the cockroach, and the different kinds of scale, which are great enemies. When they are clean, they should be laid on dry moss and placed in some shady part of the house, where it is rather cool and dry. Too much light, heat,

and moisture at first is injurious to them. The moss should be gradually moistened, and when they begin to grow and make roots they should be potted or put on blocks or in baskets; but care should be taken not to have the pots too large: over-potting is dangerous.

“As soon as they begin to grow, those which come from the hotter parts of India should be put at the warmest end of the house; but they should not have too much moisture at first. Those which come from the more temperate regions should be kept at the coolest part of the house, and they should not be allowed to stand under any drip, as this frequently rots the young shoots as soon as they appear. Such plants as *Vandas*, *Saccolabiums*, *Aerides*, *Angræcums*, *Phalænopsis*, are fastened on blocks as soon as they are received, and I place them so that the plants hang downwards, in order that no water may lodge about them, till they begin to grow and form new roots: this is much the safest mode of treating these valuable Orchids. This is also the mode adopted by Messrs. Rollisson of Tooting, who are among the most successful growers of these plants.”

Many persons possessing a small collection of Orchids, and who dislike entering a damp Orchid-house, will be thankful to Mr. Williams for the following directions respecting the “*Treatment of Plants in Flower, and the best Mode of protracting their Bloom.*”

“There are many Orchids that may be removed when in flower to a much cooler house than that in which they are grown, or even in a warm sitting-room. The following are among the advantages of keeping them during their period of flowering in a cool and dry atmosphere, rather than, as is frequently the case, in a hot and moist house; in the latter, the flowers do not last nearly so long as they do when moved to a cooler house or a warm room. Perhaps there are not many cultivators who have studied this point more than myself, and I never found the plants injured by this treatment. Some imagine that if they are put in a cool place they will be injured; but this, in my experience, has not occurred. During the time they are in a room the temperature should not be below 50°. At night the room should be kept quite dry, and before they are removed from the stove they should be put at the coolest end of it; or, if there be two houses, those that are in the hottest should be moved to the coolest for a few days before being taken into the room, and they should be allowed to get nearly dry, and should receive but very little water—only enough to keep the roots moist. The flowers should not receive any moisture.

“I name a few that I have tried in a room during the months of May, June, July, and August. I have kept *Saccolabium guttatum* in this way five weeks; *Aerides affine* the same time; *A. odoratum* or *A. roseum*, and some of the *Dendrobiums*, viz. *nobile* and *cærulescens*, I have kept in a room four and five weeks. *D. moniliforme*, *D. macrophyllum*, *D. pulchellum*, *D. Ruckerii*, and *D. secundum*, last a much longer time in bloom if they are kept cool. *Brassias* and *Oncidiums*, *Epidendrums*, *Odontoglossums*, *Cyrtochilums*, *Trichopelia tortilis*, *Lycaste Skinnerii*, *L. aromatica*, *L. cruenta*, *Maxillaria tenuifolia*, *Aspasia lunata*, and all the *Cattleyas*, succeed well

in a cool room or house, and last for a much longer time in flower. I have kept *Lælia majalis* in a cool room four and five weeks, and *L. flava* will keep a much longer time in blossom than in the warm house. When the bloom begins to fade they should be removed to the stove, where they may be placed in the coolest end, with plenty of shade: they ought to be kept there for about ten days, for if they are exposed to the sun they are very apt to become scorched."

We heartily recommend the perusal of Mr. Williams's book to the notice of our readers, confident that they will not be disappointed with its contents. A good index is supplied at the end; and at the beginning there is a coloured plate of the beautiful little *Sophronis grandiflora*, a scarlet species from the Organ Mountains.

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### SLUGS AND SNAILS.

It is an interesting question, how far the absence of slugs in many districts has been caused by the long-continued drought. It is possible that they are as numerous as ever in some localities: on my ground, generally infested with them to a grievous extent, I have observed scarcely any. Snails seem as abundant as ever on my rock-work, in the deep recesses of which they appear to have been stowed away, indifferent to the dryness above. But they have awakened with a keen relish for the delicate tender shoots of the plants around them, and their extirpation is a matter admitting of no delay. Nor is it sufficient to hunt them "at morn and dewy eve;" it is necessary to pursue them unrelentingly by lamp or lantern, if we would preserve our favourites from their devastations. For want of taking these precautions, how often do gardeners of all classes lose the fruits of their care and labours! Yet it has not been for want of warnings: they are constantly reminded of this and similar duties.

READER AND SUBSCRIBER.

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### ENTHUSIASM.

WHEN a person takes up any pursuit, he devotes himself to it, or, if he does not, he fails of success. Few have that self-command which enables them to keep it absent from their conversation; and when they speak of it, they do so in terms which proclaim them enthusiasts. And yet how little is this to be ridiculed; for how much do we owe to enthusiasm! All our great discoveries, all the varied improvements which go on from year to year, are the fruits of enthusiasts. And so in our pursuit, the varied beauties of our gardens are the results of enthusiasm in the lovers of plants, in collectors of them, or in the raisers of seedlings. Enthusiasm for ever! says an

ENTHUSIAST.

## ROYAL SOUTH-LONDON FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

May 20.—Many of the plants, &c. staged at Regent's Park on the 19th were reproduced on this occasion, rendering it unnecessary for us to describe them again here. We may mention, however, that the Roses in pots, and some of the stove and greenhouse plants, seemed none the better for being so often from home. As a whole, the show was a good one, perhaps better than the average May-displays under the auspices of this Society. 15 miscellaneous plants were staged by Mr. Cole (1), Mr. Over (2), Mr. Roser (3), Mr. Hamp (4), and Mr. Rhodes (5). Dealers: 18 plants, Messrs. Rollisson (1), Mr. Pawley (2). *Cape Heaths*. Mr. Cole (1), Mr. Roser (2), Mr. Over (3). Dealers: Messrs. Rollisson (1), Messrs. Fairbairn (2), Mr. Pawley (3). 6 *Orchids* were shewn by Mr. Cole and Messrs. Rollisson. *Pelargoniums*. 6 varieties, Mr. Robinson (1), with Norah, Salamander, Constance, Ajax, Alonzo, and Alderman. Dealers: 8 varieties, Mr. Turner (1), with Rosamund, Little Nell, Pride of the Isles, Magnificent, Mochanna, Constance, Alonzo, and Prince of Orange; Mr. Gaines (2). 6 Fancy ditto, Mr. Robinson (1), Mr. Roser (2). Dealers: Mr. Gaines (1), Mr. Turner (2). 4 *Azaleas*. Mr. Cole (1), Mr. Over (2). Dealers: Mr. Lane (1), Mr. Ivory (2), Messrs. Rollisson (3).

12 *Tulips*. Mr. Betteridge (1), with Duc de Bouffleurs, Aglaia, Violet Alexander, Platoff, Glory of Abingdon, La Belle Nanette, Sir E. Codrington, King (Holmes), Madame Vestris, Roi de Navarre, Pass Salvator Rosa, and Claudiana; Mr. Treacher (2), with Duke of Devonshire, Lac, Violet Brun, Shakspeare, Lady Jane, Salvator Rosa, Queen Adelaide, King (Holmes), Vivid, Catalani, La Belle Nanette, and Hamlet; Mr. Hardstone (3), Mr. Lane (4), Mr. Phillips (5). Dealers: 12 varieties, Mr. Lawrence (1), with Fabius, Madame Vestris, Pandora, Glencoe, Emily, Salvator Rosa, Aglaia, Byzantium, Everard, Catalani, Maid of Orleans, and Vivid; Mr. Turner (2), with Madame Vestris, Royal Sovereign, Purple Perfection, Triomphe Royale, Triumph de Lisle, Aglaia, Champion of England, Pandora, Midland Beauty, Pilot, Maid of Orleans, and King (Strong); Mr. Willmer (3), Mr. Norman (4).

24 *Pansies*. Mr. Lane (1), with Ethelred, Blanche, Pompey, Queen of England, Diadem, Matchless, Viceroy, Pandora, Exquisite, Ophir, Climax, Masterpiece, Bertha, Androcles, Lucy Neal, Duchess of Rutland, Commander-in-chief, Notabilis, Eustace, Aurora, Polyphe-mus, Mrs. Trotter, Virgo, and Keepsake; Mr. Betteridge (2), Mr. August (3). Dealers: 36 varieties, Mr. Turner (1), with the leading kinds as shewn at Hammersmith, and noticed in another page; Mr. Bragg (2), Messrs. Hart and Nicklin (3).

*Pot-Roses* were shewn by Messrs. Lane (1); Messrs. Paul and Francis being equal (2). Pansy, Sir J. Cathcart, received a first-class certificate; National was deserving of one. Pansies and Tulips were far below what we have seen them both in numbers and quality.





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1. *Azalea Indica*.  
(Var. *Admiration*.)

2. *Azalea Indica*  
(Var. *Criterion*.)

## THE CHINESE AZALEA.

THIS must be admitted to be one of the most ornamental plants that grace our conservatories, greenhouses, or exhibition-tents during the earlier months of the year. According to Paxton's *Botanical Dictionary*, we find that the first species of this lovely genus (*A. indica*) was introduced from China in 1808, and *A. sinensis*, *A. variegata*, *A. phœnicea*, and *A. ledifolia*, in 1823-4; since then we have been favoured with *A. Danielsiana*, *A. exquisita*, and a few others; and from these have sprung the numerous kinds now in cultivation. The variation in colour of many of the varieties (particularly some of the new hybrids) is so exceedingly beautiful, and the abundance of flowers which they produce so great, that they have become great favourites with every one. Most of the sorts may be had in bloom from Christmas to Midsummer, merely by forcing a few of the earlier kinds, and keeping the others in a cool greenhouse.

The following list contains most of the best varieties at present in cultivation:

- \* Barclayana (Ivery's), very large, white slightly striped with purple; fine shape and free bloomer.
- Broughtonii (Knight's), lilac-purple, large, and good shape.
- \* Beauty of Reigate (Ivery's), white striped and spotted with crimson; fine form and very free bloomer.
- Carminata (Pawley's), large, dark crimson; good form and free bloomer.
- Conspicua purpurea, very large, rosy purple; good shape and free bloomer.
- Coronata, beautiful bright dark rosy purple; good form and free bloomer.
- \* Delicata (Ivery's), large, bright salmon-pink; good shape and free bloomer.
- Duke of Devonshire (Pince's), very large, crimson; good form and free bloomer.
- \* Exquisita (Knight's), mottled with rose and white; distinct, and pretty free bloomer.
- \* Gledstanesii, white slightly striped with crimson; fine shape and free bloomer.
- Grenvilleæ (Frost's), very large crimson; good shape and free bloomer.
- \* Iveryana (Ivery's), very fine large white slightly striped with rosy pink; fine shape and immense bloomer.
- \* Lateritia, brick red; fine form and free bloomer.
- \* Lateritia formosa (Ivery's), large, bright red, and fine shape.
- \* Murrayana (Kinghorn's), large, bright rose; fine form and free bloomer.
- Optima (Knight's), very large, bright light red; fine shape and free bloomer.
- Perryana (Knight's), large, bright light red; beautiful form and free bloomer.
- Rubens (Smith's), fine dark crimson; good shape and free bloomer.
- \* Rosea elegans (Ivery), large, bright rosy pink; fine form and free bloomer.
- Sinensis, beautiful orange yellow; good shape, free bloomer, and very distinct.
- Symmetry (Lee's), bright crimson; fine form and free bloomer.
- \* Variegata, beautiful mottled pink and white; fine shape and free bloomer.
- Violetacea Superb, large, bright violet; distinct and free bloomer.

Those which follow are very double varieties, and ought to be in every collection :

*Rubra plena*, bright red, and free bloomer.

*Glory of Sunninghill* (Standish's), rosy pink ; free bloomer.

As regards treatment, procure good healthy plants, and shift them into some rich brown turfy peat-mould (which must be well exposed to the air at least six months before using it); to that add one-sixth silver-sand, taking care to drain the pots well with broken crocks or bricks. The sorts marked thus \* in the foregoing list are liable to die off without any apparent cause, and should be worked plants on the *Phœnicea* stock if possible, as that is the most hardy ; and to the mould for these may be added a small quantity of turfy loam ; give them a good watering, and place them in a warm part of a greenhouse or pit (this ought to be in April or beginning of May). Some of the kinds will soon shoot vigorously, and will require once stopping, which will cause them to break out more bushy, and form handsomer plants. Syringe them with soft water when you shut up in the evening ; they may remain here for the summer ; they should be watered occasionally with manure-water, and at all other times with soft water. Many gardeners place their Azaleas out of doors against a north wall, or under trees, about the end of July or August ; but this practice causes the foliage to become brown, and it seldom recovers until the following spring : give plenty of air from this time, water more sparingly, and some of the free-flowering kinds will begin to set their bloom. Keep them in the coolest part of the greenhouse for the winter ; and as soon as the young shoots appear, and the flowers begin to colour, they may again be shifted (but they ought not to flower the first season, if you intend making specimens of them). Those that grew freely last year will now require a good-sized pot ; prepare the mould the same as before, and mix with it a good quantity of crocks, broken fine (many use charcoal) ; this will assist the drainage very much. As soon as they have done flowering, the seed-pods should be all removed, and they may again be placed in the warmest part of the greenhouse ; give them a syringing with soft water, and shut up the house every evening about six o'clock for the next two months ; after this admit air more freely night and day ; water more sparingly ; the wood will soon begin to get firm, and the bloom to set. Introduce a few of the earliest kinds into the stove, to forward them ; and the others may remain in the greenhouse or conservatory, just kept from frost, and by the next blooming season you will have some neat



flowering plants. Should you wish to keep any in bloom longer than usual, cut off the tips of the pistils, and the flowers will hang a week or more longer than they generally do. Continue to shift as they require it, and you will soon have fine specimen plants. Should thrips attack them, fumigate strongly with tobacco two or three times a day during two alternate days; this will destroy this troublesome pest.

The above has been kindly furnished us by Messrs. Ivery and Son of the Dorking and Reigate Nurseries, the fortunate raisers of the subjects of our present illustration. As regards the beauty of the flowers little need be said, as the representations will speak for themselves; but we might perhaps be permitted to draw attention to the *Rhododendron* marking in *Criterion*, which we regard as a step in the right direction. Both varieties were produced from seed saved from *Iveryana*, *Admiration* being the result of fertilising with *Latteritia formosa* and *Criterion* with *Exquisite*. They have been much admired, and will no doubt speedily find their way into every collection.

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#### WEATHERING GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

As this is the season when greenhouse plants are placed out of doors for the purpose of weathering and hardening their new wood, I will endeavour to describe a plan for keeping them in their places, which I have adopted, and which answers admirably.

Having suffered inconvenience from top-heavy plants, such as *Rhododendrons*, *Daphnes*, *Azaleas*, *Camellias*, &c., being blown about during high winds, and oftentimes capsized, to the injury of their limbs,—I have adopted the following course, and instead of placing them on a platform of coal-ashes in the usual manner, I made a wooden platform by placing some battens on the ground, and nailing strips of deal across. On this platform I placed large empty pots, 8's, 12's, and 16's, capable of holding the pots containing the greenhouse plants, to serve, in fact, as sockets; and in order to secure them from rocking, I passed iron rods through the side-holes at the bottom, and tied them down to the rails of the platform. A long iron rod was run through several in a row, sliding them to the required distance, and a short rod through the third hole, the end iron tied down; each pot a socket in its place. Thus secured, the plants have stood firm in all weathers; and the outer pot, moreover, protects the roots from the hot sun.

This might be too troublesome a process for nurserymen, but it is convenient for amateurs, as the platform can be laid on a green, or on a gravel-walk, without detriment.

J. H. B.

## THE DISEASE IN PELARGONIUMS:

### WHAT IS IT? AND WHENCE ITS ORIGIN?

IN a recent Number of your Miscellany, our friend Mr. Beck informs us that he is trying to give the "spot" to some Geraniums; an experiment in which I fear he will not find much difficulty, though he may fail in his object, which I doubt not is to discover the why and wherefore of its origin. I should have been better pleased if he had told us how to prevent the "spot," and some other diseases to which Pelargoniums are heir; I say *heir to*, for I have no doubt many of our leading varieties are the sickly offspring of diseased and constitutionally bad parents, which, to attain a desired object, such as intense colour or peculiar form, have been bred "in and in," until they are so palsied, if I may be allowed the term, that there is not one particle of healthy or life-invigorating sap in their veins; and hence, though they be brilliant in colour, they are too delicate to become of general utility. Some kinds, I am quite sure, from the first dawn of infancy to the present moment, never were healthy; but as I do not wish to draw invidious comparisons, I shall not enumerate the varieties.

That the fancies should be equally if not more subject to disease than the larger kinds, is quite in the nature of things; for having originated in disease, as I have no doubt the class did, it is natural that they should be constitutionally delicate, and subject to be affected with the slightest change of treatment; and I have had ample proof that this disease is transmittable, and that from a diseased parent, more especially on the female side, it is impossible to get healthy offspring; and even the rule, which prevails to some extent as a remedial measure in the animal kingdom, that of breeding from a coarse or almost wild male, does not stand good here; for we have now before us distinct and decided crosses from the Cape species as full of disease as they can be.

But what is this disease? It is the "spot," and something more, a sort of gangrene or palsy, which assails and undermines the whole system of the plant, and is alike conspicuous in the flower, the stem, and the leaf, rendering the stem brittle as a piece of glass, and imparting to the surface of the leaf a polished glossy, nay glassy appearance. Sometimes the stem becomes discoloured and black, as if bruised, and the centre or pith of the plant will also be found discoloured. Like gout in the animal frame, high feeding is favourable to it; but in poor soil, if clean and healthy, the less virulent does it become. A cold, close, damp atmosphere is favourable to its progress, as is a warm moist one also. Soils strongly impregnated with oxide of iron induce the disease, and very rich manures, and composts improperly aerated and mellowed also tend to produce it.

Two years back, when the potato disease first made its appearance at this place, two plants standing on a south border in the open air, to ripen prior to being cut down, were struck in one night with this disease, though previously perfectly healthy; and with all the

schemes that we could try, we could not induce healthy action afterwards, and the plants ultimately were thrown away. Some alarmists, when it first appeared, attributed the potato disease to the use of guano and other artificial manures; and though I cannot go the length of considering guano the cause, I have little doubt that, used in excess, it is calculated to increase its virulence. With Pelargoniums I feel convinced that, in addition to the debilitating effects of breeding "in and in," the improper use of highly stimulating manures has been one of the principal causes of the wide-spread mischief; and so long as we continue their use, more especially of guano and other strong ammoniacal manures, so long will the disease continue to spread.

Of preventive measures, breeding only from perfectly healthy parents in future, and to break up every plant which shews the disease, is the first point. This season I have destroyed among my seedlings at least one hundred plants before they bloomed, fearing that if I allowed them to flower I might be induced to keep them; and at the present time I have some scores which must "gang the same gate," as I am quite determined to extirpate the disease from my stock of seedlings, if such a thing be possible. The next step will be to pot the seedling plants in pure and simple soils, avoiding strong ammoniacal manures as a perfect bane to success. Of pure and simple soils, I should regard mellow turfy loam, thoroughly exposed by frequent turning to the ameliorating influence of air and frost for at the least one entire winter, intermixed with rich fibrous peat, or semi-decomposed leaf-mould, where such can be prepared of the right sort, with sufficient coarse gritty sand and charcoal to secure the porosity of the mass, after the vegetable fibre in the soil has disappeared, as the best. Leaf-mould, especially such as we procure about London, is rarely of a healthy description; for it is composed of leaves of all kinds, frequently intermixed with weeds, the sweepings of lawns and walks, and other extraneous matters. It decays more from age than healthy fermentation, and consequently contains matters which would be eliminated and thrown off by proper sweating. If good fresh dung from the stables and the dry clean leaves of Oak or Spanish Chestnut could be decomposed together, they would form a fine manure for mixing for all pot-plants; but leaf-mould, such as is generally used, is scarcely fit for garden purposes. Slowly decomposed, I believe leaf-mould contains a good deal of tanic acid; for a year or two back a friend of mine destroyed the whole of his cucumbers and mellons by using water which had drained into a tank from a heap of many wagon-loads of leaves; and the leaf-mould which I used to obtain from Greenwich Park, which was decomposed in holes half filled with water the greater part of the year, was of the very worst description. In using charcoal procure the very best in lumps, and break it yourself; avoid that made from peat, for it is found any thing but suitable for pot-plant cultivation.

Of remedial measures, of course perfect cleanliness will be of great importance. The glass, the stages, the house, the paths, the pots,

the plants, should all be spotless; not a particle of dirt should lurk any where, and care should also be taken to keep a free circulation of air, to remove all damps, and to keep the atmosphere of the house a little drier and a few degrees warmer than is usual. A watering or two with lime-water will also exercise a beneficial influence by destroying insects in the soil, and aiding in the decomposition of extraneous vegetable substances. If the disease appear in the spring, apply these remedies, and pot the plants into fresh pots directly healthy root-action is induced; but if in the summer or autumn, ripen the wood, cut the plants down, and shake the plants out and wash the roots as soon as they are sufficiently broken to allow of their being served so. Then give a little warmth; but of all things avoid a confined and damp atmosphere, and healthy action may possibly be induced; but, as I have remarked before, this disease is in some varieties a constitutional and family ailment, which, though it may be prevented by good treatment, will manifest itself again directly the plants receive a check, or unhealthy root-action is induced.

I have thus strung my "notions" together; and though I may think more than I have stated in this hurried sketch, I still hope I have done sufficient to induce discussion; and if yourself, Mr. Hoyle, Mr. Beck, and some more of our friends, will favour us with their ideas upon the subject, I have no doubt something instructive and interesting will be imparted.

W. M. P. AYRES.

*Brooklands Nursery, Blackheath.*

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### PLEROMA ELEGANS.

THE bright-green glossy foliage of this beautiful plant, when in vigorous health, is in itself a sufficient recommendation for its cultivation; and when to this is added its fine purple violet flowers, which are produced in profusion, it must be considered one of the most ornamental of shrubs. Bearing some resemblance to the *Lisianthus* in the formation of its flowers, and being nearly equal to that fine plant in the duration of its bloom, it possesses the advantage of more attractive colour, and the plant itself is more easily cultivated. As a decorative object for the greenhouse or conservatory during summer, it is highly deserving of extensive cultivation, as, with a few plants for succession, the bloom may be prolonged for a considerable period.

In selecting plants at this season, care should be taken to obtain young healthy stock, well-established and in a free-growing state; young plants which have been pot-bound or are otherwise unhealthy should be discarded, as such seldom make good specimens. If obtained now from the nursery, they should be placed for a few days in a close house or pit to recover the effects of removal. If well rooted, a shift may then be given into pots two sizes larger than those they were taken from; a close atmosphere, with a temperature of 55°, will assist them in making a vigorous growth. During sunny days shading will be necessary, for the young foliage is liable to scorch if exposed to bright sunshine. As the plants become well

established, air may be given freely on favourable occasions, and water, when necessary, judiciously but liberally supplied. During the progress of growth any over-luxuriant shoots should be topped and otherwise regulated, to preserve a compact form. When well rooted a second shift may be given, say from a 6 to a 9-inch pot, and the plants returned to their former quarters, where they should remain until indications of rapid growth cease, when they may be gradually hardened, and afterwards placed for a few weeks in a sheltered and shady place out-doors, where they can be conveniently protected from heavy rains.

By the first week of September the plants must be removed to the greenhouse; and during winter they should be kept in the lightest and warmest part of the house. At that season care must be taken to guard against excessive damp, drip, or over-watering, a sufficiency only being given to keep the soil properly moist. In the early part of March the plants may be placed in a warm house or pit to encourage active growth. Presuming it is desirable to have good specimens for flowering the following year, any appearance of bloom should be stopped, and the plants shifted into pots of a size proportionate to the wishes or convenience of the cultivator. I find pots from 12 to 15 inches in diameter sufficiently large to produce fine blooming plants. During this season the treatment before recommended should be attended to, and any stopping required done early, as the flower-buds are produced on the terminal points of the shoots. Having been wintered as before, early in spring the plants may be placed in a warmer temperature, to assist the healthy development of the flower-buds; and when in bloom, which will be in June, they can be removed to a warm part of the conservatory or other situation, where their beautiful flowers will continue for some time in perfection.

After flowering, the plants may be repotted, and encouraged to complete their growth as before. If very large examples are inconvenient, the ball of soil may be carefully reduced so as to be repotted in the same-sized pot. With attention to stopping and tying out the shoots as required, the plants will continue in a healthy condition for some years; and when over-grown or straggling, they may be thrown away, and their places supplied with younger stock.

The propagation of this *Pleroma* is easily effected by cuttings of the young lateral or side-shoots, taken off in the early part of summer, and inserted in silver-sand, in a well-drained pot, covered with a bell-glass, and placed in a gentle bottom-heat. When well rooted they should be potted off singly, and with due attention will make nice plants for keeping through the winter.

The soil I find most suitable for the growth of this plant is a compost of equal parts turfy loam, peat of a sandy texture, and well-decomposed leaf-soil; the two former broken up into small pieces, and the latter passed through a coarse sieve: to this a liberal supply of silver-sand should be added, and the whole well blended together. For large plants, a few lumps of charcoal, broken to the size of a small bean, will be found beneficial. During the growing

season a watering with weak manure-water should be given once a week. If thrip make its appearance, fumigation should be resorted to, or the under side of the leaves syringed with weak tobacco-water. Timely attention only in applying a remedy, if necessary, will prevent the ravages of this pest from becoming detrimental to the health of the plant through the destruction of its foliage.

C. Cox.

### CULTIVATION OF TROPICAL FERNS AND LYCOPODS.

THIS highly interesting tribe of plants was at one time scarcely cultivated; but within the last few years they have become great favourites. Ferns are very accommodating; they will either grow in pots, or do well planted out on rock-work at the end of a house; some of them being climbers, if they are placed near the end wall, they will soon reach the top, if the wall be kept damp. We have a piece of rock-work at the end of the Orchid-house, and on the top of the stones there are about six inches of mould for the Ferns to grow in at the back; the wall is fourteen feet high, and it is covered with climbing Ferns, of which *Polypodium phymatodes* and *Acrosticum scandens* are the best. When planted in this way they form objects of great beauty. Under the climbing Ferns we have other species which are well adapted for planting out. At one corner there is a Tree Fern, and at the other a Fan Palm. In the centre of the rock-work is *Asplenium nidus*, a noble Fern, *Polypodium effusum*, *Adiantum trapeziforme*, *Didymochlæna pulcherrima*, and *Polypodium aureum*, all of which are good species for planting out.

The most suitable place for growing the different kinds of Ferns and Lycopods is a stove or an Orchid-house, where there is plenty of heat and moisture, with a temperature ranging from 50° to 60° in winter. Most Ferns delight in shady places, in which they develop their delightful green foliage to advantage; growing, as they do, during summer and winter, they are always interesting.

Ferns are very useful for bouquets, some of them lasting fresh in water for a long time; and intermixed with flowers they produce a charming effect. Some of the dwarfer-growing kinds are best suited for the purpose I have just mentioned, such as *Adiantum cuneatum*, *A. trapeziforme*, *A. assimile*, *A. formosum*, together with *Darea cicutaria*, and many others. Ferns succeed well planted in glass cases in a warm room; at the bottom of the case there should be about three inches of drainage, then a layer of moss, filling in with the same compost that is used for pot Ferns. This done, plant, and finish by giving some water to settle the soil about the roots; the case should be kept close for a few days, until they have begun to emit new roots, then give a little air.

A good compost for Ferns and Lycopods is turfy loam, peat, and leaf-mould in equal parts, chopped into pieces with some river-sand, mixing all well together; the strong-growing species should have

their soil in a rough state (not sifted); but for the smaller ones it must be finer, with some more silver-sand in it; if the mixture is dry, it should be moistened before it is used. The drainage should be good; this is essential to their successful growth; for if not attended to, the water will become stagnant, which is very injurious to the plants. My practice is to pot all Ferns once a year, in March, that being about the time when they begin to make new roots. I give them a good-sized pot, with about two inches of drainage; the pots should be perfectly clean inside and out; put a layer of moss over the drainage, then some compost, then turn the plant out of its pot, and shake off nearly all the old soil, trimming away a few of the old roots; place it in the pot, and then fill in with the soil, so that the crown of the plant is about level with the rim of the pot; then give some water, and place the plants in some shady moist part of the house.

Ferns require an abundance of water whilst growing vigorously, both on their fronds and at their roots. They should never be permitted to get dry; for if this should happen, the plants often die suddenly. In summer I give them a good syringing every day, and water at the roots when they require it. In winter I water more sparingly, giving only just enough to keep the soil moist, and only syringing on very fine mornings, when the sun shines.

Some Ferns are easily increased by dividing them into pieces, each having a portion of the roots attached. Cut through with a sharp knife, then pull them into pieces; pot them, and put them in some moist shady part of the house where there is a little bottom-heat, until they make fresh roots. Some kinds produce young plants on the top of the fronds; these should be taken off, potted, and a bell-glass placed over them until they have formed roots, then give them a little air. Some Ferns are increased by seed. The way to gather this is to cut the ripe frond from the plant, then get a piece of white paper, and shake the frond over it till the seed falls; then take a four-inch pot, and fill it half full of drainage, then a layer of moss, and then fill the pot with some fine mould; this should be baked before it is used. This is the only way of getting rid of worms, &c., which, if not destroyed, are very troublesome as the seedlings begin to vegetate. Sow thinly on the top of the mould, then cover with a bell-glass, and place the pot in some shady part of the house. As soon as the plants are large enough to be handled, they should be potted in small pots and kept in the shade; but they should have bottom-heat for some short time.

Lycopods are increased either by layers or cuttings, or by dividing the plants, which should be potted, and afterwards put in the shade until they make fresh roots. The cuttings should be potted into small pots in a compost of rotten leaf-mould and loam, with some silver-sand, and put in a gentle bottom-heat. When layers are made, they should be pegged down in the pot with small pegs; and as soon as they have taken root, should be potted in 3-inch pots; afterwards give them a gentle watering, and let them be kept in the shade.

Some of the most beautiful exotic Ferns are to be found among

the Adiantums, Polypods, Cheilanthes, Pteris, Darea, Gymnograms, Doodias, and Nephrodiums, &c.

Of Lycopods there is a great number of so-called species, from among which I should select, *L. cæsius*, *L. c. arboreum*, *L. denticulatum*, *L. densum*, *circinale*, *umbrosum*, *stoloniferum*, and one or two others.

B. S. WILLIAMS,

Gardener to C. B. Warner, Esq., Hoddesdon, Herts.

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## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

### THE CHERRY.

THIS delicate and favourite fruit has long been known and cultivated in Europe. It appears to have been brought to Italy from Cerasus (a town in Pontus in Asia) by General Lucullus, about the year 73 A.C., and from thence introduced into Britain. In the reign of Henry VIII. we read of Cherry-gardens in Kent, and of Cherries being hawked in London much the same as they are at the present day; but at that period very few varieties of any particular merit were in existence. In 1573, Tusser mentions "red and black Cherries," and about twenty sorts are noticed by Ray and Miller; but since their time a number of good varieties has been brought from the Continent, and some excellent sorts raised in this country, among which are some of our best Cherries. The catalogues now contain a great many varieties; that of the Horticultural Society enumerates upwards of eighty, independent of those discarded as worthless; but not more than half that number even are really worthy of cultivation; therefore, in my list, I shall only notice a few of the very best and most useful kinds, either for the dessert or other purposes.

French authors divide the Cherry into five classes, and Mr. Thompson has them arranged in two; but I do not consider such divisions of any importance in these papers; therefore I shall place them in the order in which they succeed each other in ripening.

Many of the kinds are known under numerous local names; and I give them according to the Horticultural Society's catalogue, in the hope of helping to clear up the confusion existing in this class of fruit.

#### 1. *Early Purple Guigne.*

Synonym: Early Purple Griotte.

Fruit rather above the middle size, heart-shaped, and uneven in outline. Stalk long and slender, inserted in a slight depression. Skin dark red and glossy, changing to a deep purple when fully matured. Flesh purple, juicy, rich, free from acidity, and very tender. Ripe from the beginning to the middle of June.

The tree is of slender habit and moderate growth, having long waved leaves and dark brown shoots. Being rather tender, it requires a favourable situation and suitable soil, otherwise it is very subject



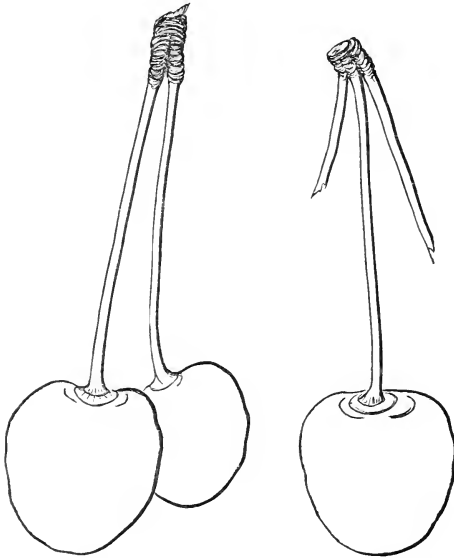
to *gum* and canker. The earliness of this variety, together with the fine quality of the fruit, renders it very desirable.

2. *Werder's Early Black Heart.*

Synonyms: *Werdersche Frühe Schwarze Herz Kirche*, *Werder's Early Black* (of some).

Fruit middle-sized, obtuse, heart-shaped, and indented on its surface. Stalk long and slender. Skin black and glossy. Flesh red tinged with purple, very tender, rich, sweet, and pleasant. Ripens about the middle of June.

This Cherry closely resembles the preceding in many respects; although it is not quite so early, it is more hardy and fruitful.



Early Purple Guigne.

Werder's Early Black Heart.

3. *May Duke.*

Synonyms: *Early Duke*, *Early May Duke*, *Large May Duke*, *Morris's Duke*, *Morris's Early Duke*, *Bendain's Fine Early Duke*, *Thomson's Duke*, *Portugal Duke*, *Buchanan's Early Duke*, *Millet's Late Heart Duke*, *Cherry Duke* (of some); besides several others mostly French.

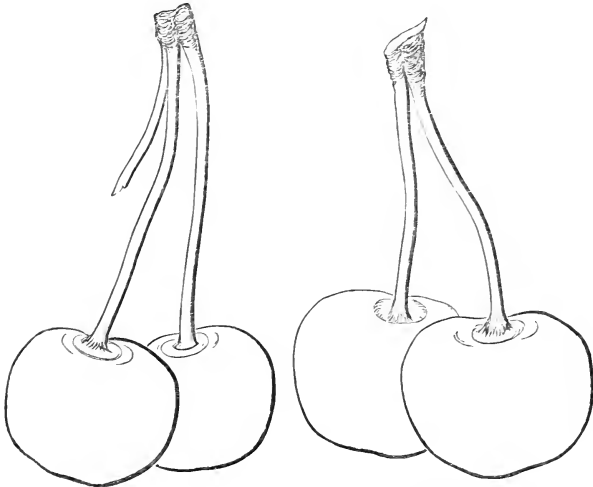
Fruit rather above the middle size, roundish, a little flattened at the ends, and growing in clusters. Skin smooth and even, of a dark red when at maturity. Flesh light red, very juicy, and refreshing, having a pleasant sub-acid flavour. Ripens in the end of June, and will hang on the tree some considerable time. It is without exception the most useful cherry we possess; it is pretty generally known, and held in high estimation in all countries

where the Cherry is cultivated. The tree is hardy, and remarkable for its upright growth. Very prolific, and will accommodate itself to all soils and situations, which is not the case with many other varieties.

Perhaps it will be as well here to mention that the Cherry delights in a chalk or dry gravelly soil. In many gardens where the soil is light and rich this fruit will not thrive; therefore in that case it is quite requisite that the wall borders should be prepared (more especially if strong-growing kinds are to be planted); and in so doing the soil should be made to approach as near as possible that above mentioned.

4. *Knight's Early Black.*

Fruit large, obtuse, heart-shaped, slightly irregular in outline. Skin purplish red and glossy, becoming black at maturity. Stalk of moderate length, rather stout, and inserted in a deep cavity. Flesh purple, tender, rich, very sweet and high flavoured, ripening from the middle to the end of June.



May Duke.

Knight's Early Black.

The tree is of strong growth and spreading habit, hardy and fruitful, bearing well as a standard, but in a small garden its proper place is a south wall. This truly beautiful Cherry was produced by the zealous labours of the late Mr. Knight, and is one of the many seedlings raised about forty years ago by that gentleman.

*Frogmore.*

J. POWELL.



## CHISWICK AND REGENT'S PARK EXHIBITIONS.

THE second grand display of the season held under the auspices of the Horticultural Society took place on the 12th ult. The day was dry but unseasonably cold; and owing to the previous rains, the grass was very damp. Nevertheless about 5000 visitors attended. The exhibition itself was an excellent one for June. Orchids, Roses in pots, Cape Heaths, and stove and greenhouse plants, were contributed plentifully and in beautiful condition. Azaleas were also present, though, of course, less brilliant than in May; and this deficiency was hardly compensated by Tall Cacti, which were scarce. The Fruit-show was good, and received its due share of attention. We have alluded to Roses in pots, and we cannot allow this opportunity to pass without mentioning the great beauty, both in colour and form, of the hybrid Bourbon Rose Paul Ricaut. This was shewn fine in several collections, and was the admiration of every body. Souvenir de la Malmaison, in its way, was scarcely less desirable; and Paul Perras, Duchess of Sutherland, Baronne Prevost, and other favourites, were also communicated in fair condition.

*Pelargoniums* were numerous; but for want of sun they were not so rich in colour or so attractive as usual. 12 varieties in 8-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Dobson, Isleworth, with Diadem, Delicatissimum, Gertrude, Magnificent, Painter improved, Mont Blanc, Jupiter, Ambassador, Purpureum, Silk-mercer, Vanguard, Star; 2d, Mr. C. Turner, with Enchantress, Rubens, Constance, Ganymede, Rowena, Alonzo, Magnificent, Rosamund, Gulielma, Narcissus, Beatrice, Pretty Polly; 3d, Mr. Westwood, Turnham Green; 4th, Mr. Bragg, Slough. In 11-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Westwood; 2d, Mr. C. Turner. The sorts were generally old, but we noticed as particularly fine, Star, Rosamund, Cuyp, Constance, Rowena, and Painter. Private growers: only one lot in 8-inch pots was shewn, and these were in so bad condition as to be only awarded a second prize. In 11-inch pots, Mr. Parker, gr. to J. Strachen, Esq., of Teddington, had the best, containing some beautiful specimens, large and finely flowered: Centurion, Rosamund, Gulielma, Star, were very conspicuous. Fancies, private growers: 1st, Mr. Robinson, with Queen Superb, Madame Meillez, Fairy Queen, Princess Maria Galitzin, Perfection, Richard Cobden; 2d, Mr. Roser, with Statiaski, Hero of Surrey, Picturatum, Prospero, Magnificum, Jenny Lind. Dealers: 1st, Mr. C. Turner, Exquisite, Defiance, Triumphant, Anais, Miss Sheppard, Princess Maria Galitzin; 2d, Mr. Westwood; 3d, Mr. Ayres, Blackheath; 4th, Mr. Gaines, Battersea. The cup, value five guineas, given by Mr. Ayres of Blackheath, was awarded to Mr. J. Robinson, Pimlico, for varieties sent out by the former. These were beautifully-grown neat plants, in the finest possible condition, with flowers large and distinct in colour. The varieties themselves are first rate in form, and do great credit to the raiser; they consisted of Caliban, Advancer, Formosissimum, Mirandum, Gipsy, Queen, and Conspicuum.

In *Seedling Pelargoniums*, Queen of May and Optimum were shewn by Mr. Black, gr. to E. Foster, Esq.; they are two flowers of rich colour and fine habit. Mr. Turner sent Novelty and three seedling Fuchsias, raised by E. Banks, Esq., viz. Perfection, a large dark kind, with deep purple corolla and finely reflexed sepals; and Model and Grandis, also two dark varieties of considerable promise.

Of *Seedling Fancy Geraniums* there were several. Messrs. E. G. Henderson of the Wellington Road Nursery sent Queen of the Fancies, rich rosy purple edged with white, a very promising variety; Cupid, maroon top-petals, with narrow margin of white, bottom-petals white, with rose spot in centre of each petal, a smooth good flower; Criterion, style of, but more colour than Formosissimum; Rubens, large, dark; but in the state shewn it did not appear to be very free. The Rev. Mr. Trimmer sent several varieties; the best appeared to be Megæra, Sallanche, and Margiana. A certificate was awarded to Messrs. E. G. Henderson for Intermedium, being a Pelargonium of a new cross, a small white with spot, but not very showy.

*Pinks* were shewn in pots and cut by Mr. Willmer only, who was awarded first prizes; but we did not observe any thing amongst them to call for especial notice. The lateness of the season has no doubt been the cause of so poor a display.

*Calceolarias* were produced in good variety: finely-grown plants came from Mr. Constantine, gr. to C. Mills, Esq., Hillingdon, who had the following kinds, all seedlings of his own, viz. Enchantress, Favourite, Marian, Attraction, Grenadier, and Ophelia; 2d prize to Mr. Franklin, gr. to Mr. Lawrence; 3d, Mr. Roser, gr. to J. Bradbury, Esq., sorts generally but middling; Heywood Hawkins and Voltigeur were the best. In the dealers' class, Mr. Gaines took the first prize.

*Pansies* in pots were good for June: 1st, Mr. Turner; 2d, Mr. Bragg, with varieties generally similar to those shewn in May.

At the Royal Botanic Society on the 9th of June there was a fine show, particularly of Pelargoniums, but the rain did not cease throughout the day; so wet and cold was the weather that but few visited the exhibition. The prizes for Florists' flowers were generally awarded to the same parties as at Chiswick, and the plants were nearly the same as on that occasion. In 11-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Parker, gr. to J. Strachen, Esq.; 2d, Mr. Westwood. 8-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Dobson; 2d, Mr. Turner; 3d, Mr. Bragg; 4th, Mr. Gaines. Six new varieties: 1st, G. W. Hoyle, Esq., Reading, with Magnet, Ganymede, Christine, Nectar Cup, Pretty Polly, and Mochanna; 2d, Mr. Turner, with Enchantress, Rubens, First of May, Magnet, Ganymede, and Lavinia. The plants by private growers were not in good condition; Mr. Robinson was 1st, Mr. Carrygan 2d, G. W. Hoyle, Esq., 3d, with 12 small but well-bloomed plants, all seedlings, namely, Astrea, Oscar, Leonora, Butterfly, Medora, Auricula, Lagoma, Zaria, Portia, Diadem, Kulla, Dion. Fancies: 1st, Mr. C. Turner; Defiance and Gaiety in this lot were in the finest order; 2d, Mr. Westwood; 3d, Mr. Ayres. In the amateurs' class, Mr. Robinson was first, with neat well-grown plants.

*Pansies.* The best stand was disqualified, having been wrongly entered. The other stands in both classes were very indifferent. In seedlings, National, Sir J. Cathcart, Sir J. Paxton, and Nonsuch, were shewn good. Two good *Fuchsias* were exhibited, viz. Banks' Glory (dark), and Empress (light). Among seedling Pelargoniums there were several plants of the fine large dark variety, Optimum; two of Queen of May, an orange scarlet, with dark spot on the top-petals; Rachel, a neat, smooth, full-flowering kind, very dark, and good shape; Challenger, a small showy kind, and very free; also Novelty, Cordelia, Albira, and Amazon. Several seedling Calceolarias were exhibited; but no great improvement apparently has taken place in these for several years past. Mr. Tyso, Wallingford, sent a box of Ranunculuses, which attracted considerable attention.

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## REVIEW.

*The British Winter Garden.* By W. Barron, Head Gardener at Elvaston. 12mo. pp. 121. Bradbury and Evans.

OUR readers have already heard something of Elvaston through our pages; but our two brief notices must have failed to have communicated to their minds any thing like a correct idea of so noble a creation as Elvaston is. We say creation, because all that is wonderful about it must be ascribed to the inventive genius of man, and chiefly to that of Mr. Barron. Its gardens of evergreens, its lake, which is perfect of its kind, and its marvellous rock-work, have all sprung into existence within the last twenty years. Previous to that period all was flat and tame,—a treeless grass meadow. So insignificant at that time was this now great place, that Loudon, in his *Garden Statistics of Derbyshire*, did not even notice it. All who see Elvaston at the present day are, therefore, amazed at the magnitude of the operations which have given to it comparatively quite an ancient grandeur. Many of its Yew and other trees look as venerable as if they had occupied their stations for centuries; and few can believe that nothing existed but meadow land at the date we have just mentioned. Such, however, is the fact, and all the fine Conifers, and other evergreens, that now adorn this princely seat, have been gathered together from all parts of the kingdom, as may be imagined, at enormous labour and expense; in fact, such as could only have been sustained by wealthy and liberal-minded noblemen like the late Earl of Harrington. Mr. Barron's connexion, therefore, with the formation of so great a garden must necessarily have furnished him with ample materials for the production of a book much larger than the one before us, and we regret that we should not have been favoured with more of the refined taste and sound judgment which we find in its pages. At present, however, let us be contented with what we have, which is all new and original, such as no occupier of land can well dispense with; for if some of the views promulgated be carried into effect, the face of our English landscape must be entirely

changed. We allude to the introduction of evergreen hedges every where, composed of Hollies instead of "Quick," which Mr. Barron advocates, and which we hope to see adopted.

The book now before us begins with a historical description of the gardens and grounds at Elvaston. Then it treats of the advantages to be derived from the general adoption of many comparatively new and valuable evergreen trees in our ornamental grounds, parks, and plantations. A chapter is devoted to the pictorial effects which may be produced by judicious arrangement in planting, with due attention to the selection of colours or gradations of tints amongst the different varieties of evergreens. Other chapters are on transplanting large trees; on the evils arising from the pot-culture of such plants as should ultimately become trees; on public prejudices against plants raised from cuttings, grafts, or layers, attempted to be removed; on the formation of rocks and water; on the general adoption of evergreen hedges throughout the country; and on a selection of the most valuable evergreen trees and shrubs which are now available for ornamental and useful planting, with concise popular descriptions. These subjects are all handled with a taste and skill which reflect much credit on the author.

Mr. Barron has a great predilection for evergreens, which he would have planted not only around our residences, but in clumps here and there over the country at large. He says—

"Around the mansions of the great and wealthy of our land, where something like pictorial effect is expected, it is seldom to be found; and especially that snugness and shelter indispensable to real comfort during the portion of the year when *most* wanted.

I would be the last to quarrel with the majestic ramifications of the king of the forest, or even some of his less stately attendants; neither would I be found disputing their value or uses, whether viewed as timber, or regarding the charms many of them give to our park scenery; and I have no wish to deny that even the stag's horn, or lifeless limb of an old oak in *certain localities*, forms an admirable subject for a painter.

I can likewise enter into and respect that venerable feeling which holds sacred, and protects, certain relics of our ancestors' planting; or those shady boughs underneath which friends were wont to meet, who cannot meet on earth again; nay more, I could almost plead for some, whose only beauty consists in once having been witnesses to the playful sports of our childhood. But I have little sympathy with the admirer of fields enclosed by stone walls, or soil embankments, simply because he has not been accustomed to look upon the beauty of hedges; nay, I pity the man, in these days of progress and improvement, who can fold his arms, and either content himself with, or try to admire, that which has neither beauty nor attraction. Notwithstanding for the last twenty years all the advantages of a horticultural press, and the strenuous and most successful exertions of botanical collectors (owing no doubt to the praiseworthy and spirited individuals who have sent them out at no small pecuniary risk), to enrich our shrubberies and plantations—what is so common

as to see, even at the present day, *close to our mansions*, such common-place things as elms, ashes, sycamores, poplars, or any other rubbish that the nearest provincial nursery may happen to be overstocked with; all stuck in to produce either immediate or lasting effect! The immediate effect I shall not describe, but some of the lasting ones are these: a continued litter of decayed leaves during that period of the year when our gardens are expected to look their best; and an assemblage of leafless stems without either beauty of form or outline, and neither affording shelter nor protection from bleak winds for seven months in the year; a want of protection in winter and early spring; the absence of colour (being without leaves) during the same period; the constant litter from falling leaves during the late summer and autumn months; and the unwholesome effluvia arising from decaying leaves in autumn and winter—form insuperable objections to deciduous trees being planted, or indifferent and uninteresting ones remaining, wherever grounds are intended to be highly kept, or where snugness or neatness are expected.

Passionately fond as I am of nearly all trees, yet I consider that not any tree should be planted without an object in view to justify that act; and to plant trees indiscriminately merely because they are trees, or are *thought* to be cheap, and can be easily obtained, is quite as absurd as building a house with any materials which may happen to be cheapest or most convenient, or planting an orchard of fruit trees, without any regard to the value of the fruit when grown.

All deciduous trees, then, should be so disposed of as to secure the greatest possible advantage from their beauties and uses; but should never be allowed to occupy the place of such as will be both more useful and ornamental in a shorter space of time."

Several woodcuts illustrate the present work; and Mr. Barron says—

"I have had the advantage of an artist who, I believe, is considered the most successful of the present day, to take fifty of the best views in the Calotype or Talbotype style, which is, of course, truth itself. A selection from these has been made, and as soon I have obtained a sufficient number of subscribers they will be lithographed in the first style."

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## CONSERVATIVE WALLS.

ONE of the most interesting features of a modern garden is a conservative wall, which, if planted so as to have flowers in succession, from the earliest to the latest period of the season, affords a source of constant pleasure. In the construction of a wall of this kind, the principal point to be observed is the formation of the border; for on this success mainly depends. If the subsoil is very bad and wet, the soil should be removed to a depth of three feet, and the bottom covered with large stones or similar material, over which should be placed a layer of smaller stones, or lime rubbish, to prevent the roots

and soil from passing through. Where this is unnecessary, drains at least three feet in depth should be formed from the wall through the border, at not more than twenty-one feet apart, running into a main drain at the outside of the border, parallel with the wall. There should be a regular fall from the bottom of the wall to the main drain, in order to be sure that no water could lie about the roots of the plants. The border need not be deeper than two and a half feet, its contents consisting of good turfy loam, one-fourth or a greater proportion of peat, a fourth leaf-mould, and some coarse sand. It should not be wider than six feet; it being found better to confine the roots to this space than to allow them a greater breadth.

An eastern or northern exposure should be avoided, and the situation, if possible, should be high and dry; for, under these conditions, plants ripen their wood better than in low damp places, where they grow late, and are the least able to resist frost. Locality has also much to do in the matter. In some parts of Devonshire, Camellias flower well in the shrubberies, where they often stand for many years, and brave as much as 17° of frost. *Veronica speciosa* also flowers there; but these plants would not succeed in most parts of the north of England. In Staffordshire, *Ceanothus azureus* and *divaricatus* have both been nearly killed, even in tolerably mild winters, though planted against a wall, under circumstances favourable enough. The skilful gardener, however, may do a great deal towards modifying adverse circumstances by means of shallow planting and draining.

Where expense is not objected to, canvass screens on rollers would be of great service, and would enable the cultivator to grow many things which he otherwise could not successfully preserve. From the beginning of spring to the middle or end of April this screen should be let down in the daytime, when the sun shines upon the wall, in order that the growth of the plants may be retarded until all danger from late frosts is over. After that time, the more heat and light they receive the better, in order to enable them to ripen their young growth early. The conservative wall at Chatsworth, which is about two hundred yards long, is heated by flues from no less than eight furnaces. The plants are placed within pillars, distant from each other about twenty feet; and there are curtains which roll down, and, meeting in the middle lengthwise, are tied by strings. During hot dry weather it is a good plan to syringe the plants plentifully in the evening, when the sun has ceased to shine on them. A pipe led round the wall and furnished at intervals with stop-cocks to which a hose could be secured, would be the most convenient and expeditious way of performing this operation, provided the water had sufficient fall to give it the required force.

Previous to the approach of winter a covering of peat-mould should be spread over the border to a depth of two or three inches; this would materially assist in warding off severe frosts. Fern also, piled against the bottom of the wall and on the border, would be found of great service. Before putting on the above-mentioned material some well-decomposed leaf-mould should be slightly pointed or forked into the border.



In training, the best plan, both for expedition, neatness, and utility, is to tie the plants to a wire trellis, instead of training them to the wall himself. Upright wires, about five feet asunder, should be fastened by hooks to the wall, to serve as supports for smaller wires placed horizontally a foot apart, and fastened to the upright ones.

In planting, evergreen plants should be mixed with those which are deciduous, and attention should be paid to their arrangement as to height, time of flowering, and the space on the wall each would be likely to occupy. Those of a low-growing habit should be planted so as to fill up the spaces between those which soon grow to the top of the wall, and are bare at bottom. *Salvia fulgens* and *splendens*, and *Chrysanthemums* turned out of pots, are very suitable for planting between tall plants, and flowering as they do at a late period, they serve to relieve the otherwise desolate appearance of the garden at the close of the year. Tea-scented Roses and Fuchsias are also useful for filling up with; some Camellias, protected a little in winter and spring, grow and flower well on such walls.

In the following list I have placed the plants in three classes: one for a wall with flues, and curtains drawn across, &c.; another for a wall that would require no protection but Spruce boughs and Fern; and from these I have distinguished a third, comprising some good hardy plants, well adapted for a wall, and requiring no protection. Those that are most tender, and require the most protection, are—

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p><i>Abutilon striatum.</i><br/> <i>Azalea indica alba.</i><br/>                 " " <i>phœnicea.</i><br/> <i>Aristolochia Siph.</i><br/> <i>Amphicomma arguta.</i><br/> <i>Acacia juniperina.</i><br/>                 " <i>affinis.</i><br/>                 " <i>dealbata.</i><br/> <i>Brugmansia sanguinea.</i><br/> <i>Billardiera longifolia.</i><br/> <i>Brachysema undulatum.</i><br/> <i>Callistemon rigidum.</i></p> | <p><i>Callistemon salignum.</i><br/> <i>Corræa speciosa.</i><br/> <i>Calistachys lanceolata.</i><br/> <i>Clianthus puniceus.</i><br/> <i>Ceanothus azureus.</i><br/>                 " <i>divaricatus.</i><br/> <i>Daviesia latifolia.</i><br/> <i>Eutaxia myrtifolia.</i><br/> <i>Goodia latifolia.</i><br/> <i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia.</i><br/> <i>Habrothamnus fasciculatus.</i></p> | <p><i>Hibbertia volubilis.</i><br/> <i>Illicium Floridanum.</i><br/> <i>Lagerstræmia indica.</i><br/> <i>Plumbago capensis.</i><br/> <i>Sollya heterophylla.</i><br/> <i>Tropeolum pentaphyllum.</i><br/> <i>Veronica salicifolia.</i><br/> <i>Ruscus androgynus.</i><br/> <i>Westringia rosmasiniifolia.</i></p> |
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In the north of England, and in Scotland, all the above, or nearly so, will require a little assistance from flues gently heated; while in the south of England, and the greater part of Ireland, a slight protection with mats, Fern, or Spruce branches will be sufficient. The following are less tender, requiring no protection in the south, and only a slight covering of curtains, Fern, or Spruce during the winter in the north.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Aloysia citriodora.</i><br/> <i>Bignonia radicans.</i><br/> <i>Chimonanthus grandiflorus.</i><br/> <i>Clematis Sieboldii.</i><br/>                 " <i>azurea grandiflora.</i><br/>                 " <i>florida</i>, single and double.</p> | <p><i>Coronilla glauca.</i><br/> <i>Daphne odora.</i><br/>                 " <i>indica rubra.</i><br/> <i>Fabiana imbricata.</i><br/> <i>Forsythia viridissima.</i><br/> <i>Fuchsia coccinea.</i><br/>                 " <i>gracilis.</i><br/> <i>Jasminum nudiflorum.</i></p> | <p><i>Myrtus communis</i>, var-<br/> <i>latifolia</i> and <i>angustifolia.</i><br/> <i>Olea fragrans.</i><br/> <i>Passiflora cerulea.</i><br/>                 " <i>incarnata</i><br/> <i>Solanum crispum.</i><br/> <i>Vestia lycioides.</i></p> |
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The following are a few of the best hardy plants for a wall, needing no protection whatever.

|                          |                       |                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Buddlea Lindleyana.      | Fuchsia Riccartoni.   | Rhododendron arboreum.    |
| Benthamia fraoifera.     | Garrya elliptica.     | „ campanulatum.           |
| Cercis siliquastrum.     | Jasminum Wallichia-   | Smilax aspera.            |
| Cytisus canariensis.     | num.                  | „ maculata.               |
| Clematis flammula.       | Ligustrum lucidum.    | Spiræa bella.             |
| Cotoneaster microphylla. | Lycium fuchsioides.   | „ Reevesii.               |
| Cratægus pyracantha.     | Lonicera Shepherdii.  | „ prunifolia plena.       |
| Climbing Roses.          | Magnolia grandiflora. | Wistaria (or Glycine) si- |
| Escallonia rubra.        | Photinia serrulata.   | nensis.                   |
| Edwardsia grandiflora.   | Ribes speciosum.      | Weigela rosea.            |
| „ microphylla.           |                       |                           |

To fill up large spaces on the wall quickly, plant *Maurandya*, *Rhodocbiton*, *Cobæa*, and *Eccremocarpus*. *Tropæolum canariense* is a very useful climber for the same purpose.

In conclusion, it may be added, that no certain rule can be laid down applicable to every place. General principles can alone be pointed out, and practical skill must adapt them to altered circumstances.

W.

#### NATIONAL TULIP EXHIBITION.

*May 27th.*—This great meeting was held at Birmingham, and was the most successful show of its class that has been attempted. Stands were the rule instead of the exception as heretofore; and we must say that they greatly enhanced the attractions of the exhibition. The flowers were very numerous, comprising many rare and beautiful specimens, culled from the finest collections in the kingdom.

At some future time we shall present our readers with coloured illustrations of a few of the leading new varieties shewn. Subjoined is a list of the awards.

Six blooms, one of each class, the gold medal to Mr. Houghton, of Hamps Hill, Notts, whose varieties were *Royal Sovereign* ex, feathered bizarre; *Captain White*, flamed bizarre; *Coupe d'Hébé* ex ex, feathered byblæmen; *Queen Charlotte*, flamed byblæmen; *Heroine*, feathered rose; and *Triomphe Royale*, flamed rose. These were very fine.

Class A. from which the premier stand was selected: 1st, Mr. Godfrey of Chellaston, with *Captain White*, *Royal Sovereign*, *Van Amburgh*, *Maid of Orleans*, *Triomphe Royale*, and *Heroine* ex; 2d, Mr. Turner of Slough, with *Triomphe Royale*, *Lord Denman*, *Royal Sovereign*, *Arlette*, *Queen Victoria (Groom)*, *Polyphemus*; 3d, Mr. T. Adams of Derby, with *Royal Sovereign*, *Captain White*, feathered byblæmen unknown, *Queen Charlotte*, *Heroine*, *Triomphe Royale*; 4th, Mr. Marsden, with *Captain White*, *Unknown*, *Sarah Ann*, *Ambassadeur*, *Lady Jane Grey*, *La Belle Nanette*: 19 stands were staged for these prizes. In Class B, 12 dissimilar blooms, 4 of each colour, 16 stands were staged: 1st, Mr. Wilmore of Bir-

mingham, with Lady Flora Hastings, Earl Douglas, Duke of Devonshire, Washington, King (Strong), Triomphe Royale, Aglaia, Waterloo, Thalia, Heroine, Britannia, Camuze de Craix; 2d, Mr. Turner of Slough, with Thalia, Duke of Devonshire, Triomphe Royale, Maid of Orleans, Madame Vestris, Triomphe de Lisle, King (Strong), G. Glenny, Pilot, Catalani, Claudiana, Polyphemus; 3d, Mr. J. Edwards of Holloway, with Purple Perfection, Priam, Astonishing, Princess Royal, Junius Brutus, Violet le grande, General Bournavelde, Miss Catherine, Triomphe Royale, Pilot, Catalani, Hamlet; 4th, Mr. Lymbery, with Captain White, Lord Milton, Donzelli, Lord Sandon, Seedling, Seedling, Prince, —, Sarah, Mantua Ducal, Baguet, La Vandicken, Bacchus. In Class C, 9 dissimilar varieties, 8 stands competed: 1st, Mr. Houghton, with Triomphe Royale, Royal Sovereign, Queen Charlotte, Emperor of Austria, Victory, First-rate, Princess Royal, Abercrombie, and Heroine; 2d, Mr. Parkins, with Rose Walworth, Britannia, Lord Duncan, Aglaia, Shakespeare, Royal Sovereign, Venus, Heroine, and Emma; 3d, Mr. Adams, with Captain White, Pilot, Royal Sovereign, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, Enchantress, Triomphe Royale, Princess Royal, and Cornelius; 4th, Mr. Turner, with Princess Royal, Champion of England, Midland Beauty, Glencoe, Triomphe Royale, Lady Stanley, Gibbons No. 2, Purple Perfection, and Albion. Class D, Premier, feathered rose, Agnes, Rev. S. Cresswell; Premier feathered byblœmen, Prince of Wales, Rev. S. Cresswell; Premier feathered bizarre, Pass Perfecta, Mr. Parkins. Class E, Single Specimens, Feathered Bizarres: 1st, Charles X., Mr. Dixon; 2d, Vivid, Mr. Thornily; 3d, Magnum Bonum, Mr. Parkinson; 4th, Colbert, Mr. Dixon; 5th, Catafalque, Mr. Spencer; 6th, Prince Arthur, Mr. Lymbery. Feather and Flamed Bizarres: 1st, Captain White, Mr. Godfrey; 2d, Pilot, Mr. Astle; 3d, Lord Milton, Mr. Frearson; 4th, King (Strong), Mr. J. Edwards; 5th, Glencoe, —; Polyphemus, —. Feathered Byblœmens: 1st, Maid of Orleans, Mr. Thornily; 2d, ditto, Mr. Adams; 3d, Victoria Regina, Mr. Spencer; 4th, Sarah, Rev. S. Cresswell; 5th, Washington, Mr. Ackerly; 6th, Baguet, Rev. S. Cresswell. Feathered and Flamed Byblœmens: 1st, Princess Royal, Mr. Houghton; 2d, Queen Charlotte, Mr. Thornily; 3d, General Bournavelde, Mr. Hartland; 4th, Lord Vernon, Mr. Parkinson; 5th, Salvator Rosa, Mr. Dixon; 6th, Lord Denman, Mr. Astle. Feathered Roses: 1st, Heroine, Mr. Spencer; 2d, Napoleon, Rev. S. Cresswell; Rose Baguet, Mr. Dixon; 4th, Bion, Mr. Dixon; 5th, Lady Crewe, Mr. Ackerly; 6th, Rebecca, Rev. S. Cresswell. Feathered and Flamed Roses: 1st, Vicar of Bradford, Rev. S. Cresswell; 2d, Aglaia, Mr. Parkinson; 3d, Triomphe Royale, Mr. Parkins; 4th, La Vandicken, Mr. Parkins; 5th, Triomphe Royale, Mr. Godfrey; 6th, Fanny Cerito, Mr. Astle. Class F, Flame or Beam: 1st, King (Holmes), Mr. Wills; 5th, High Admiral, Mr. Wilmore.

The Committee who so successfully managed this exhibition deserve the thanks of Florists generally. The arrangements were complete. The judges also deserve our meed of praise. Theirs was an onerous duty, which was performed conscientiously and satisfactorily,

the "purity" principle being strictly adhered to. In another season we hope to see more attention paid to arranging the blooms in the stands by the exhibitors.

We have only to add, by way of conclusion, that the meeting for 1853 will be held at Nottingham, and that a Committee has been appointed to carry it into effect. We have every confidence in the result, as the gentlemen entrusted with the arrangements have had great experience in such matters.

### NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*May 27.*—Mr. Stains in the chair. Pelargoniums were staged by Messrs. Beck, Story, and Ambrose, and cut blooms by Mr. Ayres. A certificate of merit was awarded to Empress (Beck); colours vermilion, with rich crimson shaded spot; form good; distinct and desirable. A fancy variety named Magnum Bonum (Ambrose) was similarly rewarded; upper petals crimson purple, lower petals pencilled and shaded with crimson violet; form and substance good.

A Cineraria named Beauty of Hamilton Terrace received a label of commendation, being distinct in colour and general appearance, in the way of Lady Hume Campbell. Calceolarias were exhibited by Messrs. A. Henderson and Co.: one called Heywood Hawkins was promising.

Azaleas and Ericas were contributed by Messrs. Henderson; and Pansies, Fuchsias, Tulips, by T. H. Brown, Esq., Mr. R. Drake, and Mr. J. Edwards. Mr. J. Hodge was elected a member.

*June 3d.*—Mr. Lidgard in the chair. Calceolarias were shewn in considerable numbers, and some of them were of great promise. Labels of commendation were awarded to Heywood Hawkins mentioned above; it is a half-shrubby dwarf kind, free-flowering, yellow ground, uniformly marked with rich brown crimson; to Fascination, novel in colour, a shaded flamed red, moderate form, good habit; to Araminta, yellow ground, heavily marked with crimson, form good, habit second rate; to Fireball, new in colour, orange scarlet on a yellow ground, outline good, smooth, of average size. These were contributed by Messrs. Henderson of the Wellington Road. *Pansies*: a certificate of merit was awarded to Mrs. Rouse (Bragg), white ground, purple belting, and upper petals of the same shade; Daphne (J. H. Brown) was of good bright colour, and in many respects desirable. A label of commendation was awarded to a fancy Pelargonium named Ariel, of which the censors reported that if it maintained its properties when more in flower, it would doubtless receive a higher award. This came from A. Henderson and Co. Some breeder and other Tulips were sent by Mr. Willison of Whitby.

*June 17th.*—J. J. Colman, Esq., of Norwich, in the chair. At this meeting there was a large attendance, and the room was full of good flowers, of which we can only find space for a notice of the leading varieties in each class.

*Pelargoniums*. Mr. Black, gardener to E. Foster, Esq., President of the Society, sent Wonder, a flower of fine substance; black top-petals, with narrow margin of crimson; bottom-petals deep rosy purple. It was awarded a certificate. Also Heroine, maroon spot on top-petals, rosy crimson margin, light rose bottom do., pure white centre; and Marvellous, a seedling of 1852, of fine form and proportions; and 6 plants of Optimum, not for competition, as it has gained the highest award the Society gives: it fully maintains its character. G. W. Hoyle, Esq., of Reading, sent Astrea, warm rose shaded off to the margin on the top-petals with orange, clear large white throat; a striking variety, which was awarded a label of commendation. Leonora, a fine free-blooming variety, previously noticed; and Oscar, deep rich crimson scarlet, black spot on top-petals, opens freely and well; a constant good variety. Mr. C. Turner sent Novelty, Attraction, and Ringleader, all free-flowering kinds of rich attractive colours. Mr. Dobson sent a collection of cut blooms of *Pelargoniums*; the most conspicuous were Vulcan, Model, and Pasha.

*Fuchsias*. A first-class certificate was awarded to Mr. G. Smith, for Banks' Glory, a rich dark variety of good habit, with reflexed sepals; Mr. Turner sent two varieties by the same raiser, Dr. Lindley and Multiflora. The former a rich noble dark variety was awarded a certificate; the latter is desirable, on account of its free-blooming properties and good habit.

*Fancy Pelargoniums* were sent by Mr. Ayres of Blackheath. Hebe, a seedling of 1852, rosy violet with white throat and border, is a sweet variety; and Perfection improved, a free-blooming kind, of fine form, with the colours of Perfection. There were also two or three pretty varieties from Messrs. Henderson of the Wellington Road, but they were not sufficiently in bloom for us to speak of their general character. The same firm sent a miscellaneous collection of interesting plants, including the novel Phlox Mayii variegata, Gloxinia Victoria Regina, pale lilac, with intense purple throat, one of the best in cultivation; do. argyrostigma, purple with white marking in the throat. This variety has foliage, strongly veined with silvery white. Mr. Bragg of Slough sent several interesting seedling *Pelargoniums*, but they were not sufficiently in bloom; also a stand of seedling Pansies: Velvet is a rich dark; Sampson, a yellow-ground variety, style of Supreme; Laertes and Pandora, good kinds of the same class; Sir H. Smith, a yellow-ground variety also, but rough on the edge. Mr. Tyso of Wallingford sent a very interesting and finely-grown collection of *Ranunculuses*. Some well-grown plants of *Antirrhinum* Primrose Perfection, from 1 ft. to 15 in. high, and with from twelve to twenty spikes of bloom on each, were sent by C. P. Lochner, Esq., and Mr. Edwards, the Honorary Secretary. This is not only the best *Antirrhinum* of its class, but one of the best in cultivation.

Mr. Griffin of Uxbridge exhibited a hybrid *Rhododendron* in the way of *R. fragrans*, named *Compactum odoratum*; it is of good habit, and well adapted for pot culture; colour delicate blush, and very fragrant. Messrs. Henderson of Pine Apple Place sent

several *Calceolarias*, which have been previously described; and two bedding *Geraniums* from Lucium Roseum. *Kingsbury Beauty*, pale salmon rose, and *Miss Emily Field*, pale blush, are charming pot plants; but we doubt if the colours are not too delicate for bedding purposes: both received labels of commendation.

Mr. Ayres of Blackheath sent several hybrid *Geraniums*; fancy flowers, with scented foliage; one, *Odoratissimum punctatum*, was awarded a first-class certificate; colour deep rosy crimson, strongly spotted on the bottom-petals. Mr. Barnes of Stowmarket received a label of commendation for a bright rosy purple *Petunia* of good shape, named *Lady Cullum*.

The Chairman, in adjourning the meeting to the 1st of July, briefly and gracefully complimented the Society on the success of its proceedings; and stated that, as a person living at a distance, the awards and reports of the National Floricultural Society were looked to with interest and confidence both by himself and his neighbours.

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NEW PLANTS

FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

PAXTON'S Flower-Garden for June has coloured plates of

The **DARK-PURPLE HELLEBORE** (*H. atrorubens*). A hardy herbaceous Christmas Rose, from Croatia, which, though not new, is nevertheless rarely met with in English gardens. It is a perfectly hardy and very pretty border-plant.

The **CILIATED RHODODENDRON** (*R. ciliatum*). A Sikkim kind, described in a previous Number.

The **DARK-EYED FRINGED DENDROBE** (*D. fimbriatum*; var. *oculatum*). A very handsome variety, whose dark blotch or eye makes it a great improvement on the self-coloured species.

The Number also contains some pretty woodcuts, the most interesting among which is perhaps a leaf of the fine evergreen pinnated **CHINESE BERBERRY** (*B. trifurca*), which attracted so much notice at the last great exhibition at Chiswick.

In the *Botanical Magazine* for the same month we find:

SIEBOLD'S MEDINILLA (*M. Sieboldiana*). A good addition to this interesting genus. It is a stove plant which, besides its drooping racemes of rosy flowers, may be expected to bear fruit about as handsome as the blossoms.

LARGE-FLOWERED GUICHENOTIA (*G. macrantha*). A singular-looking rather than beautiful hoary shrub from Swan River, whose flowers are purplish-coloured.

The **LANCE-LEAVED BRACHYSEMA** (*B. lanceolatum*). Also a Swan River shrub, with deep crimson, or rather scarlet blossoms. It is suitable for the greenhouse or conservatory.

SWAN RIVER ACACIA (*A. Cynorum*). A neat species, worthy of attention.

The **SWEET TRICHOPIL** (*T. suavis*). A handsome Orchid from central America. The flowers are cream-coloured, mottled with rose, and are said to be powerfully fragrant.

The **OLEANDER-LEAVED PODOCARPUS** (*P. neriifolia*). A good-sized greenhouse shrub, stated to be pretty when in fruit. It is a native of Nepal, and was introduced many years ago.

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Pansies

1 Sir J<sup>ts</sup> Cathcart 2 National.  
(Turner) (Turner)



## THE PANSY.

IN our Number for February we called the attention of cultivators to the Pansy, as being worthy of attention as a gay, continuous-blooming plant, independent of its merits as a Florists' flower for exhibition. We feel some pleasure in referring to that article, as the experience of the last four months has more than verified our predictions, which we exemplified by the plants exhibited at Chiswick on the 8th of May. The flowers produced on that occasion were large and abundant, in good colour, and the plants were dwarf, with foliage depicting the best of health. At home, these plants were a source of attraction and beauty for a long time.

At the present season it would be injudicious to have any plants at all in pots. They should be planted out as soon as they are struck, keeping the surface of the beds loose, by often stirring the soil; and they should be watered as often as circumstances shew that they require it.

It is a point which should not be lost sight of, that a much larger number of plants than is likely to be required should be propagated, in order to ensure a good selection for potting up at the proper time in autumn.

Now that the blooming season is over, it may not be unimportant to take a short review of what has been done in 1852, and note what progress has been made in new varieties. The bloom of the past season has been of more than average duration, owing to the lateness of the spring and absence of sun,—circumstances which have operated more in favour of plants in pots, with protection when required, than of plants in beds. For all purposes of exhibition, whether growing or in a cut state, those in pots will succeed best for the months of April and May; but for June the beds must be resorted to, blooms from which will have the advantage both in colour and size, but they will not equal blooms from pots for smoothness.

As regards new varieties, the improvements effected have been considerable; and we have thought it well to furnish our readers with coloured illustrations of two of them, viz. Sir J. Cathcart and National. The former has been more than usually successful, being an early and constant bloomer; it has been frequently exhibited, and has received the highest award from each Society.

Its good properties consist, among other points, in its being stout in the petal, with very fine colours, the ground being

very deep rich yellow, and the top-petals and margin nearly red—a colour we have long aimed at producing. It was raised from an un-named seedling, a sort we have retained some time on account of its colour, being nearly a scarlet, but it is deficient in other properties.

National is not good till May; but it keeps its colour without running throughout the summer, which is unusual with light Pansies. In its young state, it has a pale-straw ground, which bleaches white as it “ages;” but in either conditions the ground-colour is entire, with a narrow and well-defined margin. It was raised from Mrs. Beck, which is a seedling from Optima; and those who have grown the two old varieties will observe the advance made in gaining a great amount of ground-colour, which sets off the eye and the margin to advantage. Of other seedlings, perhaps the best is Marchioness of Bath, raised by Mr. Wheeler of Warminster. This is a pure white-ground variety, with purple top-petals and margin; the eye very dense blotch, which is also very conspicuous on the side-petals as well as the bottom: a fine flower. The same may be said of the Marquis of Bath by the same raiser, a yellow-ground kind, possessing all the richness of the Duke of Norfolk in its best state; but very superior in form, as it lies flat, and shews the eye well on the three lower petals. Hales' Monarch is a good flower of the same strain, evidently from the Duke of Norfolk; all of which are exceedingly rich in colour during the first part of the blooming season.

Velvet is a rich dark, and Samson a good yellow-ground variety raised by Mr. Bragg. Sir J. Paxton (Betteridge) will be a pleasing flower; it has a straw-coloured ground with very dark velvety top-petals and margin. Rising Sun (Turner) is a peculiar flower, with bright yellow-ground colour, and bronze-red top-petals and margin. On some future occasion we may perhaps furnish our readers with a coloured likeness of this variety.

Of sorts sent out last season our Scotch friends have helped us considerably. St. Andrew (Downie and Laird) is a beautiful dark, but a little undersized. Marian (Dickson and Co.) is a large bold flower, straw round the eye, with rich purple top-petals and margin: a little more ground-colour would have made this No. 1 of its class; it is, however, very stout, and possesses fine form. Flower of the Day (D. and L.) is a large useful dark. King (Jennings), another large flower of the same class, but darker, and will be useful. Pandora and Laertes, both raised by Mr. Hunt, are two very desirable yellow-ground flowers. Maid of Athens (Handasyde) is good

in form and colour, but indistinct about the eye. Gliffe (Dickson and Co.) is one of the largest Pansies grown; it is a little coarse, but will be a favourite. Lady Emily (D. and L.) is fine in form and large, but the lines from the eye run into the margin, which is a great drawback. Peacock (Dickson and Co.); Pluto (Kimberly), a large Lucy Neal like flower; Pompey (Hale), not large, but very good dark; Adela (Turner), yellow; with Euphemia, Diadem, Alfred the Great, and Chieftain; Favourite is a nice yellow-ground flower in the way of Supreme; Black Diamond is perhaps the darkest, but it is a bad grower; and Sultan (Hooper), comprised the best of those of 1851. If we have omitted any, it is because they have not come under our notice.

The following are not generally known or much out, but they are very good, viz. Great Britain (Parker), fine yellow-ground; Royal Visit (Dickson and Co.), straw-ground with rich top-petals and margin, one of the best Pansies raised; Lord Walsingham (Thomson), yellow ground; Africanus (Dickson and Son), rich dark-mulberry, large, and of good form.

Of old kinds that can be depended on, and which have flowered most satisfactorily with us during the past season, we would mention Blanche, Constantine, Duke of Perth, Lucy Neal, Ophir, Polyphemus, Rainbow, Sambo, White Sargeant, Addison, Duke of Norfolk, Elegant, France Cycole, Juventa, Keepsake, Mr. Beck, Ophelia, R. Burns, Sir P. Sydney, Supreme, Sir J. Franklin, Thisbe, Aurora, Almanzor, Caroline, Mrs. Beck, Mrs. M. Hamilton, Penelope, Queen of England, and Sir R. Peel.

Any seed that has been saved should be sown at once under glass, but with plenty of air.

Cuttings of choice kinds should still be put in, and planted out as soon as they have become rooted.

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### ON ROSE-STOCKS.

A WORD or two perhaps may not be unwelcome to your readers on the subject of Rose-stocks, particularly as the time has now arrived when the chief budding must be done. Presuming that the stocks have been properly treated, such as have not already been worked with a *pushing-bud* ought now to be fit to undergo the important transition from the wild to the cultivated Rose.

I prefer to work with a pushing-bud all kinds of *summer* Roses, *i. e.* those which bloom but once in a season; for they will then gene-

rally flower the succeeding summer, making blooming wood the same season that they are budded; but if worked with a dormant bud, they naturally cannot, as they then have to form blooming wood for the purpose, which does not ripen soon enough to bring flower-buds: this does not, however, apply to autumnal Roses; and as it is rather more satisfactory to work with a dormant bud, and the shoots if not strong and healthy are apt to be killed in a severe winter, or during late frosts in the spring. I think for all autumnal Roses it is safer and better to wait until August, and work them with a dormant bud. The operation of working with a pushing-bud is best performed in June, carefully selecting those stocks, the shoots of which are strongest and ripest; and I need not add, that care must be taken to keep the wild wood pinched off constantly; but not until the buds have been *ascertained to be secure*. I usually cut the main shoot off about a foot above the inserted bud; to cut it nearer might be dangerous, as the shoot is apt to die down a little distance after cutting it; and until the inserted bud is *well established*, it is necessary to allow the stock to push above the bud, in order to draw the sap past the true bud. I hope I have made myself clear to your readers; the matter is, I confess, a little complicated.

I have digressed a good deal, I fear, from what I intended to be the aim of this letter, which is this: I wished to call the attention of such of your readers as are lovers of Roses, and wish to be independent of the professional grower, and make their own standards (if they are not already sufficiently aware of its importance), to one great point of success in making handsome and healthy trees, which is too frequently overlooked: this is, to take care to suit the stock to the scion or Rose which is to be worked on it. I have often observed with pain, such Roses as Baronne Prevost and Caroline de Sansal looking unhealthy, although taken care of in other respects, merely from the fault of having budded them on small thin stocks totally unfitted to bear such vigorous heads as these Roses delight to make, from not being able to furnish the nourishment necessary for their due development; the consequence being, that they look very unhealthy, and the Roses on them are small and quite out of character. The reverse of this is equally painful, if not worse; for it must strike every one as absurd at the least to bud such Roses as Pauline Bonaparte, or Pompon de St. Radegonde, on large, strong stocks; and the result is commonly deplorable: the Rose not finding vent for its vigour, exhausts itself in throwing up a forest of suckers, which, however they may be eradicated, ultimately prove fatal to the stock, and it dwindles and dies. I therefore beg earnestly to suggest to such as are interested, to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the growth and habit of their different Roses before venturing to make their standards.

ROBERT PROCTOR.

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## A MAYOR AND CORPORATION SHOW.

A Mayor and Corporation Show ! and pray, what have we to do with a Mayor and Corporation Show ? What to us is it, with its City-marshal leading the way, its worshipful Companies of Grocers and Goldsmiths, its Mercers and Spectacle-makers, Fishmongers and Tallow-chandlers ? Wherein are we interested in its beadles and banners, its watermen, mounted aldermen, and charity children ? What to us is the pomposity of mace, the severity of sword-bearer, the gravity of Mr. Recorder, or the complaisance of my lord, all “ nods and bows and wreathed smiles ? ” What do we care whether his lordship “ takes water ” at Blackfriars or London Bridge ? What to us is the ancient man in armour, or man in ancient armour ? What the man in brass, who albeit heroically bent upon the full performance of his martial duties, is evidently galled by the rapid fire simultaneously opened upon him on all sides from hundreds of pairs of eyes, and sorely distressed by the “ chaff ” exploding in every direction ? What to us is it even though great Gog and Magog “ walk ; ” or what to us is the glory of the returning procession, adding to its morning features the addition of banners dripping with a thick November mist, and dragging in the civic mud ? Beadles and watermen unsteady in their equilibrium ; aldermen nervously grasping the manes instead of the bridles of their steeds ; the man in brass bemused with beer ; and the ancient man in armour so exhausted with his dreadful strife and deeds of daring-do, that he maintains his seat on his gallant Rosinante only by the aid of his faithful squires. What, I say, have *we* to do with civic pageantry ? Nothing ; our show is of a very different order ; we have to sing or talk of the floricultural show held by the Mayor and Corporation of Nottingham, on June 24th, in the arboretum founded by them for the use of the town for ever,—a show, we believe, without precedent in the annals of such bodies.

All honour, then, to our noble mayor and body corporate ; and may their excellent example be followed in every town in the length and breadth of the land ! And how have the “ people ” responded ? Is the arboretum appreciated, and was the show successful ? Eminently so. When it has been our good fortune to visit the arboretum, we have always found it crowded ; and between three and four thousand visitors testified the interest felt in floricultural exhibitions. Each, the arboretum and the exhibition, added the one a grace to the other ; and the delight of the good people of Nottingham was evidenced on every side. Liberal, too, as were the prizes—amounting to upwards of 50*l.*—the funds of the arboretum, after payment of every expense, were advantaged by over 100*l.* Well, then, we may wish the example so well set may be widely followed ; and we would gladly know some part of the spirit exhibited had reached the managers of our own beautiful arboretum (Derby), so well adapted as it is for floral gatherings.

The exhibition was most creditable to the various establishments of the midland counties; but we are unable to specify other than a few of the productions (such as were recognised by us), from the absence of their names or other means of information in the exhibition. This we hope will be remedied in future; and we counsel the managers to have the name of the exhibitor, as well as the production, appended to every subject at the time it is placed on the exhibition-table. It gives most needful information; it prevents the production of many subjects by the incompetent and grovelling, who calculate upon the impossibility of losing if nothing is to be obtained at such a time; and who, not ashamed to receive an award, provided one be obtained, would still be ashamed without a prize to acknowledge the inferiority; it saves much needless trouble, and its adoption is *not general* only from one of the most unworthy of prejudices; and we trust our good friends of Nottingham have minds as clearly swept from such ugly discrepancies as the beautiful lawns of their arboretum, and as expanded as their noble "recreation-walks." One other subject, too, we venture to hint to the Committee: in future their lists should not require the production of such *long numbers*. "Selection" is now the order of the day; and there are few establishments in the midland counties capable of turning out at fourteen days' notice twelve unimpeachable stove-plants, and a like number of greenhouse denizens. Inferiority is thus compulsorily placed side by side with excellent examples of horticultural skill; and a low standard of excellence is placed before the public, instead of that highest effort which alone should satisfy. Competition in an extended sense is also impossible; and instead of the *best efforts* of many, we have the first and second, third and fourth-rate efforts of a *few* only. Amongst stove-plants, the best examples were a fine *Stephanotis floribunda*, *Cyrtoceras reflexum*, *Chirita Moonii*, *Torenia asiatica*, *Oncidium flexuosum*, and a *Stanhopea* from Mr. Bayley of Derwent Bank, Derby; and *Allamanda cathartica* and *Schottii*, *Vinca rosea* and *alba*, and *Achimenes longiflora*, *venusta*, *grandiflora*, and *rosea*, from Mr. Dryden of Allestree Hall, Derby. Mr. Taylor, gardener to Captain Legard, exhibited fine specimens of *Vinca rosea*, *Hibiscus Parkeri*, and *Pentas carnea*. These were fine specimens, and with less numbers the collections would be wholly composed of such. Of greenhouse plants, the best were fine specimens of *Mitraria coccinea*, contributed by Mr. Bayley and A. Lowe, Esq.; a fine *Kalosanthes coccinea*, and very pretty examples of *Boronia serrulata*, *pinnata*, and *denticulata*, *Pimelea rosea*, *Tetratheca verticillata*, and *Hugelli*, and a seedling *Epiphyllum*, a cross between *Jenkinsonii* and *speciosissimum*, with flowers larger than the parents—habit of *Jenkinsonii*—from Mr. Bayley. Mr. Bayley's Heaths were good, particularly the *Erica Cavendishii*.

Good *Pelargoniums* were produced; but we could not observe from whom; the *Fancies* were very good, the first prize being very properly given to some well-managed compact little specimens: these were, *Defiance*, *Reine des Français*, *Belle d'Epinois*, *Carlotta Grisi*, *Perfection*, and *Mr. Linden*. Some larger rivals were well-grown; but over-potted, as we thought, and as a consequence the trusses

were very meagre. Fuchsias were not at all to our mind; they were straggling and leggy; and notwithstanding all that can be said in favour of rapid growth, it finds no favour with us in the case of the Fuchsia. We should have been glad had our friends seen and studied the examples of this flower produced in the Townhall of Birmingham on the 27th May. Cut Roses were fine for the early season, and there was a good competition. Of other cut-flowers there were a few Pinks, Ranunculuses, and Pansies; and in fruits some fine Pine-apples and Grapes. Vegetables were shewn largely and in fine condition by the gardeners of the neighbourhood. It was very gratifying to our feelings of nationality that the chief prizes were borne off by exhibitors from our own neighbourhood (Mr. Bayley and Mr. Dryden), as proving the utility of the exhibitions which we have helped, in a small degree, to establish here; but far more gratifying was it to us to note the cordial feeling which was shewn on every side, and the hearty emulation which seemed to animate all engaged; and very cordially indeed we trust such kindly feeling may more and more abound.

*Derby.*

E. S. D.

#### A NOTE ON THE MATURATION OR RIPENING OF GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

THE plan recommended in your last, p. 139, though it has novelty to promote its adoption, would not, I fear, have a very slightly appearance, especially upon a lawn. Besides, all pots are not made with holes at the sides, as described by J. H. B. With large plants, such as he mentions, it will be better to plunge the pots two-thirds of their depth in the ground, arranging them either singly over the lawn, or collecting them into groups, according to the taste of the proprietor or gardener. Thus specimen-plants may be made to serve a very interesting purpose, imparting quite a new and exotic feature to the lawn, admitting of their proper training at all opportunities, and at the same time allowing each plant to be properly inspected and examined. Of course, in such an arrangement care must be taken in preparing the holes for the pots to secure proper drainage, and also by placing some lime-rubbish or cinder-ashes in the bottom, to prevent the ingress of worms. Plants so arranged have the advantages, so much to be desired, of a cool bottom, without the roots or pots being exposed at one time to scorching heat, and at others to cold chills, consequent upon the vaporisation of the moisture from the sides of the pots. And these are great points; for though, to secure the thorough maturation of the wood, full exposure is necessary for the branches, nothing is more injurious to tender-rooted plants than the undue exposure of their pots to a dry and acrid atmosphere.

In exposing tender plants, however, for the benefit of atmospheric influences, the fact must not be lost sight of, that while some plants require thorough exposure to mature their wood and set the flowers, others are better for a partial shade; and many, as among our choicest Heaths and Chorozeas, do not set their flowers until

the completion of their growth, in the very depth of winter, or even spring. But even these are benefited by full exposure in the autumn; for it must never be forgotten that, though a plant may not complete its growth before winter sets in, it may, by proper exposure in the autumn, so elaborate and store up the proper juices, as to induce almost invariably the flowering principle at the proper season. To secure a healthy bloom in hard-wooded plants of all kinds, the first point is to induce healthy and vigorous growth, and then to secure its proper maturation or ripening. This can only be achieved by proper exposure, not necessarily out of doors, but under glass, by placing the plants in the lightest part of the house, and also by admitting a free current of air to pass through them.

The notion of starving a plant into bloom is perfectly ridiculous. It would be as reasonable to attempt to starve a child into healthy growth. What we want in plants difficult to bloom is healthy root-action, and with it firm, strong, short-jointed wood in proper season; then mature it properly, and bloom is certain. We once purchased a specimen-plant of *Erica depressa*, of a variety which, it was said, never would bloom properly. The plant, though healthy-looking, was exceedingly weak, through the attempt having been made to starve it into bloom. I took an opposite course, potted it, and got it into good growth; and the following autumn almost every point or shoot was studded with flower-buds. Through the autumn, from June until September, the plant was placed in the full sun, the pot being plunged in cinder-ashes, and nothing could answer more completely. Now this is confessedly one of the most difficult Heaths to bloom satisfactorily; but I am quite sure the failure arises more from starving than from liberal treatment.

Some good cultivators object to exposing many of the finer kinds of greenhouse-plants to the open air at all, more especially the finer kinds of *Azaleas* and *Eriostemons*. I do not like to expose them until their growth is quite completed, and their blooming rendered quite certain; but then, I think, a few weeks in the open air, more especially if they are not exposed to drenching rains, is very beneficial to them. Great care, however, must be taken to get the flower-buds of such *Azaleas* as *Gledstanesii*, *variegata*, and the like, plump and full before the plants are turned out; but the free-growing varieties bloom almost under any circumstances. The dews and gentle rains of autumn have a very invigorating effect upon plants, and if, in showery weather, the plants are laid upon their sides, they are materially benefited, by the under side of the foliage being properly washed, and to some extent cleared of insects and bad foliage. Cleanliness is the hinging-point of success in plant-management, and hence too much attention cannot be devoted to it. If filth of any kind is permitted to accumulate upon plants, insects soon follow; and the time necessary to extirpate them will be much greater than what is required to keep the plants clean, to say nothing of the superior appearance of plants so managed.

*Brooklands Nursery, Blackheath, Kent.*

W. P. AYRES.



## CLOSE OF THE GREAT METROPOLITAN EXHIBITIONS.

THESE monster gatherings of plants and company were brought to a successful termination on Saturday, July 10th. This, the third Chiswick fête, had the additional attraction of having the Duke of Devonshire's grounds thrown open for the free admission of the company. The day being fine, 8820 visitors embraced the opportunity of being present on the occasion. The Horticultural Gardens and the well-known grounds attached to Chiswick House were in the best possible order; the luxuriant foliage of the trees, and refreshing smooth green lawns, appeared to delight all present.

The exhibition itself was, for July, a very good one. Fruit, Heaths, Pelargoniums, and miscellaneous stove and greenhouse plants formed the principal attractions; and, except the Fruit, all were better than we ever remember to have seen them so late in the season. Orchids were fairly over. There were some large and finely-laced Pinks; but of Carnations and Picotees, only one exhibition (Mr. Willmer's) was produced, with flowers such as the judges wisely passed without any award.

Of novelty very little was present. Mrs. Lawrence was first, with the large collection of miscellaneous plants; and Mr. Cole, gardener to H. Colyer, Esq., was second, with a group scarcely, if any, inferior. Mr. Coles's six plants, which were overlooked by the judges, were all noble specimens. The *Erica retorta major*, shewn by Mr. Smith, gardener to W. Quilton, Esq., which took the first prize for a specimen-plant, was truly beautiful. Mr. Constantine's *Lisianthus Russellianus* was very fine, and scarcely less interesting.

*Pelargoniums*, 12 plants, in 8-inch pots: 1st, Mr. J. Robinson; 2d, R. Stains, Esq.; 3d, Mr. Parker, gardener to J. Strachan, Esq., Teddington. 11-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Bonham, Staines; 2d, Mr. Parker, Dealers, 8-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Turner; 2d, Mr. Gaines; 3d, Mr. Westwood; 4th, Mr. Bragg; 5th, Mr. Hunt. 11-inch pots: Mr. Westwood was the only exhibitor. As at the opening show in May, Magnet was the leading flower; we also noticed as good, Mochanna, Cristine, Rowena, Alonzo, Ajax, Plantagenet, Beatrice, Virgin Queen, Salamander, Magnificent, Star, and Mont Blanc. Fancies, 6 varieties: 1st, Mr. Miller, Paddington; 2d, Mr. Robinson; 3d, Mr. Stains. Dealers: 1st, Mr. Turner, with perhaps the best plants shewn this season, namely, Madame Rosati, Alboni, Beauty, Clementine, Delicatum, and Perfection; 2d, Mr. Gaines; 3d, Mr. Westwood: Richard Cobden, Triumphant, Princess Maria Galitzin, Lady Hume Campbell, were good.

*Pinks* were shewn in very good order, 24 varieties: 1st, Mr. Turner, with Optima, Great Britain, Criterion, Sarah, Harry, Esther, Arthur, Lola Montes, Theresa, Whipper-in, Narborough Buck, Mrs. M'Lean, Sappho, Colchester Buck, Richard Smith, Optimus, Duke of Wellington, Huntsman, Rubens, George Glenny, Phoenix, Lord Valentia, Heroine, and Pride; 2d, Mr. Bragg, who also exhibited, and was awarded a prize for a stand of seedlings, some of

which were flowers possessing good properties, the best being, Sir J. Paxton, James Hogg, Mrs. Bragg, Duke of Wellington, and Prince of Wales; Mr. Baker of Woolwich was awarded a prize for a stand of 12 clean, well-laced blooms. Mr. Turner exhibited a stand of 12 blooms of his Pink Optima, which for evenness and richness of lacing, size, or smoothness of petal, has no equal.

In seedlings there is nothing to report. The society has not only discontinued awarding prizes to them, but it does not even provide a convenient place for their exhibition. Thus one of the most interesting portions of the show is lost; and as it would cost nothing but the accommodation necessary for staging such productions, we are the more surprised at the present arrangement.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, *June 30th*.—A fine day brought together the largest company which has attended any exhibition this season. The show itself was not so good as we have seen. Roses in pots were over; and, from the lateness of the season, there were few cut Roses; Orchids and stove and greenhouse plants were scarce. In large collections, Mr. Cole, on this occasion, took the lead; Mrs. Lawrence being second. Mr. Cole's plants were in first-rate order, more especially his stove-plants, which consisted of noble specimens of Allamandas, Dipladenias, Ixoras, &c., with perhaps the best *Roella ciliata* ever produced. There was a very large display of *Pelargoniums*; in fact they were the principal attraction, and compensated for the falling off in other departments. The awards for Florists' flowers were as follows:

*Pelargoniums*, 12 varieties in 8-inch pots: 1st, Mr. J. Robinson; 2d, R. Stains, Esq.; 3d, Mr. Black, gardener to E. Foster, Esq.; 4th, Mr. Lockner. 11-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Westwood; 2d, Mr. Parker; 3d, Mr. Turner. Dealers, 8-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Gaines; 2d, Mr. Turner; 3d, Mr. Westwood; 4th, Mr. Bragg; 5th, Mr. J. Dobson. Fancies: 1st, Mr. Robinson; 2d, Mr. Miller; 3d, Mr. Staines. Dealers: 1st, Mr. Turner; 2d, Mr. Westwood; 3d, Mr. Hunt; 4th, Mr. Gaines. The sorts were generally such as have been before exhibited. *Delicatum*, R. Cobden, *Beauty Supreme*, *Perfection*, *Madame Rosati*, *Anne*, *Triumphans*, and *Anais*, we noticed as superior. Mr. Black's plants were exceedingly "well done,"—foliage covering the pot, carrying a fine head of bloom, and well up for the day, the quality of the bloom itself being such as we have seldom seen combined, with good dwarf plants, which consisted of the following kinds: *Eleanor*, *Lamartine*, *Ariel*, *National*, *Cloth of Gold*, *Magnet*, *Lavinia*, *Shylock*, *Spot*, *Enchantress*, *Pulchrum*, and *Optimum*. Some may be led to imagine that the two lots placed before Mr. Black (the first and second) were something out of the common way; we regret to state that they were not; the flowers on them were such, that had the names not been attached, few growers would have been able to distinguish the varieties, so much were they out of condition. The plants were large, with plenty of foliage; but to say nothing of the quality of the bloom, there was as much flower on the third collection as that on the two lots above them put together. It will be asked, then, why was Mr. Black placed third? This, however,

we must leave for the judges (?) of the day to answer. There were other instances where the judgment was nearly as questionable; but as we are personally interested, it will be out of place to allude to them here.

*Pinks* were shewn by Mr. Turner and Mr. Bragg; also in the amateur class by Mr. Baker, Woolwich, and Mr. Edwards, Holloway; and prizes were given in the order in which they stand. Many of those exhibited were seedlings, the best being, Sarah, Esther Koh-i-noor, Duke of Wellington, Prince of Wales, Glory, Perfection, Dr. Hawtrey, Arthur, and Harry. Optima was also fine.

*Pansies*: 1st, Mr. Turner; 2d, Mr. Bragg: Mr. Thompson also sent a stand of blooms, but it was not placed.

*Seedlings. Pelargoniums*: Optimum was shewn better perhaps than we have ever seen it, four plants being present; it is an abundant bloomer, producing large trusses, which, with the richness of the colour combined with good habit, makes it very effective; Queen of May is also a very showy plant; colour orange-scarlet. These were from Mr. Black, gardener to E. Foster, Esq. Mr. Hoyle of Reading sent Zaira, a spotted orange-rose, very novel, and of good form; also Portia, white, with spot on top-petals; a free-flowering variety, which will make a good exhibition plant. Novelty, by Mr. Turner, is a free-flowering attractive variety: this and Zaira had certificates, as had also a dark Pansy from Mr. Bragg.

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#### FUCHSIA GRACILIS.

THE following is a speedy way of increasing this useful Fuchsia: on the approach of an anticipated cold and dreary winter, I covered my beds of hardy Fuchsias as usual. On removing the turf-sods in the succeeding April, to my surprise I found that all the shoots of *F. gracilis*, which had been cut and laid on the stools previously to the sods, had taken root, and were divisible into plants, some hundreds in number. Many of these entire shoots, however, I potted at once, while a portion of the remainder was laid on the ground till the following spring, when they were treated similar to the others. On the arrival of a more genial season, I was compensated with a multitude of the most gorgeous specimens of this attractive species, which continued to display its handsome blossoms the whole of the ensuing season. The shoots, it should be observed, were three feet in length (the summer's growth in our dry soil), and of course admitted of being planted immediately, without waiting the ordinary period of obtaining plants. In this way the trouble of striking was saved, together with considerable attention, usually required in the period during which cuttings are attaining a necessary degree of strength and height, to render them available for the different purposes to which they are commonly applied.

*Englefield Green.*

WILLIAM WHALE.

## FLOWER-GARDENING.

I OFTEN feel greatly annoyed at seeing flower-clumps in such a state as to be any thing but pleasing or interesting; and this notwithstanding that there had been bestowed upon them a sufficient amount of time and expense to have rendered them as beautiful as they should be. It is not at all uncommon to see a number of half-hardy plants stuck into spaces amid a thicket of annuals and strong-growing plants, and the latter allowed to take their own course, which is speedily to smother the former and then one another; and when they have done this, they are removed to allow the half-hardy plants to display their beauty; but instead of healthy specimens clothed in the gayest colours, it is found that they are one-half dead, and the others useful only as a source of grumbling; and we frequently see persons neglect the propagation of half-hardy plants until the season is too far advanced to allow of their being rooted and sufficiently hardened to resist the effect of the damp and sunless months of winter under the circumstances in which they are placed. I also very often meet with instances in which the plants are so misplaced in planting, that their beauty and effect are sadly marred for the whole season. Now I imagine that a few hints as to how these things ought to be done might be useful, especially to some of your fair readers, of limited gardening knowledge and means.

If by the time that the October Number of the *Florist* is in the hands of the subscribers, the frost has not done its work among the flower-beds, it may be expected that they will soon be stripped of their beauty; therefore let no time be lost in examining the present arrangement, and noting its defects and deciding upon a system for next season. The want of a decided plan by which to work in the busy season of planting, is perhaps the greatest cause of failure; and I don't think that I can give any better directions as regards this part of the work, than to advise ladies to study the arrangement of the bouquet with which they are in the habit of daily furnishing their sitting-room table, and gentlemen amateurs to copy from the same; for I have often been amused with the contrast of the arrangement of these two, when both were the work of the same head and hands—the arrangement of the bouquet being such as to produce a perfectly beautiful whole made up of the individual objects, which in the flower-clump formed only a disagreeable mass of confusion; and this entirely through their having been misplaced in planting, and afterwards not attended to so as to maintain order and neatness. Now I admit that it is much easier to arrange a bouquet than a flower-clump, in so far as the different objects of the former can be placed and replaced as often as such may be necessary until the eye is satisfied with the position of every individual sprig, and with the effect of the whole; but if this cannot be done with the subjects composing the flower-bed in exactly the same way, it is nevertheless easily

accomplished with a little time and application. Why not study minutely the position of the colours, &c., in a bouquet which is perfectly satisfactory to the taste, and by this aid determine upon the position and space for the various colours, and note them upon a rough sketch of the bed? Having done this, the next thing should be to decide upon the plants to be used, having a careful eye to their height; and should any difficulty arise in this part of the work, from the arrangement of the bouquet having placed colours in such a position as to render it difficult to find plants of the colour, and suitable as to height, this must be obviated by a careful rearrangement of the copy, in which such difficulties must be taken into account and provided against, and this will be easily effected after a few trials. I do not conceive it necessary, nor do I think that it is possible, to give minute directions for the placing of the colours and the plants to be used. There are few persons so destitute of a sense of the beautiful as to be unable to accomplish this so as to suit their own circumstances, provided they will only set about the work in a methodical way; and after having suggested a bouquet as the copy, I need hardly say that I perfectly detest all specimens of flower-gardening, where bed A is planted with scarlet, B with white, C with yellow, and so on through all the gradations of colour which can be found among plants, capable of either thriving or lingering out a miserable existence in such a situation; and I confess that I have never been able to perceive any meaning in the term "complimentary colours," when applied to such patching, except that I have understood the writers using such a phrase to mean by it "contrasting patches of colour." I heartily wish all such arrangements a comfortable passage to China; for although they may be just tolerable in highly architectural situations, they are very ill-adapted for most places in which we meet them. I would, however, advise the amateur not to be ambitious to display a great variety of plants in his flower-clump, but rather to use such only as can be propagated and wintered with his means.

Having once determined upon the colours for the spaces, and the plants which are to furnish the colours, it will be easy to calculate how many of each will be wanted, and allowing for deaths, &c., the necessary number of each to be propagated, thus avoiding the unnecessary waste of space which often occurs from harbouring too many of one variety, and the disappointment frequently experienced at planting-out time, when it is found that, from the want of previous arrangement, the clumps cannot be furnished as desired. It would extend this article to an unreasonable length to name all the plants which are suitable for the amateur, and give such directions for their propagation and winter management as would suit the tyro. Verbenas, scarlet Geraniums, Lobelias, yellow Calceolarias, blue and scarlet Salvia and Petunias, are perhaps the best of half-hardy plants; and as these are all easily propagated and wintered, a sufficient stock of them should be provided; and now that glass is so cheap, the little necessary expense need hardly prevent any amateur from furnishing a suitable winter habitation for them. An outlay of from three to

four pounds would secure accommodation for as many plants as would be necessary to furnish most amateurs with the means of making a grand display during the summer and autumn. I find a three-light box, which cost four pounds, ample accommodation for 200 4-inch pots, and perfectly suitable for propagating and wintering most of the fashionable bedding-plants. All amateurs should be forward with the propagation of these things, so as to have a good supply of well-rooted plants, inured to the sun and air during the day, and the cold at night, in order to prepare them for the damp months which will ere long overtake us. The principal secret of preserving half-hardy plants over the winter with indifferent accommodation, lies in their being rooted early and gradually hardened afterwards. I find July, or early in August, the proper time to put in cuttings. It will be found that in rooting them after this season damp will be a great enemy to contend with: use light porous soil with plenty of sand, and admit air daily; but only just sufficient to prevent the cuttings from damping-off, until they are well-rooted, then give it gradually in abundance, and allow the potting-off to stand until the sunshine of March.

As soon in autumn as the bedding-plants become unsightly, I remove them, and set about digging and manuring the ground if the latter be necessary; and this I do well, as the ground is empty no more for twelve months; for as soon as it is ready, I plant early-flowering bulbs, and in the beginning of March I sow amongst them some annual seeds. But these are at all times kept within strict bounds, and are not permitted to interfere with the bulbs or the bedding-plants; and in order to do this, they must be trimmed weekly, and gradually removed as the bedding-plants increase. They prevent the naked appearance which otherwise is the case during the end of May and June, and if properly kept within bounds they do not injure either the bulbs or bedding-plants. By attention to the above method of proceeding, I am seldom short of a tolerable supply of flowers from February to November, for it is seldom that the Verbenas and Roses are quite cut off before November, and February is generally gay with Aconites, Crocuses, Snowdrops, &c. I hope every amateur reader of the *Florist* may be as well supplied. Method and perseverance will accomplish the whole matter.

OMEGA.

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#### HOTHOUSE FERNS.

IN your last Number (p. 144) are some observations on the cultivation of Tropical Ferns and Lycopods, with the names of a few genera, in which are found some of the most beautiful among exotic Ferns. I now annex a list of all the best herbaceous stove kinds that are in cultivation, and which will all luxuriate in the temperature of an Orchid-house. I have omitted the arborescent kinds, as from their more robust habit and rapid development they soon

become too large for an Orchid-house, and consequently require a house for themselves. The list also contains those which have a good habit and are very manageable, without taking in any of the large and more coarse-growing kinds. It is as follows :

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Polypodium Plumula.           | Litobrochia denticulata.   |
| "    "    pectinatum.         | "    "    leptophylla.     |
| Nothochlæna trichomanoides.   | Pteris heterophylla.       |
| Gymnogramma rufa.             | "    lata                  |
| "    "    tomentosa.          | "    semibipinnata.        |
| "    "    calomelanos.        | Onychium lucidum.          |
| "    "    tartarea.           | Blechnum glandulosum.      |
| "    "    chrysophylla.       | "    "    brasiliense.     |
| "    "    ochracea.           | "    "    cartilagenium.   |
| Leptogramma villosa.          | "    "    occidentale.     |
| "    "    gracilis.           | "    "    gracile.         |
| Meniscium simplex.            | Asplenium cicutarium.      |
| Goniopteris fraxinifolia.     | "    "    viviparum.       |
| "    "    crenata.            | "    "    serra.           |
| Goniophlebium vacciniifolium. | "    "    planicaule.      |
| "    "    piloselloides.      | Neottopteris vulgaris.     |
| "    "    argutum.            | Aspidium trifoliatum.      |
| "    "    verrucosum.         | "    "    macrophyllum.    |
| "    "    subauriculatum.     | Sagenia hippocrepis.       |
| "    "    latipes.            | "    "    coadunata.       |
| "    "    deflexum.           | Fadyenia prolifera.        |
| Cyrtophlebium repens.         | Nephrodium molle.          |
| Phlebodium venosum.           | "    "    terminans.       |
| "    "    decumanum.          | Lastrea augecens.          |
| Drynaria vulgaris.            | "    "    chrysoloba.      |
| "    "    capitellata.        | Cyclopeltis semicordata.   |
| "    "    quercifolia.        | Didymochlæna truncatula.   |
| Hemionitis palmata.           | Nephrolepis pectinata.     |
| Elaphoglossum callæfolium.    | "    "    undulata.        |
| "    "    scolopendrifolium.  | "    "    tuberosa.        |
| Olfersia cervina.             | "    "    acuta.           |
| Platycterium grande.          | Leucostegia immersa.       |
| Adiantum macrophyllum.        | Microlepis polypodioides.  |
| "    "    obliquum.           | Sitolobium adiantoides.    |
| "    "    lunulatum.          | Davallia pentaphylla.      |
| "    "    caudatum.           | "    "    ornata.          |
| "    "    fovearum.           | "    "    solida.          |
| "    "    pubescens.          | "    "    dissecta.        |
| "    "    curvatum.           | "    "    elata.           |
| "    "    flabellulatum.      | "    "    polyantha.       |
| "    "    cuneatum.           | Lygodium flexuosum.        |
| "    "    concinnum.          | "    "    volubile.        |
| "    "    tenerum.            | "    "    venustum.        |
| "    "    trapeziforme.       | "    "    scandens.        |
| Cheilanthes radiata.          | Aneimia collina.           |
| Cassebeera farinosa.          | "    "    villosa.         |
| "    "    pedata.             | "    "    adiantifolia.    |
| Doryopteris sagittifolia.     | Ancimidietyon Phyllitidis. |
| "    "    palmata.            | "    "    Hænkei.          |
| "    "    collina.            | "    "    fraxinifolia.    |

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

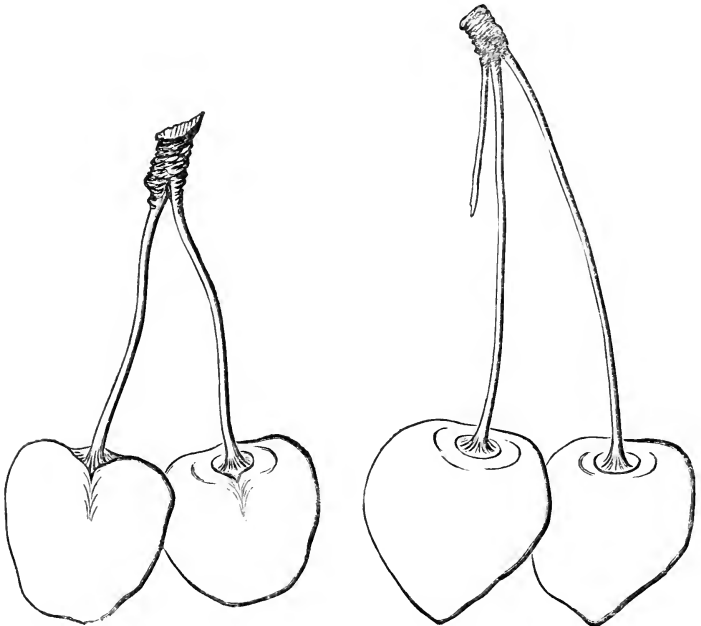
J. HOULSTON.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

CHERRIES (*continued from p. 148*).5. *Black Tartarian*.

Synonyms: Tartarian, Fraser's Black, Fraser's Tartarian, Fraser's Black Heart, Ronalds's Black Heart, Ronalds's Black, Black Russian, Circassian, Black Circassian, Superb Circassian, Ronalds's Large Black Heart, Fraser's Tartarische.

Fruit large, heart-shaped, at times a little obtuse, and irregular in outline, with a small suture on one side. Skin dark red and very glossy, changing to a fine purplish black as it approaches maturity. Stalk of moderate length, slender, and inserted in a deep even cavity. Flesh purplish-red, firm, but melting, sweet, very rich, and high-flavoured. Stone middle-sized, ovate, much flattened at the sides. The fruit ripens about the middle of July, and will hang a few weeks on the tree.



Black Tartarian.

Elton

This variety can be easily distinguished from other kinds by its upright growth and compact habit. It bears well as a standard; but richly deserves an east or west wall. The fruit *sets* well and *stones* freely, which renders it a desirable kind for forcing. It is



somewhat uncertain where this beautiful Cherry originated, as we have different accounts respecting it. It was propagated in the Brentford Nursery about the end of the last century, and sent out under the name of "Black Circassian;" reported to have been brought from Circassia, and it may now be had from most nurseries under that name.

#### 6. *Elton.*

Fruit very large, heart-shaped, a little pointed at the apex, outline irregular. Skin glossy, mottled and tinged with bright red next the sun, fading to a clear yellow on the shaded side. Stalk very long, slender, and inserted in a slight depression. Flesh pale yellow, firm, very sweet, juicy, and luscious: far superior to all other pale-fruited kinds. It ripens in the beginning of July, and soon shrivels after it is fully matured. Stone large, having a thin shell, and shaped like the fruit.

The tree is of strong growth and spreading habit. Young shoots pendulous; leaves long and narrow, with red footstalks, by which it is readily known. It bears remarkably well as a standard; but succeeds best on a south or east wall.

This truly valuable Cherry was raised by the late Mr. Knight, in 1806; and for richness of juice, large size, and great beauty, it cannot well be surpassed.

*Frogmore.*

J. POWELL.

[To be continued.]

### ROYAL SOUTH-LONDON FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*June 23.*—There was a good show of miscellaneous plants and Pelargoniums; but the regulation of the committee requiring Pinks to be exhibited off cards, caused the show of Florists' flowers to be quite a failure, the practice being much against the wishes of the majority of the subscribers. The best were furnished by Mr. Baker, who had Winchester Rival, Lola Montes, Mrs. Hooper, Laura, Countess Rossi, Morning Star, Dr. Fox, Jenny Lind (Read's), Pickwick, Jenny Lind (Pierce's), Kate, and Mrs. Burman; 2d, Mr. Hardstone; 3d, Mr. Halliday; 4th, Mr. Ellis. Dealers: 1st, Mr. Ward, with Huntsman, Queen, Laura, Winchester Rival, Prince Albert, Favourite, J. Neville, Morning Star, Pierce's Jenny Lind, Stow's Edwin, Melona, Pickwick; 2d, Mr. Willmer. Ranunculuses were produced, but they were also inferior to what we have seen them. Mr. Phillips had the best, among which were Belle agréable, Dilectus, Dr. Gardiner, Queen, Belvidere, Mars, Prince Albert, Hogarth, Felicitus, Flaminus, and Milo. In the dealers' class Mr. Parker was first. Some Pansies were furnished by Mr. August of Beddington, and a collection of seedling Irises by Mr. Salter; Mr. Mocken of Forest-hill received a certificate for Verbena (seedling), Purple King, a large bold flower, and good in colour. Some Fuchsias were shewn; and we noticed

plants of *Antirrhinum Primrose Perfection* (Edwards), which is certainly a first-rate thing.

July 21.—There was a good exhibition of miscellaneous plants on this occasion, and a fair display of Florists' flowers. *Fuchsias* were contributed by Mr. Mocken 1, and Mr. Hook 2. Dealers: Messrs. Hill and Stevens 1, Mr. Hayhow 2, and Mr. Pawsey 3. The leading sorts were, Kossuth, Pearl of England, Nil Desperandum, Don Giovanni, Clapton Hero, Elegantissima, One-in-the-ring, Dr. Smith, Lord Nelson, and Hebe. *Cut Roses* contributed their share of attraction: the collections of Messrs. Paul 1, Mr. Francis 2, and Mr. Clarke 3, contained, among others, Robin Hood, Standard of Marengo, Gloire de Colmar, Baronne Prevost, Dr. Marx, Kean, Géant des Batailles, Auguste Mée, Madame Pepin, Niphetos, Cloth of Gold, Baronne Hallez, La Reine, Lady A. Peel, Duchess of Sutherland, Devoniensis, Chereau, Dupetit Thouars, Madame Laffay, Reine des Fleurs, Mrs. Elliott, Queen Victoria (Paul), and Lady F. Waldegrave; Mr. Wilkinson was also a contributor, but not for competition. A prize offered to amateurs by Mr. Denyer was awarded to Mr. J. Edwards of Holloway, for Duc de Valmy, Robin Hood, Madame Andot, La Reine, Devigne, Eugene Desgaches, Napoleon, Blanchfleur, Boule de Nanteuil, Gloire de Couline, Charles Duval, and General Jacqueminot. Among *Hollyhocks*, which were contributed by Mr. Bragg and Messrs. Paul, we noticed General Bem, Spectabilis, Magnum Bonum, Miss Forbes, Black Prince, Robert Burns, Susannah, Charles Baron, Meteor, Waterford Surprise. *Scarlet Pelargoniums* were furnished by Mrs. Conway, and about forty *Balsams* by Messrs. Smith. *Verbenas* were abundant, Mr. G. Smith and Mr. Stewart representing the dealers, while Mr. Lochner, as an amateur, won the Silver Cup, value 5*l.*, with King, Miss Jane, St. Margaret, Napoleon Bonaparte, Lady of the Lake, Exquisite, Model of Perfection, Purple Queen, National, Marianne, Enchantress, and Standard. Mr. Long of Watford was first for the Society's Verbena prize, with Marianne, Laura, Napoleon Bonaparte, St. Margaret, Exquisite, Koh-i-Noor, Alba Magna, Model of Perfection, Shylock, Miss Jane, Defiance, and National.

Of *Carnations* and *Picotees* there was an average number, but although some fine specimens were observable, taken as a whole the quality could not be generally termed first-rate. In the Private Growers' Class, for 12 white-ground Picotees, the 1st prize was awarded to Mr. May of Sonning, for Audrey, Iphigenia, Prince of Wales, Beatrice, Fanny, Portia, Juliet, Prince Arthur, Mrs. Norman, Jupiter, Venus, and Rosamond; 2d, Mr. J. Edwards of Holloway, with Prince Arthur, Sebastian, Heroine, Constance, Mary, Queen Victoria (Green), Gannymede, Mrs. Bevan, Lady H. Moore, Portia, Lady Chesterfield, and Beatrice; 3d, Mr. C. P. Lochner, Paddington, with L'Elegant, Mrs. Norman, Gannymede, Lord Nelson, Alfred, Ann Page, Prince of Wales, Mrs. Barnard, Constance, Queen Victoria (Green), Surprise, and Venus. 12 Carnations: 1st, Mr. Lochner, with Flora's Garland, Duncan, William IV., Twyford Perfection, Queen Victoria, Mayor of Oldham, Edgar, Prince Albert, S.B.;

Rainbow, Prince Albert (Hale), Count Pauline, and Prince Albert (Puxley); 2d, Mr. May, with Flavia, Lorenzo, Owen Glendower, Cardinal Wolsey, Prince Arthur, Beauty of Woodhouse, Edgar, Cavalier, Poins, Rosetta, Squire Trow, and Omnium Primum; 3d, Mr. Newhall, with Beauty of Woodhouse, Fanny Gardener, Justice Shallow, Lorenzo, William IV., Flora's Garland, Owen Glendower, Admiral Curzon, Vivid, Mayor of Oldham, Sarah Payne, and Squire Trow; 4th, Mr. Edwards, with Ariel, Bardolph, Prince Albert (Puxley), Prince Albert (Hale), Sir H. Hardinge, Sarah Payne, Justice Shallow, Premier, Sir H. Smith, Sir J. Reynolds, Squire Trow, and Queen Victoria. Dealers, 12 Picotees: 1st, Mr. Turner, with Attraction, Prince of Wales, Jupiter, Prince Albert, Mrs. Norman, Gannymede, Audrey, Circe, Jessica, Alice, Witch, and Grace Darling; 2d, Mr. Ward, with L'Elegant, Sebastian, Duchess of Bedford, Mrs. Barnard, Delicata, Princess Royal, Mrs. Norman, Henry, Queen Victoria (Green), Juliet, Rosa, and King James. 12 Carnations: Equal 1st, Mr. Turner and Mr. Ward; the former produced Flora's Garland, Owen Glendower, Princess Royal, Justice Shallow, Prince Albert (Puxley), Mar's Beauty of Woodhouse, Madame Sontag, Admiral Curzon, Lorenzo, Glory, and Falconbridge; Mr. Ward's flowers were, Prince Albert (Hale), Mayor of Oldham, Flora's Garland, Rainbow, Lorenzo, Sarah Payne, Black Diamond, Lord Rancliffe, Milton, Queen Victoria, Beauty of Woodhouse, and Count Pauline; 3d, Mr. Bragg, with Flora's Garland, Prince Albert (Hale), Twyford Perfection, Dido, Duncan, Ariel, Count Pauline, Lord Rancliffe, Princess Charlotte, Prince Albert (Puxley), Queen Victoria, and Sarah Payne. The extra prize offered by Mr. Turner for varieties he had "let out" of Carnations and Picotees were both awarded to Mr. May, for sorts mostly his own production, such as Constance, Juliet, Portia, Cardinal Wolsey, Owen Glendower, Poins, Romeo, Rosetta, and Caliban, &c. The prize offered by Mr. Turner for 6 yellow-ground Picotees was won by Mr. Lochner, with Mount Etna, Fairy, George III., Euphemia, Duc d'Alençon, and Queen (Martin).

Among seedlings, Norman's Lord Derby, C.B., was alone of any merit. A certificate was granted to a Picotee, but on what ground no one could understand. The Society appears to be losing its standing among seedling-raisers, a circumstance which we pointed out last month. The company was numerous, and the day most propitious.

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#### AN EVENING'S WALK IN SEARCH OF WILD FLOWERS.

ON the 22d of June I felt disposed to employ an hour or so in search of wild flowers, to see if any had at other times escaped my observation. I commenced my journey early in the evening, going along the Bagshot road, and directing my course to Canada Coppice. Upon approaching the wood, I first walked round a portion of the same in the fields. I then entered the thicket at the south side, though here I encountered some difficulty in penetrating sufficiently

to prosecute my search for floral treasures. In a few minutes I had received many severe scratches from disorderly brambles; and continuing my pursuit, again and again I experienced the same significant repulse for my intrusion. I was, however, soon compensated by discovering the *Listera ovata*—a single plant. I immediately resolved on plucking the flower for preservation. I did so, subsequently adding it to that already in my herbarium. The root was also taken up, and assigned a place amongst other favourites in course of cultivation. In a short time I moved farther eastward, and observed amongst the swamps *Scutellaria minor*, extending itself here and there, sometimes in large patches, and at others in the shape of a solitary little plant.

In several shady spots were to be seen extraordinarily fine specimens, almost in abundance, of *Aspidium filix fœmina* and *Aspidium dilatatum*. After traversing over huge tufts (composed partly of *Narthecium Ossafragum*), and often sinking many inches deep into those numerous little places, sometimes termed ponds, found between the tufts, I was brought to a secluded spot, where were soon discovered two plants of the *Listera ovata*, which I permitted to remain undisturbed. Near here I found a plant or two of *Orchis latifolia*, mixed with hundreds of *O. maculata*. Passing thence through an extreme thicket, there appeared, in rather an open small situation, gigantic specimens of the *Osmunda regalis*, or Royal Fern: from its size, I was ready to exclaim with Sir Robert Schomburgk, when he discovered the Royal Water Lily in its native waters, "I feel as a botanist, and feel myself rewarded." Many of these were found to measure six feet and upwards in length, assuming a truly noble appearance. This species is well named the Royal Fern, since its remarkable height, as well as the size of the plant, renders it decidedly superior to every other British kind. After strolling about, and noticing only the *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *nemorum*, and *Nummularia*, as also the Enchanter's Nightshade; and hearing no human voice for nearly two hours, nor, indeed, other sound to break the stillness of the evening, except the gurgling of the little rivulets that here and there pervaded the wood, I quitted the interior, though not without observing some other rather ordinary plants.

The evening growing dark warned me that I should prudently desist; and for the moment casting botanical enthusiasm aside, and thinking of the little journey to be performed, I reluctantly put an end to my interesting little tour, and resolved on returning home.

*Englefield Green.*

WILLIAM WHALE.

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#### NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*July 1.*—E. Foster, Esq., president, in the chair. Full as was the meeting on the 17th of June, this one considerably surpassed it: seedlings were most profuse, numbering more than 100, and of members more than 50 were present. Antirrhinums were furnished by

Mr. Joy, Mr. Bragg, Mr. J. Edwards, and Messrs. Garaway of Bristol. A first-class certificate was awarded to Modestum (Garaway), two spikes being produced; tube whitish, throat yellow, lip and cap regularly striped; a remarkably bold flower of fine form. Mr. Joy's sorts were mostly of dull colour, and Mr. Bragg's of average merit. A nice collection might have been formed from the Calceolarias staged by Mr. Barnes of Camberwell. Queen Victoria and Camden Hero were among the best sorts. An Erica named Multiflora splendida came from Mr. Epps; it is a free flowerer, but it wants novelty. Of Fuchsias from Mr. Turner, Lady Montague received a label of commendation; sepals and tube pink, corolla rosy purple. J. Willmore sent Captain Brook, a dark variety in the way of Elegantissima, and not distinct enough to merit reward. Cut-flowers of Glory (Banks) were staged by Mr. G. Smith; this flower received a first-class certificate at a former meeting. Pelargoniums were well supplied: Mr. Black, gr. to E. Foster, Esq., exhibited National, Queen of May, Eleanor, Cloth of Gold, and Optimum, the latter in first-rate condition, and it is certainly "The Flower of the Day." Mr. Turner sent Novelty, Scarlet King, and a semi-double sort, the exact counterpart of the Willmore Surprise. W. Hocken, Esq., shewed Empress; G. W. Hoyle, Esq., Portia and Zaira; Mr. W. P. Ayres, hybrid bedding sorts, Sidonia, Variegatum, and Painted Lady. Fancy sorts of 1851: Nil Desperandum, Miniature, and Autumnum. Of 1852: Fearless, Niobe, Sir J. Paxton, Psyche, Flash, Elegance, Masterpiece, Geraldine, Aramis, and Queen of Crimson. Mr. G. Smith, Hornsea-road, had a pink-flowering bedding-sort, named Prince of Wales. Grand Sultan came from Mr. Malyon of Camberwell, and yearlings and two-year-old cut-flowers from Mr. Hoyle, and Mr. Black of Clewer. Of these, Novelty (Turner) received a label of commendation; lower petals rosy pink, splashed and veined with maroon, upper petals deep maroon margined with rose; form tolerable, habit good, and an excellent trusser. A certificate of merit was awarded to Cloth of Gold (Foster), lower petals salmon-scarlet slightly veined, upper petals almost black, margined with scarlet crimson; attractive on account of its bright colours. Zaira (Hoyle) obtained a certificate of merit; lower petals salmon-pink, distinctly blotched with deep crimson, upper petals somewhat similar in colour, and nearly covered with deep orange-crimson blotch; habit not very strong. Label of commendation to the bedding sort from Mr. Ayres, named Variegatum, ground white, veined, and blotched with pink. Certificate of merit to Nil Desperandum (Ayres), lower petals white with purple blotch, upper petals shaded purple-crimson; of dwarf and compact habit. Autumnum (Ayres) was much admired; it is in the way of Hero of Surrey; Masterpiece (Ayres) possesses many desirable points. Of Pinks, Pansies, and Petunias, there were numerous contributions from Mr. Turner, J. Norman, Esq., Messrs. Scholefield and Son, Mr. Salter, Mr. G. Rogers, Mr. Wyness, gr. to her Majesty at Buckingham Palace, Mr. Bragg, and Mr. J. Edwards. A certificate of merit was granted to Pink Esther (Turner), light purple, fine petal, and good pod; a similar award was made to Pink Perfection

(Turner), purple, full and smooth in the petal. First-class certificate to Pink Colchester Cardinal (Norman), purple, fine bold broad petal, large, smooth, and full, pod good; by far the best of its class. Certificate of merit to Pink Koh-i-noor (Bragg), pale purplish rose; full, desirable on account of its distinct colour; petal passable. Some Ranunculuses were furnished by Mr. Willmore of Birmingham. A collection of 24 varieties of Verbenas came from Mr. G. Smith; others were submitted by Mr. Hamp and Mr. Wyness: although possessing some merit, they were not considered sufficiently good to receive any award. Roses were furnished by Mr. Wilkinson of Ealing Common. Isaac Anderson, Esq., of Maryfield, near Edinburgh, sent a Veronica, a hybrid between *V. angustifolia* (?) and *V. speciosa*, the former being the female parent; the spike comes in all its florets a bright pink or rich carmine; but, as in *V. Andersonii*, the florets first expanded undergo a transition from carmine to white, so that while the lower part of the spike has changed into the latter, the upper part retains the brilliancy of the former colour. It is exceedingly pretty.

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## NEW PLANTS

FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

PAXTON'S *Flower-Garden* for July contains coloured plates of—

The OVAL OXYLOBE (*O. ovalifolium*). A handsome greenhouse shrub from Swan River. It produces dense clusters of yellow and brown pea-shaped flowers on short footstalks, from the axils of the leaves all up the stems.

The HOODED ONCID (*O. cucullatum*). A rather pretty Orchid from Central America, with a spotted violet lip, and reddish-brown sepals and petals.

There is also another plate, the letterpress relating to which is promised to be given in next Number.

Several pretty woodcuts ornament the miscellaneous portion of the work.

In the *Botanical Magazine* for the same month, we find

The WALLICH BERBERRY (*B. Wallichiana*). A handsome yellow-flowered shrub, which is expected to be hardy.

The SCALY RHODODENDRON (*R. lepidotum*). A small purple Sikkim kind, which Dr. Hooker figured in his *Rhododra*, under the name of *R. elæagnoides*. It is interesting rather than striking.

The FALSE CALUMBA-ROOT (*Cosciniun fenestratum*). A plant of some interest perhaps in the *Materia Medica*, but of little to our readers.

DENDROBIUM FARMERI. A handsome light-coloured species now to be found in most collections of Orchids.

The WARTED CEANOTH (*C. verrucosus*). A hardy evergreen shrub, with very pale purplish blue flowers, very different from those of the other Californian species. It looks as if it would be an acquisition.

CÆLOGYNE OCHRACEA. An Orchid, figured in 1846 in the *Botanical Register*.

The *Garden Companion* for June has

The PYRAMIDAL GASTROLOBIMUM (*G. pyramidale*). A very handsome pea-flowered shrub, and perfectly new. It comes from Swan River, and will be found to be a very ornamental greenhouse-plant. The flowers are yellow and brown, in compact globular clusters, on short footstalks issuing from the axils to the leaves.

**CYCLAMEN IBERICUM** and **C. ATKINSONII** (one plate) Two charming kinds, well worth the notice of lovers of Cyclamens. One is red, the other is white shaded with red. Both are of neat habit; and when in flower in good-sized patches, as we have seen them, nothing of the kind can possibly be handsomer.

Two woodcuts contribute to further illustrate the Number, which is, upon the whole, a very good one.

The following notes are from Kew :

**MAHERNIA VESTITA.** This is one of the prettiest flowering plants that has been lately introduced to our gardens. It has a dwarfish habit, is a profuse bloomer, and will be found an acquisition to any collection. It is an evergreen greenhouse shrub, attaining the height of about a foot. It has small leaves, and pendulous flowers, which grow singly or usually in pairs on the apex of almost every branchlet. They are large for the size of the plant, and are of a bright brownish red and yellow. This species thrives well in a mixture of peat and sand, if well drained; being of a very slender branching habit, the branches become pendent, so as nearly to cover the pot altogether. A good specimen of it is in one of the greenhouses at Kew, and is literally covered with its beautiful bright-coloured flowers.

**BECKIA RUBRA.** An interesting hard-wooded evergreen greenhouse shrub, of rather slender growth, having small leaves and pink flowers, which are borne in great profusion from the axils of the leaves along the branches. With a fair share of pot and head-room, with a little attention, this species may be made to form a very handsome bush. It grows about three or four feet high, and when in flower has a very neat appearance.

**JASMINUM AZORICUM.** Among the very extensive number of shrubs in cultivation, there are but few more popular or more universally esteemed than the Jasmines; they are to be found adorning the walls of the cottage, as well as the parterres of the more opulent,—fragrance being their predominant character, has made them the favourite of poets, and people in all ages. More than fifty species are contained in the genus, among which are several that are hardy, their flowers being either white or yellow. The present one, *J. azoricum*, is an evergreen greenhouse climber from Madeira. It is admirably adapted for covering a back wall, or pillars, or any other unsightly objects, as it is of very free growth, and has large shining leaves. A plant of it was planted out about two years ago, and is trained against a back wall in one of the greenhouses at Kew, where it now thickly covers a space of twelve yards by four, and with a little timely attention it is kept within proper bounds, presenting a neat and lively appearance at all seasons.

**JASMINUM PUBIGERUM** is a hardy evergreen species from Nepal, which thrives freely in any common garden-soil. It has long slender branches, which are well suited for training against a wall. The leaves are smooth, of a palish green, and the flowers are of a bright yellow, and are in great abundance throughout the summer months. There are fine specimens of this plant growing against east and west walls at Kew; one thickly covers a space of twenty-eight feet by twelve, and is now, in the early part of June, expanding its pretty yellow flowers.

**EURYLIA LYRATA.** A hardy evergreen hard-wooded shrub, belonging to Compositæ, having slender branches, and flowers similar to those of an Aster. The leaves are small, of a dark green, and flowers white, with a yellow centre. It is rather a pretty flowering plant, and requires to be planted against a wall, in any common garden-soil. It is a native of Van Diemen's Land. The flowering season of it with us is June.

**EURYLIA ILICIFOLIA.** This species is of a similar habit and description to *E. lyrata*, but it is less showy; both of them should be planted between large-growing kinds, against a wall, as they will not require much space: there are plants of them at Kew, about three feet high, flowering abundantly.

**GENISTA VIRGATA.** This is an old plant, which has been long in cultivation, being introduced more than half a century ago from Madeira. It is one that richly merits a place amongst all collections, few being more attractive than this species when in flower. It may be cultivated as a pot-plant in a greenhouse or conservatory, having a good habit, and pea-shaped yellow flowers, which com-

pletely cover the whole plant. It is planted against an east wall at Kew, in light soil, and is protected with a mat during severe weather in winter. Its flowering season is June. It grows about six feet high, and is easily formed into a good specimen.

**LINUM FLAVUM.** This is an evergreen perennial, long since introduced from Austria. It grows freely in common light garden-soil, and forms a neat compact plant, about nine inches high; the flowers are of a light yellow, and are produced for many weeks together in succession. It is very useful as a border-plant, and likewise forms a good bedding-plant, especially if planted in a bed not over large, and one that is near the margin of a walk, as the plant is of low growth; it flowers abundantly in June and July.

**LINUM NARBONENSE** is one of the best of the genus; it is a very pretty-flowering hardy perennial, of free growth in common garden-soil, and if planted singly forms a compact bush about two feet high; the flowers are about an inch in diameter, of a light blue, and are in perfection in June.

**LINUM AUSTRIACUM** is a slender-growing species, about two feet high, with flowers of a pale blue. It is a very suitable kind for planting near the back of a border, or the centre of a small bed. It flowers copiously in June and July.

**LINUM MONOGYNUM** is a very ornamental kind. It has a tolerably good habit, grows about a foot and a half high, and has white flowers. Several other hardy kinds are found in gardens, but the above are the best and most distinct in colour.

**TRIFOLIUM AURANTIACUM.** This is an exceedingly beautiful species, one of the prettiest among herbaceous plants. It is dwarf in habit, and when in flower has a neat appearance. It should be planted in small patches near the edge of borders, or it is a suitable kind for planting a small bed with. It grows about eight inches high, and flowers copiously in the summer months; the flowers are light yellow.

**ONOSMA TAURICUM.** Scarcely any herbaceous plant has a more charming appearance when in flower than this. Though an old plant in gardens, it is to be regretted that it is not more extensively cultivated, as it grows freely and flowers abundantly in any common garden-soil. If treated as an alpine plant, kept in a somewhat shaded situation, and well supplied with moisture while growing, it is a beautiful object; or it may be successfully cultivated in pots in a cold frame, as it is worthy of attention. It grows about a foot high, the flowers are pendulous, and produced on the apex of every branchlet; they are of a bright yellow, and remain for a considerable time in perfection.

**GYNOGLOSSUM MONTANUM** is a very interesting evergreen species, with a close habit; it is an excellent border-plant, grows about a foot high, and has flowers of a bright blue, in perfection in June and July.

**GILLENIA STIPULACEA.** This is a sub-shrubby deciduous erect-growing herbaceous kind, allied to a *Spiræa*. It grows about two feet high, has a good habit, and thrives well in any common garden-soil; the leaves are trifoliate, the flowers whitish, and in perfection in the summer months.

**G. TRIFOLIATA.** The aspect and habit of this species coincide precisely with *G. stipulacea*; it grows about two feet and a half high, has trifoliate leaves, the flowers are of a pinkish colour, and in perfection during summer. These two species of *Gillenia* are not very common among collections; they are excellent border-plants, and are natives of North America.

**POTENTILLA PLANTII.** This is a truly beautiful kind, and is a valuable acquisition to any collection. It grows about two feet and a half high, with a habit similar to *P. Russelliana*; the flowers are about an inch in diameter, and a scarlet shading to yellow in the centre. It is rather a new plant, having been sent out by Messrs. Lowe of Clapton. It grows freely in good light garden-soil, is a free bloomer, and will no doubt find its way into every collection.







## TULIPS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF DERBY.

THE month of May is a time of pleasurable excitement to the cultivator of Tulips, and the ardent lover of this "the Queen of the garden" will lose no opportunity of visiting the beds of other growers. As I inspected most of the beds in this locality, and as novelties are what I intend principally to describe, I may observe that I saw on almost every bed the following leading varieties in good condition, and which I would earnestly recommend all who are about to commence the cultivation of Tulips to procure at once, viz. Captain White, Pilot, Royal Sovereign, and Magnum Bonum (bizarres); Queen Charlotte, Princess Royal (byblœmens); Aglaia, Triomphe Royale, and Heroine, *alias* feathered Triomphe Royale (roses).

On the bed of Mr. Forman of Chellaston grew the magnificent byblœmen illustrated in the present Number, a third-row flower, with cup of the "Hardy" standard; petals of good substance, feathered with dark purple. Mr. Forman (of whom I purchased the root with four offsets attached) informed me that he broke it four years ago, and named it Sir John Crewe. Some parties who saw the bloom think that it is Chellaston Beauty; it certainly agrees with that variety in the formation of the stigma, the lobes of which are large and slightly decurrent. It appears tolerably steady, and another season or two's growth will decide whether it is a fine break of the Chellaston Beauty breeder or a distinct variety.

My neighbour Mr. Spencer of Thulston is known to be a very successful exhibitor, and grows the old-established favourites of the finest strain in quantities. Among comparatively new varieties I remarked Victoria Regina (Groom's), feathered byblœmen, cup rather above the standard, petals slightly incurved and notched, in the way of Captain White at its first opening; the three outer petals had a green stain at the top, and the bottom was creamy in a young state, but as it ages it becomes pure. It was exhibited successfully at Birmingham. I have seen it elsewhere flamed (but feathered is decidedly its best character), with the outer petals green; but in an early and warm season, or when it becomes acclimatised to our midland counties, it will probably be without this defect.

Mr. Parkinson of Derby, a veteran florist of some forty years' standing, has seen the time when Trafalgar, Sable Rex, Unique, Lord Hill, and other stained-cupped Tulips, were the leading varieties, and figured as premiers at the exhibitions held here. I was disappointed in not finding this enthusiastic florist at home. On seeing his bed, I was convinced he had kept pace with the times. First and foremost was Gibbon's (not Brown's) Salvator Rosa (a feathered and flamed byblœmen, quite pure, rather heavily but correctly marked, and, as seen here, a beautiful variety; it had unfortunately but five stamens, otherwise it was perfect). Brown's Jersey Wonder (feathered byblœmen), Lady Jane Grey (feathered and flamed rose), and Charbonnier, were in fine condition.

At Stanton-by-Dale there has been some fine varieties produced by Mr. Abbotts, the raiser of Lord Denman, &c. I saw two flowers of a beautiful feathered bybløemen that were identical with four on my own bed which he supplied me with some time ago. This variety is undoubtedly what was originally called Gem, and noticed in this work, vol. ii., p. 148. It is a second-row flower, cup first-rate, ground-colour and filaments of snowy whiteness, feathered about an eighth of an inch with plum colour or lightish purple; the petals are of great substance, and, like all thick-petalled varieties, it is some time before it fully expands. The stock is small and in few hands; the raiser lost sight of the true variety, and has sent out for it an inferior seedling resembling Lawrence's Friend. I also saw here two feathered bizarres, broke from the breeders this season, one of which appeared identical with a good Royal Sovereign, only much shorter in the stem; the other was certainly the best feathered bizarre I have seen this season; the cup was shorter than Royal Sovereign, the ground-colour of a deeper yellow, and very correctly feathered with dark purple.

At Newton Solney, about three miles from Repton, long celebrated for its scholastic establishment, and about the same distance from Burton, of world-wide celebrity for its ales, is the residence of W. Worthington, Esq. It is rarely that one finds at the establishments of the wealthy first-rate collections of Florists' flowers; I journeyed with a few friends some twelve or fourteen miles to see the Tulips grown by this gentleman, and high as our expectations were, they were far more than realised. After passing the shrubbery, lake, conservatory, greenhouses, one of which was filled entirely with Calceolarias, beautiful varieties, seedlings raised at this establishment, several forcing-houses, in which Grapes were grown to great perfection, we arrived at a walled kitchen-garden, near the entrance of which were two large beds of Tulips, covered with a marquee, containing nearly all the best and most expensive varieties now in cultivation. Although the proprietor very kindly went over the names row by row, and allowed us to open the petals to see the inside of the flowers, it would not be safe, from this cursory inspection, to offer an opinion on the many beautiful varieties we inspected here, several of which we had not previously seen. What struck us as particularly fine in bizarres were, Marcellus, William IV., Ostade, and Shakspeare, the last an old variety, but in fine condition; roses, Countess of Wilton (Groom's), feather and flame, a first-rate variety, Cerise Blanche, and Lac; bybløemens, Pandora, Wallace, Lady Sale, Nora Creina, Rutley's Queen, Mary Ann, Goldham's feather and flame, and Bijou des Amateurs with feather only; and a most beautiful flamed bybløemen, name unknown, received originally from Messrs. Brown of Slough. Louis XVI. we did not like; it was flamed, and in this character much stained; we understood when it came with feather only it was much purer. In common varieties, Earl Douglas, feather and flame bizarre, was very pretty, although the colour was rather dull; Baquet, the finest marked we had ever seen; and Aglaia, of which there were several

on the beds, were beautifully grown. We hope to see this rare and costly collection again.

We spent a day with our friend T. Adams, Esq., of Quarn, and had a good opportunity of inspecting the numerous varieties grown here. All that are good amongst the Chellastons we saw here, and some real gems broken from the Chellaston breeders, that were probably never in Gibbon's collection in a rectified state. We more especially noticed a rose, cup short, of great purity, with a heavy feather, name unknown; a byblæmen, equal to the last in cup and purity, with a dark purple feather, name also unknown; Sable Monarch, the best feathered byblæmen at the national exhibition held at Manchester, was very good, with the exception that it appeared to have a slight tinge just under the anthers; Earl Douglas, shewn in this gentleman's first stand at Derby last year, was a nice feathered bizarre, but not in quite so good character as when exhibited; Monument (Dixon) was flamed, and in this character stained; Geraldine, a fine flamed rose, rather too long, had unfortunately a split petal. Other varieties were as fine as we saw them elsewhere; the two best beds were surrounded with an iron frame-work about three feet high, the sides being netted, and the whole covered with a marquee, with a path down the centre, had a very finished appearance, and the *coup d'œil* was exceedingly striking.

Our situation is a very early one, and the best of the bloom was over before the exhibitions took place. What pleased us in bizarres were, Everard (Bowler), an expensive variety, cup short, fine yellow, feathered and flamed with red, the outside as good as the in, certainly the best of its class; King (Strong's), quite pure: we have seen several this season, and only one that was stained; Osiris (Grieg), to our surprise, was quite pure, and, as we grew it, a pretty first-row bizarre; Duke of Devonshire was flamed, a noble fourth-row, and either in this or the feathered character a decided acquisition to any bed; Apelles (true) was, when we purchased it two years ago, the most beautiful bizarre we ever beheld; last year it was greatly out of character; it was much better this season, but not first-rate; we therefore conclude that it is not yet reconciled to our situation and soil; Timon of Athens, much in the character of the last, beautifully feathered and flamed, with brown on a good yellow; Pass Perfecta, a fine strain of Royal Sovereign, very constant; the feathering became nearly black as it aged. In byblæmens, Thalia, flame, will suit the midland growers; Violet Brun, rather too heavy, but correctly marked; Lord Denman was quite pure; we particularly mention this, as last year there was a slight stain just below the anthers; Musidora, shape, purity, and substance of petal excellent, colours too heavy, a fine variety for the seedling raiser; General Bournonville, black and white, shape not good; David, feathered, came in flower very early, was very pretty; and Queen Charlotte, (Gascoign's): there appears to be several strains of this variety, the best is known here as Gascoign's; and Gem (Abbot's), a beautiful feathered byblæmen, previously noticed, is remarkably constant, and will undoubtedly be a leading flower of its class; Lac, very pure,

lightly feathered and flamed ; Catalani, a fine variety ; and La Belle Nannette, which I had from a first-rate grower, is evidently nothing but Heroine.

We saw numerous other beds containing the leading varieties and some of the novelties described above ; but as we wish to avoid repetition we refrain from particularising them. From what we observed we conclude, that if the growers are equalled they are not excelled by any in the kingdom ; and from the zeal manifested in the cultivation of our favourite, the determination to procure any varieties that are really good, and the great attention paid to the raising of seedlings, it is not unlikely that ere long Derbyshire will be as celebrated for its Tulips as Hertfordshire is for its Roses.

T. ALLESTREE.

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## PROPAGATION AND TREATMENT OF BEDDING-OUT PLANTS.

### No. I.

THAT one good plant at bedding-out time is worth half a dozen inferior ones is a truism universally admitted. I shall not therefore stop to examine what the advantages are of the former over the latter, but assuming them to be patent, offer a few hints on the best mode of securing them.

In plant-propagation, the kind of cutting employed influences in a great degree the character of the future plant. Strong, well-organised cuttings produce healthy and vigorous plants, and contrariwise ; and independent of the longer period required for unsuitable cuttings to make plants, they are always deficient in vigour, and are preserved with difficulty through the perils of a protracted winter, especially if the structure in which they are stowed is not properly constructed for warding off the effects of damp, which is always more to be dreaded than frost.

Many kinds of bedding-plants produce good cuttings but sparingly, unless precautionary measures are adopted to induce them to do so. This is the case with many of the most useful Verbenas ; and numerous other instances will suggest themselves to the reader. Flowers are produced so abundantly, that shoots proper for cuttings are scarcely procurable. With plants of this character it is always the better plan to have a few of each planted in the reserve garden, where, by pruning and attention, an abundance of good shoots will be produced for the purpose required. And besides, an early supply will be at hand ; a matter of no mean importance where a large quantity of those kinds are required which strike with difficulty in the autumn, as the *Anagallis* for instance. For although spring propagating from plants preserved through the winter is now much adopted, and is a practice much to be commended, such can only, except in limited cases, be considered as an addenda in providing the general stock required. It will therefore be found a point worthy of

attention, to exercise discrimination in selecting the cuttings employed. This part of the garden routine is generally entrusted to young and inexperienced hands, and much inconvenience is often the result.

Before we proceed, it will be well to say something of the propagating-frame. It is not often that a structure is expressly adapted for the purpose in a private establishment. Pits and frames, and various nondescript structures known only in a forcing-garden, and whose legitimate uses are for other purposes, have to be pressed into service during the propagating campaign, where any quantity of plants has to be provided, and where expedition is a matter of importance, a slight command of bottom-heat is indispensable. For that purpose, next to a properly constructed "propagating-pit," nothing is better than heat derived from leaves. It is both lasting and uniform,—two great essentials for successful practice in propagating. In preparing the bed for commencing operations, a provision should be made for plunging the cutting-pots; and it will be found a great saving of time, as well as materially economising space to use pots or pans of an uniform size. To remove one where the cuttings are struck, and insert another, is the work of a moment under such an arrangement. Not so, however, where pots of different sizes and depths are used indiscriminately. The necessity for re-arranging them becomes frequent, involving inconveniences of a very numerous character, and which need scarcely be named here. To return to the question of plunging, many persons do not attach much importance to the practice; but I conceive it to be a point worthy of attention. By adopting it a more uniform root-temperature is secured, and as evaporation from the sides of the pots is prevented, the necessity for the use of the watering-pot is greatly obviated; which, it must be confessed, is a great point gained. If the mould in which the cuttings are inserted is properly moistened at first, and the subsequent management what it should be, no water will be required, at least not for cuttings which root freely; and most plants employed for bedding purposes possess that desirable quality.

Good cuttings inserted at the proper season, and well managed, strike root in a very short space of time. And here a little matter suggests itself, to which I must beg especial attention. *Never allow cuttings to droop.* From the moment of separating them from the parent plant till their final establishment as separate individuals, this should be an especial object of attention. In some kinds it may not be of vital importance, but in others it is very much so. The practice of collecting large quantities of cuttings, for the making and insertion of which perhaps a day is required, is objectionable on many points. A few only should be collected at one time, and then inserted as soon afterwards as possible.

Nor should cuttings be allowed to remain in the propagating-pit after they are properly rooted. To permit it is to destroy the natural vigour of the young plants, and to render them longer dependent on artificial support.

## SALVIA GESNERIFLORA.

THIS is a most beautiful winter and spring flowering plant, its large bunches of bright scarlet blossoms being very striking. Few plants surpass this charming species in beauty of flowers, which are produced in great abundance from February to June. I have plants struck from cuttings last year which have been crowned with twenty spikes, which were very effective among Azaleas, Roses, and such plants.

This Sage is easily cultivated; it may be grown in any cool greenhouse or frame. The best way to have it in perfection is to strike cuttings every year, which should be put in about April or May, in a little bottom-heat. As soon as they strike root, pot them into small pots; afterwards place them again on bottom-heat till the roots begin to move, then transfer them to a cooler frame or house; and as soon as the pots have become full of roots, repot into a size larger, and keep them in the house till June. Then place them out under a north wall till September, when they should be removed into a house or frame. They require a good-sized pot to grow them to perfection, for they root very freely. The best soil for them is turfy loam and leaf-mould in equal parts, with a little drift-sand.

Hoddesdon.

B. S. WILLIAMS.

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SAVING SEED.

So long back as 1848, and in the opening Number of the *Florist*, I was granted permission to address myself to its readers on the subject of raising seedling flowers; and in so doing my remarks were principally directed to dealers, whom I ventured to charge with not prosecuting so interesting a study in the manner best calculated for the general advancement of the pursuit. I was favoured with a well-directed rejoinder from one of those whom I intended to urge to greater exertion, yet I hope that some good was the result.

I again venture to address your readers on a similar theme, and shall endeavour to point out the fallacies by which "saving seed" is even at present universally conducted. I shall select the Dahlia, and give, in illustration, some observations made by "an eye-witness on the spot;" and in selecting this flower I admit the subject to be one that few, if any, can so amply discuss as our present proprietor and conductor himself; hence any statement that I may advance which appears erroneous, I would respectfully solicit its correction. I was told in the article just referred to, at p. 64, vol. i., that "both nurserymen and amateurs keep reserved beds expressly for seeding, and from which they gather the foundation of their hopes of raising something good." Now, if such were the *rule*, I should not have occupied your pages with the present inquiry; but even admitting such a practice to be the *exception*, I am the more anxious to direct attention to the subject, in order that more of us may so apply our energies to so interesting a department of the pursuits of floriculture, that greater

results may be apparent each season. I have as yet never fallen in with a single "reserved bed expressly for seeding; and further, I venture to ask you to give us the result of your experience on the subject. I know the practice full well to be to cull at the fag-end of the blooming season such seed-pods as may have been produced, perhaps from malformed flowers or blooms but half-matured, and at a time when the plants are in the last stage of decay, when the reverse should have been the order adopted. Here, at the opening of the present month, September, let me urge that a few of the best blooms be marked and set aside for seeding; that attention be bestowed upon them until ripe, and that such varieties be selected as are constitutionally "hale and hearty," of generous blooming propensities, and materially certain; and, finally, avoid most studiously the saving of seed from plants that have bloomed any later than the first, or at furthest second week in September.

J. EDWARDS.

NATIONAL TULIP-MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

HAVING been requested to offer a few remarks on this gathering in your journal, perhaps you will be kind enough to insert the following brief commentary on the Tulips exhibited.

The Gold Medal was awarded to Mr. Houghton, whose stand, with the exception of Captain White (which was not pure at the base), was as near perfection as possible; it was as far before the others as Mr. Sanders' stand at the Amateur Society's Exhibition at Kennington: this will give the London "Fancy" an idea that it was worth looking at. With the exception of "Coupe d'Hébé," they are well known and duly appreciated in the south as well as by the northern and midland growers, therefore they may be passed; but I must say something about the Novelty. The editor of the *Midland Florist* says it was the worst flower in the stand. Upon this I must join issue: it was good in shape, with perfectly pure white ground, and feathering of good quality; therefore it must at least stand before the Captain. Alas, there was a break in the feather; but I would sacrifice continuous feathering to purity, or even to the quality of feather; but let me have two flowers equal in other points, and the unbroken feather has it. I do not like giving an opinion on seeing one bloom; but if I had my choice of all the Tulips in the Townhall, that would be my pick.

Mr. Godfrey took First Cup with some good flowers unequal in size: Captain White not pure, Van Amburgh creamy. I never thought, after finding the Captain was not immaculate, that this stand stood the least chance with Mr. Houghton's.

Mr. Turner was next. His flowers were well matched, but nothing particular about them except Polyphemus, which was very green and dingy at the bottom of the flame, which I consider quite as bad a fault as the bottom of the Captain Whites. These flowers were rather stale.

Mr. Adams was placed next. Had these flowers shewn themselves as much in the morning as they did when the hall got warm, they might have been forwarder. This remark may be applied to another stand or two.

Mr. Marsden was next. In this stand was a fine Captain White, perfectly pure.

There is another stand which I must refer to before I quit this class; I understand it was Mr. Thornily's, a very nice lot, with the exception of a rose with awfully black stamens. The editor of the *Floricultural Review* accuses the judges of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel; now what they did was the reverse. They strained a long time at the camel, but ultimately unanimously preferred gulping the gnat. I am positive there was sufficient black on *one* of the stamens of this flower to counterbalance the impurities of all the stands which took prizes in this class.

First stand, 12 blooms, J. Willmore, Esq.; very good flowers, and less faults than any other stand in this class: it was undoubtedly first.

Mr. Turner next; some good blooms, but again shewed a want of freshness.

Mr. Edwards' stand, being the only other that had been put up according to conditions, was of course next.

Mr. Lymbery was next. This stand was disqualified in consequence of not having a sufficient quantity of roses; but as a fourth was to be placed, the judges selected this as the best of the unfortunates.

In the nine-bloom class Mr. Houghton was again first: his blooms were unquestionably the best; but I did not think Victory and Royal Sovereign dissimilar.

Premier bizarre, Charles X.; a very fine and perfect bloom.

Premier byblømen, Prince of Wales; very like a feathered Princess Royal.

Premier rose, Agnes; a very pure and pretty rose, not quite up to the mark in shape.

In feathered roses Mr. Cresswell's Napoleon was worth notice: very pretty and pure, scarcely in bloom; I am afraid, when fully blown, it will get out of shape, as there was a flatness in the petals.

Flamed roses: the Vicar of Radford was placed first. This is a very nice flower; but in my opinion it is not sufficiently rosy to be placed in this class: in the south it would be called a rosy byblømen.

Feathery bizarres: 1st, Charles X., good; 2d, Vivid. When the latter becomes more plentiful, I expect to see them change places sometimes.

Flamed byblømens: I think the shape of Salvator Rosa should have carried it higher up, although it was not a good bloom.

In conclusion, I must thank Mr. Cole and the Birmingham Florists for the manner in which the show was conducted, and beg to congratulate them on the success they so well deserved.

R. J. LAWRENCE.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

CHERRIES (*continued from p. 177*).7. *Belle de Choisy*.

Synonyms: Ambrée à Gros Fruit, Ambrée de Choisy, Cerise Doucette, Cerise de la Palembre, Cerise à Noyau Tendre, Schöne von Choisy.

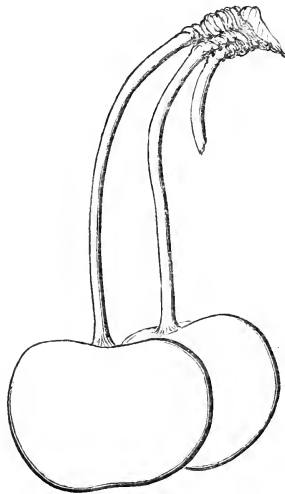
Fruit above the middle size, round, usually growing in pairs; very handsome and even in its outline. Skin thin, transparent, and beautifully mottled with red and amber. Stalk rather slender, inserted in a small even cavity. Flesh amber intermixed with yellow veins; very sweet, tender, and luscious. Stone small and round. The fruit ripens about the second week in July, and will hang on the tree till the end of the month.

The tree is of much the same habit as the Duke cherries; but it is rather a shy bearer, though it blooms very profusely. It should be planted on an east or a north-east aspect, or as a standard.

This is a French variety, said to have been raised, in 1760, at Choisy, a village near Paris.



Belle de Choisy.



Black Eagle.

8. *Black Eagle*.

Fruit above the middle size, very much flattened at the apex, and compressed at the sides; produced in pairs and threes. Skin glossy, of a deep purple approaching to black. Stalk rather long, of moderate thickness, inserted in a slight depression. Flesh dark purple, very juicy, tender, rich, and high flavoured. Stone small, round, and smooth. Ripens in the end of July.

The tree is a strong grower, having large leaves. It bears well

as a standard ; but if trained, an east or south-east aspect should be chosen. The Black Eagle is an English variety, raised by a daughter of the late Mr. Knight of Downton, in the year 1806. It is a rich delicious fruit, and is held in high estimation in every garden where it is cultivated.

9. *Holman's Duke.*

Fruit about the middle size, roundish oblate, borne in clusters similar to the May Duke. Skin dark red, almost black, when fully exposed to the sun. Stalk slender, varying in length from one and a half to two inches. Flesh purplish red, tender, juicy, and possessing a pleasant flavour. Ripens towards the end of July, and will hang a considerable time on the tree.

This is a valuable hardy Cherry, bearing equally well on all aspects, or as a standard. This variety is characterised by short-jointed erect shoots ; but still it is often confused with others of its class, such as the Late and Arch Dukes, which are very different kinds.

10. *Royal Duke.*

Synonyms : Anglaise, Anglaise Tardive.

Fruit large, round, or a little flattened at the apex ; outline smooth and even. Skin thin and glossy, of a fine lively red at first, becoming darker when fully ripe. Stalk of moderate length, and slender. Flesh pale red, very tender, juicy, and rich. Ripens from the middle to the end of July.

This is a very beautiful Cherry, and well adapted for planting in small gardens or for low walls, on account of its dwarf compact habit and moderate growth.

Frogmore.

J. POWELL.

[To be continued.]

BRITISH PLANTS.

Phyteuma orbiculare is a pretty round-headed blue flower, almost meriting cultivation. It prefers a chalky soil, in which in a wild state it is generally found.

Pedicularis sylvatica is a handsome rose-coloured flower, which grows about four inches high. When carefully taken up with a small tuft of turf, I find it to bloom continuously for a long time. It grows in Windsor Park, near the statue. It may also be found about two miles from Egham, near Stroud.

Hyoscyamus niger. All botanists agree as to the frequent occurrence of this species in churchyards, &c. The flower is a beautifully spotted purple ; but there is also a yellow variety of it. In this neighbourhood we may only consider *H. niger* as semi-wild, though in *many* places I have found it *distinctly* indigenous. Of the yellow variety I may say the reverse, being by no means so plentiful as the other.

Origanum vulgare. This odoriferous plant is very common in chalky soils, in hedge-banks, and other sequestered spots. The

partly globular heads of flowers, in which it abounds, are of a colour approaching to purple. This species looks well in appropriate places in flower-borders. It may be found wild on Cooper's Hill.

Myosotis palustris, or *Forget-me-not*. This familiar and interesting plant is often met with on the banks of the Thames, as well as by the sides of those lesser portions of water on the Egham race-course. It might be grown round ornamental ponds, or in marshy portions of the pleasure-grounds, with advantage. I have also seen favourite specimens cultivated in pots by ladies, whose kind attentions to them were generally crowned by a fine crop of Forget-me-nots. Mrs. Loudon describes it as a plant "of the easiest culture." It has a pretty effect in vases well supplied with water.

Englefield Green.

WILLIAM WHALE.

DROPMORE.

THE seat of Lady Grenville has a world-wide renown for its splendid specimens of the rarer kinds of Conifers. Even Elvaston itself, with all its glorious array of evergreen trees, cannot boast of such magnificent examples of some things as are to be found here. Where, for example, shall we look for a match to the noble *Araucaria imbricata*, which occupies the declivity of a gentle eminence rising up from the margin of a piece of water that stretches out in front of it? This tree is truly one of the wonders of Dropmore, and well worth, as the late Mr. M'Nab expressed, a journey of 500 miles to see. It measures 32 feet 4 inches in height, with a girth, three feet from the ground, of 3 feet 6 inches, and its extent of branches is 17 feet. In fact, from bottom to top, it is a regular cone, with branches beautifully disposed, and exhibiting the most perfect symmetry. But although this is the handsomest example of this kind of pine at Dropmore, there are others very nearly as large; and we also remarked one from a cutting 26 feet high, and 10 feet through at the base, so that, whether from cuttings or seeds, they apparently succeed equally well under Mr. Frost's judicious care.

Before leaving this spot let us take a look at the scenery. The day is one of the finest of the month of June, and all around appears green, fresh, and delightful; but this latter characteristic would also pertain to winter here, even while the Yule log is burning, such being one of the advantages of having plenty of evergreens about a place. They impart to it an air of snugness and comfort when all beyond is cheerless and gloomy. But to our object. Before us lays the little lake we have already alluded to, apparently half natural, half artificial, with a little island in its centre, and all around is a wood of Firs, faced and adorned here and there with the finer Pines. On the other side of the water is a light-coloured stone seat, or rather summer-house, formed, it is said, of a piece of the old London Bridge; nearer is a rustic pathway, thrown over a portion of the lake; farther off may be observed a clump of Deodars, some thirty

feet in height, whose grey aspect and gracefully weeping habit form a fine contrast with their more sombre associates; the interior of this interesting sylvan retreat, in addition to this water and fine *Araucaria*, being filled up with choice specimen Conifers and hardy flowering shrubs. Such is one of the many pleasant openings, rescued as it were from the primitive forest, with which one meets in a walk through the woods of Dropmore.

One of the main features of the place is an avenue, 50 feet wide, of Cedars, planted, we were informed, in 1808. The length of this avenue may be about a quarter of a mile, but it is capable of being still further extended. At one end it opens upon a long broad valley, each side of which is studded with numerous fine trees, both deciduous and evergreen. The Cedars are varieties of the Cedar of Lebanon, and number about 150. They were planted at twenty-five feet apart in the row; but their growth has been so rapid that they are now much too close. Mr. Frost's opinion is, that, for an avenue, such trees should be planted fifty feet apart in the row, leaving a clear way of eighty feet from row to row. The "Stump Mound" is another object of some importance. It is an eminence of some forty feet, and composed entirely of the roots and trunks of timber trees that have been felled for the last twenty or thirty years. The summit of this mound is reached by gradually-ascending walks, and here the view is very extensive and varied, embracing Windsor Castle, Cæsar's Camp, and several other objects; even Highgate Church spire may be seen from this point in clear weather. From the bottom to the summit the banks are studded with shrubs and herbaceous plants of all kinds, which, when in flower, have a fine effect.

We now come to the Arboretum, or rather Pinetum, properly so called, which contains some splendid specimens, rising from a rich soft lawn in the very best of keeping. One of the most remarkable trees here is a Douglas Fir of gigantic dimensions and wonderful beauty. It measures 63 feet 6 inches in height, with a girth of 5 feet 6 inches three feet from the ground, and the extent of the branches is 52 feet! This was planted, we believe, by Mr. Frost's own hands, so that this Fir must be one of rapid growth; and its wood, we understand, is of excellent quality. Contiguous to the above was *Taxodium sempervirens*, a noble example, 21 feet high, and 16 feet through. Until we saw this specimen our opinion of this *Taxodium* as an ornamental plant was not very high; but now that we have seen what, under good growth, it is capable of becoming, we are constrained to pronounce it one of the most ornamental of Conifers. A broad terrace-walk, and a covered way by a circular piece of water surrounded by pillar Roses from 7 to 21 feet high, in admirable bloom, led us into the flower-garden, which was literally one mass of flowers, furnished by multitudes of standard Roses and herbaceous and other plants. This is bounded on the one side by a wall, against which are the glasshouses, and on the other by a background of forest-trees, penetrated here and there by recesses and walks. A little farther down is the mansion, above whose lower

windows is a verandah, which, together with the walls, is ornamented with creepers and appropriate plants; among the latter, not the least remarkable were two Pelargoniums of the scarlet class, called Pink and Scarlet Nosegay,—two valuable sorts for this kind of decoration. On the lawn in front of the house we remarked a series of beds on grass, which then (middle of June) were just coming into beauty. In addition to these attractions there were a number of large specimen Fuchsias and plants in vases, altogether forming a *coup d'œil* of the most interesting description. The glass-houses contained stove and greenhouse plants, and some of them a beautiful crop of grapes, with which Mr. Frost has always been very successful at our great Metropolitan Exhibitions. A small square summer-house, filled with Chinese curiosities, and an aviary, conclude our notice of one of the most interesting of English gardens.

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### FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

NATIONAL CARNATION AND PICOTEE SOCIETY, *July 28.*—The meeting of this Society for the present season was held at Norwich, and was a very successful one. The awards were as follow :

Dealers, 12 dissimilar varieties of *Carnations* : 1st, Mr. Turner, Slough, with Morgan May (Puxley), C. B., Bardolph, Lorenzo, Christopher Sly, Flora's Garland, Owen Glendower, Admiral Curzon, Lord Milton, Bolingbroke, Falconbridge, General Monk, and Prince Albert (Hale); 2d, Mr. Bragg of Slough, with Harriet, Bardolph, Sarah Payne, Fireball, Lord Rancliffe, Twyford Perfection, Lady Ely, Admiral Curzon, Prince Albert, Flora's Garland, Duncan, and Lord Milton. A third collection was exhibited by Messrs. Youell of Yarmouth, in which were good blooms of South London, Sarah Payne, Twyford Perfection, &c. 12 white-ground *Picotees* : 1st, Mr. Turner, Slough, with Julia, Mrs. Norman, Miss Puxley, Ophelia, Prince of Wales, Marianne, Bridesmaid, Duke of Rutland, Christabel, Venus, Mrs. Barnard, and Lady Macbeth; 2d, Messrs. Youell, with Heroine, Seedling, Cornelius, Lady H. Moore, Gem, Lady Smith, Alfred, Isabella, Vespasian, Juliet, Venus, and Lady A. Peel; 3d, Mr. Bragg.

Private growers, 9 *Carnations* : 1st, M. May, Esq., Sonning, with King John (R. F.), Owen Glendower, Friar Laurence (R. F.), Bardolph, Bertram, Christopher Sly (S. F.), Jacques (P. F.), Cromwell (S. F.), and Hamlet; 2d, C. P. Lochner, Esq., with Lord Rancliffe, Flora's Garland, William IV., Prince de Nassau, Bolingbroke, Ariel, Sarah Payne, Lovely Ann, and Lord Milton; 3d, Rev. C. Fellowes, with Prince Albert (Hale), Princess Royal, Justice Shallow, Sarah Payne, Owen Glendower, Prince Arthur, Virginia, Brutus, and Sir Joshua Reynolds; 4th, Mr. J. Edwards, Holloway, with Prince Albert (Hale), Prince Albert (Puxley), Flora's Garland, Sarah Payne, Justice Shallow, Admiral Curzon, Queen Victoria, Lady Gardiner, and Lord Milton. Rev. J. Burroughes, J. J. Colman, Esq., and Mr.

W. Barker, were also exhibitors. 9 white-ground *Picotees*: 1st, Mr. Lochner, with Mrs. Norman, Alfred, Ganymede, Juliet, Green's Queen, Lord Nelson, Venus, Lady H. Moore, and Christabel; 2d, Mr. May, with Lavinia, Mrs. Norman, Alfred, Princess Royal, Finis, Lady Macbeth, Seedling No. 4, Venus, and Mrs. Barnard, ex.; 3d, Rev. C. Fellowes, with Duke of Rutland, Venus, and seedlings of various degrees of merit; 4th, Mr. J. Edwards, with Queen Victoria (Green), Alfred, Princess Royal, Mrs. Norman, Lord Nelson, Sebastian, Prince of Wales, Venus, and Lilacea. The Rev. J. Burroughes and J. J. Colman, Esq., were exhibitors in this class. 6 yellow-ground *Picotees*: 1st, Mr. Lochner, with Queen Victoria, Fairy, Queen of Yellows, George III., Duchess of Normanby, and Euphemia; 2d, Mr. Turner, with Champion, Euphemia, Princess Alice, Queen of Yellows, Queen Victoria, Mount Ætna; 3d, Mr. J. Edwards, with Malvolio, Prince of Orange, Euphemia, Malay Chief, Conrad, and Princess Alice.

*Hollyhocks* were both fine and numerous; and, owing to the very wet weather we have since experienced, it was the best show of this flower we are likely to have this season. The 1st and 2d prizes, given to amateurs for 6 spikes, were awarded to G. Holmes, Esq., Norwich, for neat and closely-bloomed specimens. In the first lot were Meteor (bright-red), Delicata, Commander-in-chief, Comet, *Rosea grandiflora*, and Abd el Kader; the second best consisted of Figaro (salmon, quite new in colour), C. Baron, Model of Perfection, Fenella (light shaded, new and striking), and Queen of Beauties; Mr. Chater of Saffron Walden took the 1st prize for 12 spikes, with Ophir (pale yellow), C. Baron, Walden Gem, Saffrano (new and good), Raphael (blush, and purple at the base), Meteor (fine), *Magnum bonum*, Rosy Queen, Formosa, Spectabilis, Susannah, and Joan of Arc. Mr. Chater also sent a large collection of cut flowers composed of the popular varieties. In cut blooms of 12 varieties by amateurs, the 1st prize was awarded to J. J. Colman, Esq., for Comet, Mr. Dundas, Susannah, Charles Turner, Spectabilis, Queen, Formosa, *Rosea grandiflora*, Caroline, Obscura, Rubens, and Walden Gem; 2d, to Mr. Holmes, for Comet, Walden Gem, C. Baron, Enchantress, Meteor, Formosa, Figaro, Model, *Rosea grandiflora*, Obscura, Bella Donna. Mr. Bircham of Hedenham exhibited some beautifully grown spikes and cut blooms, not for exhibition. Among these were some new varieties of very good quality; we particularly noticed as fine Pourpre de Tyre (a new shade of purple, very close in the spike, and individual blooms very good, close, and compact), Primrose, Model of Perfection (a peculiar shade of yellow, large, and fine), Penelope (good, but rather too much guard-petal), and Queen of Denmark (orange-yellow, of a new and desirable shade; it was awarded a first-class certificate). Amongst cut blooms from Mr. Bircham were Prince of Orange (buff yellow, with orange at the base, and new), Black Prince (quite black, and much better than the old variety under the same name). There was also a large collection of cut blooms from Mr. Turner and Mr. Bragg.

The following *Picotees* received first-class certificates: Lady



Macbeth, heavy red, very solid deep edge, full size, without the least bar, and considered by the judges as an improvement on Mrs. Norman; Miss Puxley (Turner), rose, with more colour than Mrs. Barnard, good petal, and full; Haidée (Fellowes), light purple edge, a flower of remarkable purity and substance, and will be remembered by those who visited the National Exhibition at Slough as Fellowes' No. 51; and Bridesmaid (Matthews), also light purple, equally pure, and free from spot or bar, has more colour on the edge, and a fine bold petal.

The Committee have decided that the Exhibition for 1853 shall be held at Derby. It was also unanimously resolved that the flowers in future should be shewn on cards as heretofore, and in boxes of uniform size. The Birmingham Horticultural Society have also adopted the same resolution. These leading Societies, in addition to Norwich, Derby and Midland, Royal Botanic and Chiswick, having decided that the flowers shall be shewn to the best advantage, *i. e.* on cards in the growers' boxes, instead of sticking them up in tubes to scare away those who might otherwise patronise them, fully demonstrates that the new system is preferable to the old, and will soon be universally adopted.

DERBY, *Aug. 4.*—In connexion with the July meeting of the Derby and Midland Horticultural Society was held what was called the "Towns Exhibition" of Carnations and Picotees. The growers within a radius of six miles of the centre of each town were allowed to make up the best stand from the general stock, to be shewn on cards and in boxes of a uniform size. Although late, the show was a very good one; some of the collections being of nearly equal merit. The prizes were honorary; it will therefore be evident what amount of interest was taken in this meeting, when we state that eight towns were represented, which must have been highly gratifying to the promoters.

The awards of the judges (Mr. J. F. Wood, Mr. C. Turner, and Mr. John Rhodes of Leeds,) were as follow:

Twelve dissimilar *Carnations*: First, *Derby*, with Seedling S. B., Flora's Garland, Premier, Firebrand, Lorenzo, Lord Milton, Admiral Curzon, Magnificent, Cradley Pet, Squire Meynell, Princess, Seedling. Second, *Birmingham*, with Premier, Lord Rancliffe, Brisies, Admiral Curzon, Ariel, Miss Thornton, Lord Pollington, Lydia, Black Diamond, Lord Lewesham, Lady Rhodes, Lovely Ann. Third, *Nottingham*, with Taylor's Lucia, Hales' Albert, Seedling, Lady Peel, Earl of Leicester, Falconbridge, Admiral Curzon, Lord Byron, Lord Milton, Lady Gardiner, Firebrand, Oberon. Fourth, *Leeds*, with Lord Milton, Magnificent, Great Northern, Rainbow, Ariel, Firebrand, William IV., Lady Ely, Rose Helen, Admiral Curzon, Paul Pry, Justice Shallow. Fifth, *York*, with Miss Thornton, Lord Rancliffe, William IV., Admiral Curzon, Ariel, Knowsthorpe Pet, Lydia, True Briton, Splendid, Rainbow, Squire Meynell, Brilliant. Sixth, *Wakefield*, with Seedling No. 2, Beauty of Brighouse, Admiral Curzon, Lady of the Manor, Hepworth's Leader, Lord Rancliffe, Nulli Secundus, Seedling, Lord Milton, Seedling, Squire Meynell,

Patriot. Seventh, *Leicester*, with True Briton, Duke of Rutland, Prudence, Earl of Leicester, Gladiator, Brisics, Black Diamond, Squire Meynell, Lorenzo, Hamlet, Queen of Purples, Princess Royal.

Twelve dissimilar *Picotees*: First, *Derby*, with Mrs. Norman, Duke of Rutland, Gaunymede, Green's Queen, Mrs. Barnard, Venus, Alfred, Ophelia, Bayley's Duke of Devonshire, Mary, Prince of Wales, Isabella. Second, *Birmingham*, with Audrey, Prince of Wales, Alfred, Green's Queen, Elizabeth, Mrs. Brown, Duchess, Delicata, Venus, Amethyst, Mrs. Barnard, King James. Third, *York*, with Alfred, Green's Queen, Lady Franklin, Miss Rosa, Red Rover, Mrs. Wood, Elizabeth, Portia, Delicata, Mary Ann, Mrs. Barnard, King James. Fourth, *Nottingham*, with Princess Royal, Elizabeth, Juliet, Green's Queen, Gem, Lord Nelson, Prince of Wales, Duke of Rutland, Enchantress, Isabella, Alfred, Mrs. Barnard. Fifth, *Leeds*, with Mrs. Barnard, Elizabeth, Lady of the Lake, Prince of Wales, Regina, Ann Schofield, Alfred, Christabel, Cerise Blanche, Mrs. Norman, Duke of Rutland, King James. Sixth, *Leicester*, with Prince of Wales, Duke of Rutland, Nina, King James, Venus, Christabel, Lord Nelson, Gem, Bates' Seedling, Mrs. Norman, Prince Albert, Jenny Lind.

In addition there was a stand of finely-grown Carnations from Edinburgh, contributed by C. K. Sewewright, Esq.; but it was disqualified, owing to its having a self petal. These blooms were as large, if not larger, than any we have seen exhibited, with good white; but the bizarres were very deficient in marking, much too little of the dark colour to give them that richness for which Carnations are so much admired. The two Derby stands were good specimens of growth and quality combined, each stand possessing excellent variety.

In seedlings, Puxley's General Monk (C. B.) was shewn in very good order; it possesses excellent qualities, with the best white we have seen in a Carnation, and Schofield's Magnificent (R. F.), is also a good flower.



### NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

ALTHOUGH we were one of the earliest promoters of this Society, from a knowledge of the necessity for such a tribunal, it has been our aim, from motives of policy and discretion, not to move in any prominent position amongst the management. We have, however, zealously observed the results of their several deliberations throughout the now nearly closing second season of its existence, and cannot but admit that the conduct of all parties concerned has created in our own mind, and there forcibly established, the most unqualified confidence. Nor is that all; for in a strictly practical and commercial view, the importance of such a board has been made manifest largely in our own connexion, both by private growers and contemporary dealers. This is an every-day question relative to new subjects, "Has it seen the National?" and our reply uniformly given is, "that to all members

is periodically distributed the transactions, which contain an enumeration of every subject, and by whom submitted, at each meeting, together with the description and character of every flower of value, according to the classification of the awards furnished by the Board of Censors." Such a report now lies before us, being Part III. (16 pages), and from which we extract the awards made during the past six months of the present season—that is to say, from March 25 to August 5, both inclusive. Not the least valuable feature is, that by giving an enumeration of *all*, careful selections can even be formed irrespective of those more valuable subjects certificated by the Society; and this alone is a recommendation and guarantee of importance sufficient to recompense all for the outlay of an annual guinea in the support of a body the want of which had been incessantly urged by every well-wisher to the cause of Floriculture.

*March 25th, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. Andrew Henderson, C. Lidgard, and T. Appleby. A first-class certificate to Pansy, Sir J. Cathcart: colour deep yellow ground, with bronzy maroon, well-formed and very uniform, broad margin of same shade, as are the upper petals; edges and surface smooth; round; eye bold, solid, and well displayed in side as well as lower petals—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Henderson, Lidgard, and Appleby (see *Florist* for August 1852). A label of commendation to Cineraria, Purity: colour white self, with light purple disc; petals cupped; size scarcely medium—from Mr. J. Dobson, Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth. Ditto to Cineraria, Julia: colour white, on close examination very faintly tipped with light purple; disc same; habit good; size medium; free; slightly reflexed—from Mr. C. P. Lochner, Warwick House, Paddington.

*April 8th, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. T. Moore, Lochner, Hamp, Holmes, and Robinson. A first-class certificate to Camellia, Countess of Ellesmere: form first-rate; petals broad and cupped; colour blush white, faintly striped with pale rose; foliage broad—from Messrs. Jackson and Son, Nurserymen, Kingston. Censors: Messrs. Moore, Hamp, and Holmes (see *Florist* for May 1850). A certificate of merit to Cineraria, Rosalind: colour white, narrowly margined with bluish purple; disc grey; habit good; form good; petal broad—from Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son, Wellington-Road Nursery, St. John's Wood. Censors: Messrs. Lochner, Holmes, and Robinson.

*May 13th, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. Lochner, Bragg, Appleby, W. Ivery, Lidgard, Cook, W. Paul, J. Dobson, and Stains. A first-class certificate to Erica, Jasminiflora rubra: of excellent habit; extra long tube; colour rosy red; trusses large—from Mr. W. J. Epps, Bower Nursery, Maidstone. Censors: Messrs. Appleby, Cook, and W. Paul. Ditto to Erica, Tricolor Eppsii: tube short and stout; trusses large; habit good; colour scarlet, shading into white, and very glossy—from Mr. W. J. Epps, Bower Nursery, Maidstone. Censors: Messrs. Appleby, Cook, and W. Paul. Ditto to Pansy, Fearless: colour chrome-yellow ground, margined with very dark purple maroon; of good form and substance; eye solid and well displayed; edges smooth, and texture of surface fine; an improvement

on Supreme (Youell)—from Messrs. J. Schofield and Son, Florists, Knowsthorpe, near Leeds. Censors: Messrs. Bragg, Appleby, and Lidgard. Ditto to Pansy, National: colour whitish ground, narrowly margined with purple; edges and surface smooth; flat, and of good form—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Lochner, Bragg, and Lidgard (see *Florist* for August 1852). A certificate of merit to Cineraria, Lord Stamford: colour white, tipped purplish lilac; disc rich purple; habit good; size average, and of good proportion, petals inclined to reflex—from Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son, Wellington-Road Nursery, St. John's Wood. Censors: Messrs. Lochner, W. Ivery, and Lidgard. Ditto to Cineraria, Picturata: colour white, tipped rosy purple; disc grey; habit first-rate; size average, petals inclined to cup—from Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son, Wellington-Road Nursery, St. John's Wood. Censors: Messrs. Lochner, W. Ivery, and Lidgard. Ditto to Erica, Tricolor splendida: colour red and white, somewhat dull; habit tolerable; truss large—from Mr. W. J. Epps, Bower Nursery, Maidstone. Censors: Messrs. Appleby, Cook, and W. Paul. Ditto to Pansy, Sir J. Paxton: colour light yellow ground, margined with mulberry; the fault, as shewn, being a slight running of the ground-colour into the inner margin of the belting—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Lochner, Bragg, and Lidgard. Ditto to Pansy, Joe Miller (Mortiboy): colour a purple self; size large; form and substance medium; edges and surface smooth—from Mr. J. Edwards, Holloway. Censors: Messrs. Bragg, Appleby, and Lidgard.

*May 27th, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. Stains, Lidgard, Lochner, Ayres, and Salter. A certificate of merit to Pelargonium, Empress: colour vermilion scarlet, with rich shaded crimson spot; form tolerable; distinct and desirable—from E. Beck, Esq., Worton Cottage, Isleworth. Censors: Messrs. Stains, Lidgard, and Ayres. Ditto to Fancy Pelargonium, Magnum Bonum: colour, upper petals crimson purple, lower petals pencilled and shaded with crimson violet; form and substance good—from Mr. Ambrose, Nurseryman, Surrey Lane, Battersea. Censors: Messrs. Stains, Lidgard, and Ayres. Label of commendation to Cineraria, Beauty of Hamilton Terrace, for its colours and striking appearance—from E. Rosher, Esq., Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood.

*June 3d, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. I. H. Brown, Wood (York), Lochner, and Lidgard. A certificate of merit to Pansy, Mrs. Rouse: colour white ground, medium belting of purple; eye, form, and substance good; the colour had slightly run in the inner margin of the belting—from Mr. Bragg, Star Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Lochner, Wood, and Lidgard. Label of commendation to Calceolaria, Heywood Hawkins; an excellent-habited variety, with profuse masses of conspicuous flower-heads: colour clear yellow ground, very uniformly broken by rich brown crimson freckles or markings; and from its admirable habit of half-shrubby growth well adapted as a party-coloured variety for bedding and for small groups—from Messrs. A. Henderson and Co., Pine-Apple Place, Edgeware Road.

Ditto to *Calceolaria*, *Fireball*: colour orange, richly marked with orange-scarlet, leaving a uniform contrast of broken lines in the ground-colour; new and desirable; outline and habit good; size fair—from Messrs. A. Henderson and Co., Pine-Apple Place, Edgeware Road. Ditto to *Calceolaria*, *Araminta*: colour yellow ground, heavily marked with richly-shaded crimson, leaving broken and irregular bands of the ground-colour; form good; habit medium—from Messrs. A. Henderson and Co., Pine-Apple Place, Edgeware Road. Ditto to *Calceolaria*, *Fascination*: colour novel and desirable, being a clear and conspicuously shaded flame-red, but deficient in contrast from the faint and irregular breakings of the ground-colour; form broad and partially grooved; habit good—from Messrs. A. Henderson and Co., Pine-Apple Place, Edgeware Road. Ditto to *Fancy Pelargonium*, *Ariel*; this was required to be again produced when more in flower, when it was expected that a higher award might be made—from Messrs. A. Henderson and Co., Pine-Apple Place, Edgeware Road.

*June 17th, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. Holmes, Cook, T. Moore, G. Smith, Hamp, and Robinson. A first-class certificate to *Fuchsia*, *Glory (Banks)*: sepals well-reflexed; tube short; colour bright crimson; corolla dark purple; expanded—from Mr. G. Smith, Tollington Nursery, Hornsey Road, Islington. Censors: Messrs. Holmes, Robinson, and Hamp. A certificate of merit to *Pelargonium*, *Wonder*: colour, upper petals black, narrowly margined with rosy crimson; lower petals bright rose, with a spot in the centre and white at the base; habit and truss good; scarcely in full flower—from Mr. Black, Clewer Manor, near Windsor. Censors: Messrs. Holmes, Moore, and Hamp. Ditto to *Fuchsia*, *Dr. Lindley*: colour deep crimson; sepals broad and expanded, very large and bold; corolla very fine, deep violet purple; scarcely in full flower—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Holmes, G. Smith, and Robinson. Ditto to *Pelargonium*, *Odoratissimum punctatum*, as a scented-foliaged bedding variety: colour deep maroon, edged with rose; lower petals pale rose, with deep spot—from Mr. W. P. Ayres, Brooklands Nursery, Blackheath. Censors: Messrs. Cook, Moore, and Hamp. A label of commendation to *Pelargonium*, *Astrea*, for its colour and habit; rich deep maroon, shading off to crimson, and margined with rose; lower petals rich veined rose; centre white; flower large and good trusser—from G. W. Hoyle, Esq., Reading. Ditto to *Pelargonium*, *Miss Emily Field*, as a bedding variety, with horse-shoe-marked foliage: colour pinkish white; of good habit—from Messrs. A. Henderson and Co., Pine-Apple Place, Edgeware Road. Ditto to *Pelargonium*, *Kingsbury Favourite*, as a bedding variety, with horse-shoe-marked foliage: colour rosy-salmon—from Messrs. A. Henderson and Co., Pine-Apple Place, Edgeware Road. Ditto to *Fancy Pelargonium*, *Hebe*, for its colours, being darker than *Formosissimum*, with a clear throat: habit good—from Mr. W. P. Ayres, Brooklands Nursery, Blackheath. Ditto to *Petunia*, *Lady Cullum*: colour rosy; smooth, and of good size—from Mr. Thomas Barnes, Danecroft Nursery, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

*July 1st, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. Keynes, Sharp, T. Barnes, J. Cole (Birmingham), Epps, Hamp, and Wilkinson. A first-class certificate to Pink, Colchester Cardinal: colour purple, with fine bold broad petal; large; smooth and full; pod good; by far the best of its class—from Mr. J. Norman, Colchester. Censors: Messrs. Keynes, Sharp, and J. Cole. Ditto to Antirrhinum, Modestum: colour of tube whitish; of throat yellow; lip and cap regularly striped; remarkably bold, and of fine form—from Messrs. Garaway, Mayes, and Co., Bristol. Censors: Messrs. Keynes, Sharp, and T. Barnes. A certificate of merit to Pink, Esther: colour light purple; petal fine; pod good—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Keynes, Sharp, and Cole. Ditto to Pink, Perfection: colour purple; petal smooth; full—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Keynes, Sharp and Cole. Ditto to Pelargonium, Cloth of Gold: lower petals salmon-scarlet, veined; upper petals almost black, margined with scarlet crimson; good habit and a free bloomer; the colours somewhat inclined to sport; substance not first-rate; very attractive on account of its brightness—from Mr. Black, Clewer Manor, Windsor. Censors: Messrs. T. Barnes, Epps, and Hamp. Ditto to Pelargonium, Zaira: lower petals salmon-pink, distinctly blotched with deep crimson; upper petals somewhat similar in colour, and nearly covered with deep orange-crimson blotch; habit not very strong—from G. W. Hoyle, Esq., Reading, Berks. Censors: Messrs. T. Barnes, Epps, and Hamp. Ditto to Fancy Pelargonium, Nil desperandum: lower petals white, with purple blotch; upper petals shaded purple crimson; of dwarf and compact habit—from Mr. W. P. Ayres, Brooklands Nursery, Blackheath. Censors: Messrs. T. Barnes, Epps, and Hamp. Ditto to Pink, Koh-i-noor: colour pale purplish rose; petal passable; full; desirable on account of its distinct colour—from Mr. Bragg, Star Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Keynes, Sharp, and J. Cole. A label of commendation to Pelargonium, Novelty: lower petals rosy pink, splashed and veined with maroon; upper petals deep maroon, margined with rose; form tolerable; habit good; and an excellent trusser—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Ditto to Fuchsia, Lady Montague: sepals and tube pink; corolla rosy purple—from Mr. C. Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. Ditto to Pelargonium, Diadematum variegatum: colour white ground, veined and blotched with pink; shewn with variegated foliage, which if it maintains, will add to its value as a bedding variety—from Mr. W. P. Ayres, Brooklands Nursery, Blackheath.

*August 5th, 1852.*—Censors: Messrs. C. Lidgard and Black. A first-class certificate to Hollyhock, Charles Lidgard: colour salmony flesh; large and bold; form good; guard-petals very smooth, and in fine proportion with its high centre—from Mr. W. R. Bragg, Star Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Lidgard and Black. Ditto to Hollyhock, Cream of the Valley: colour cream, quite new and distinct; flowers large, well-formed and smooth, a remarkably fine spike—from Mr. W. R. Bragg, Star Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Lidgard and Black. A certificate of merit to Hollyhock, Crimson King: colour dark crimson; flower very bold, smooth;

form tolerable—from Mr. W. R. Bragg, Star Nursery, Slough. Censors: Messrs. Black and Lidgard. A label of commendation to Hollyhock, Purity: colour clear white; petals smooth, somewhat flat, and rather small—from Mr. W. R. Bragg, Star Nursery, Slough.

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 THE WINTER HELLEBORE.

THE *Helleborus niger*, or Christmas Rose, is decidedly the glory of our winter parterres. In my last place were prodigious specimens of this interesting plant. In April, when sometimes they were in flower, I used to part the roots, and in the following and future seasons I was always rewarded with a profusion of blossoms. In mild winters this plant begins its career of flowering often as early as November; and once commenced, it seldom ceases till the following March or April. I keep a number of these plants in pots, in which they appear remarkably healthy. Through the summer my plan is to place them where the sun may not be too powerful, plunging the pots into ashes till winter, when they are removed to, and serve to enliven, the greenhouse, in which, from their bold and animating appearance, they never fail to afford satisfaction.

The Hellebore will invariably thrive in good vegetable earth. The chief cause of failure may, in most cases, be attributed to *too* frequent removal, to which this plant is often subjected. At the usual flowering time I have a number of other species, as *H. viridis*, also in bloom; but as the flowers of this variety prove less attractive than those of *niger*, the latter should be most extensively cultivated.

Englefield Green.

WILLIAM WHALE.

[Since we find that Hellebores are attracting some notice as fine hardy herbaceous plants, fit for undergrowth in woods and shrubberies, the following synopsis, taken from *Paxton's Flower-Garden*, may perhaps not be unacceptable to our readers:

<i>Suffrutescens, with biennial stems.</i>				
<i>H. argutifolius</i> . . .	} three-leaved.		<i>H. fœtidus</i>	} palmate-leaved.
<i>lividus</i>			<i>H. viridis</i>	
<i>Herbaceous, with annual stems.</i>				
<i>H. niger</i> , two or three varieties . . .	} with coloured flowers.		<i>H. viridis</i>	} with green flowers.
abchasicus			<i>laxus</i>	
olympicus			<i>pallidus</i>	
orientalis			<i>odorus</i>	
atrorubens			<i>angustifolius</i> . . .	
<i>H. cupreus</i>	} with dusky flowers.		<i>graveolens</i>	
<i>purpurascens</i> . . .				
<i>intermedius</i> . . .				

H. Bocconi, and perhaps another species, doubtful, in Italy; *H. fœtidus* is a native of Wales; *H. viridis*, of Dorsetshire; *H. argutifolius* and *lividus*, of Corsica; *H. niger*, of the Alps; *H. abchasicus*, *orientalis*, and *olympicus*, of the Levant; the rest, of Hungary. All, except *lividus*, are of the easiest culture in shady situations.]

AUGUST FLOWERING PLANTS.

THE subjoined list contains the principal or best kinds of plants for general cultivation that flower in the Royal Gardens, Kew, during August. The following are trained against walls :

Ceanothus azureus.
 „ delilianus.
 Lonicera flexuosa.
 „ sempervirens.
 Punica granatum.
 „ „ album.
 Jasminum pubigerum.
 „ officinale.
 Veronica speciosa.
 „ solicifolia.
 Eccremocarpus scaber.
 Menispermum canadense.
 Psoralea betuminosa.
 Escallonia rubra.

Escallonia pulverulenta.
 Buddlea globosa.
 Teucrium lucidum.
 Lophospermum erubescens.
 Callistemon saligna.
 Ligustrum japonicum.
 Solanum jasminoides.
 „ crispum.
 Poinciana gilliesii.
 Clematis diversifolia.
 Passiflora cœrulea.
 Wistaria chinensis.
 Erythrina laurifolia.
 Roses, &c.

In the herbaceous grounds are :

Gladiolus psittacinus,
 „ byzantinus.
 „ oppositiflorus.
 „ cardinalis.
 Commelina scapiflora.
 „ „ alba.
 „ tuberosa.
 Veratrum nigrum.
 Funkia lanceolata.
 „ cœrulea.
 „ albo-marginata.
 Tritoma media.
 Hemoracallis graminea.
 Yucca gloriosa.
 „ angustifolia.
 „ superba.
 „ filamentosa.
 „ recurva.
 „ glauca.
 Phlox Drummondii.
 „ paniculata.
 „ „ alba.
 „ bonariensis.
 „ carolinia.
 „ triflora.
 „ gracilis.
 „ speciosissima.
 Acanthus spinosa.
 Mirabilis jalapa.
 Pentstemon angustifolius.
 „ atro-rubens.
 „ pulchellus.
 „ azureus.
 „ gentianoides.
 „ „ coccineus.
 „ argutus.
 Mimulus cardinalis.
 „ „ rosea.

Physostegia virginiana.
 „ denticulata.
 „ integrifolia.
 Dracocephalum canescens.
 „ „ peregrinum.
 Salvia Grahami.
 Silene maritima.
 Saponaria officinalis.
 „ „ alba.
 Viscaria oculata.
 Dianthus trifasciculatus.
 Potentilla nepalensis.
 „ colorata.
 Statice Limoniana.
 „ latifolia.
 „ umbrosa.
 Lupinus polyphyllus.
 „ nanus.
 „ mutabilis.
 „ Hartwegii.
 Catananche bicolor.
 „ cœrulea.
 Coreopsis auriculata.
 „ lanceolata.
 „ Drummondii.
 „ coronata.
 Cosmea bipinnata.
 Hypericum elatum.
 „ asperum.
 „ hirsinum.
 Clematis integrifolia.
 „ viorna.
 „ angustifolia.
 Lysimachia ephemereum.
 Platycodon grandiflora.
 Phyteuma stricta.
 Lymphandra pendula.
 Campanula nobilis.

Campanula nobilis alba.	Aconitum nasutum.
" lamiifolia.	" Pneumonanthe.
" sarmatica.	" Starkianum.
" carpatica.	" " bicolor.
" " alba.	" nepalense.
" obliquæfolia.	Gentiana aselepiadea.
" lactiflora.	" " alba.
" pyramidalis.	Enothera Drummondii.
" rotundifolia.	" triloba.
" " alba.	" taraxacifolia.
Viola palmaensis.	" macrocarpa.
" lutea.	" hirsuta.
Dielytra formosa.	

Among greenhouse plants are :

Polygala cordifolia.	Brugmansia suaveolens.
Nierembergia filicaulis.	Isoplexis canariensis.
Astelma eximium.	Convolvulus pannifolius.

Many more are in flower besides the above, but they are unworthy the attention of amateurs. Annuals and bedding-out plants are not mentioned.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

EXOTIC LYCOPODS.

At p. 175, I gave a list of the best hothouse Ferns in cultivation, that are calculated to thrive in an Orchid-house, or other moist stove. I now furnish a list of Lycopods that require nearly the same treatment. They are equally as beautiful and interesting, and are admirably adapted for filling up vacancies in hothouses. Many of them require to be planted only once, and they will soon overspread the whole surface; others are of a very close compact habit, forming neat dwarf evergreen bushes. They all like a moist shaded situation to develop their delicate fronds. Of this tribe of plants there are nearly 300 known species, but there are only about 30 exotic ones in cultivation. They are difficult to recognise from dried specimens or concise descriptions, hence I have given the names by which they are usually known in gardens.

1. Lycopodium apodum.	11. Lycopodium lævigatum (cæsium
2. " " lepidophyllum, or	arborescens Hort.)
hygrometricum.	12. " " dichotoma. [ense ?
3. " " circinale.	13. " " apothecium-brasili-
4. " " viticulosum.	14. " " denticulatum.
5. " " flabellatum.	15. " " alopecuroides.
6. " " umbrosum.	16. " " gmbioides.
7. " " Willdenovii.	17. " " tetragonum.
8. " " Schottii.	18. " " lucidulum.
9. " " stoloniferum.	19. " " dendroideum.
10. " " uncinatum (cæsium	20. " " phlegmaria.
Hort.).	21. " " cernuum.

All these, with six other undetermined kinds (exclusive of natives), are at present in cultivation in the Royal Gardens, Kew, and a few other kinds are known to be in cultivation among other collections.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

MYOSOTIS AZORICA.

THIS is a very useful greenhouse as well as showy bedding plant, which I think deserves to be more extensively cultivated than it is. It is exceedingly easily managed, forms a good-sized specimen, produces its flowers in great abundance, and retains them for a long time. Its colour is a rich purplish blue; I therefore consider it a very valuable acquisition, more especially for the decoration of the conservatory or greenhouse, and it would be very suitable for the sitting-room window of the amateur. The following hints may be useful to such as are commencing its cultivation.

It may be procured from most nurseries, and seed may be obtained readily. If it is to be raised from seed, it will require the ordinary treatment of greenhouse plants in that state. It enjoys a close, moist frame. It will hardly be possible to grow it to such a size as to be worth notice as a flowering plant during the first season. When moderately strong, it may be potted off into 4-inch pots, and when the plants have filled these with roots, shift into 7-inch pots. After they have become established in these, they may be removed to a situation near the glass in the greenhouse, where they may remain during the autumn and winter. They will now be nice strong bushy plants, forming a good foundation for the next season's specimens, particularly if several plants have been put into one pot. I generally put three or five in a pot. After they have fairly commenced growth in spring, shift them into 12-inch pots, and place them in the warmest corner of the greenhouse. They will soon make vigorous growth, and may be nicely trained to small stakes. With ordinary management and care, they will soon be some 18 inches high and 2 feet through; and about the beginning or middle of July, they will be covered with their flowers, like our pretty Forget-me-not, but larger and much darker coloured. A plant of this kind placed beside *Plumbago Larpentæ* will probably induce the conclusion, that the latter has been somewhat over-puffed, and that all paid for it above the price of this interesting little beauty was money thrown away.

I find a mixture of loam and peat to suit it perfectly, adding, of course, a portion of silver-sand, according to the nature of the soil; and the soil had better be used in as rough and fibrous a state as it can be had; but I imagine amateurs begin to be aware that this is a point worth attention in the culture of their pot-plants. The greenhouse or sitting-room window will suit it perfectly when in flower; and the plants after flowering may be cut back and taken care of for another season, or thrown away to make room for young plants; the latter will generally be found to make the best specimens.

HARRY MARTEN.



1

THE PINK.

PINKS have long been as familiar as "household words;" and therefore few flowers require less description. Not only is the Pink an old favourite, but we are certain that it is a favourite still. If the interest as regards this flower has at any time flagged, it has been for want of novelty; raisers have not kept pace with the demand, the advance not being so rapid as that in many other flowers. We are, however, happy to be enabled to state, that considerable and marked improvement has been effected during the last two seasons, both in dissimilarity and general quality of the flower, together with smoothness, distinctness of marking, and distribution of the petals without confusion.

The two examples which form our illustration for the present month fully bear out our observations. Colchester Cardinal was raised by Mr. John Norman of Colchester, and possesses the finest quality. The petal is stout, smooth, and well formed; and as regards fulness, it would please both northern and southern growers. The seed that produced this fine and distinct variety was saved, in 1849, from Criterion crossed with King of Purples. It was sown in 1850, and bloomed for the first time in 1851. It was awarded a first-class certificate at the National Floricultural Society on July 1st, at which meeting it excited the admiration of all present. Esther is a good flower, and, although full, is without confusion; it has rosy purple lacing, with very pure white, but it is far behind the Cardinal in smoothness of edge. This variety received a certificate of merit on the same day (see p. 204).

Of other new varieties we have observed during the past season, Regulator (Looker), is one of the best; it has purple lacing in the way of Criterion, and is very smooth on the edge. The principal new varieties shewn about London during the past season were enumerated in our August Number. Teddington, raised by Parker of Bath, is a fair average flower, but a little serrated on the edges. Mr. Bragg and Mr. Turner have each shewn some very promising seedlings during the past season, the best of which were described by us at the time.

As a word of advice to those who wish good flowers, or intend to exhibit in 1853, we recommend that no time should be lost in planting out the beds for that purpose. To become established before the winter sets in is a point of the greatest

and most vital importance. It is better to winter in pots than to plant late.

In preparing beds for the Pink, mix-in well-decomposed manure liberally, if you expect them to be well laced; and also trench in a good spit of manure the last time the beds are turned, for the roots to feed on when they are throwing up their bloom. It is also of great importance, particularly if the soil be heavy, to raise the beds considerably—say six, nine, or even twelve inches—above the walks, leaving them round, in order to throw off the heavy rains that we generally experience in autumn. About March, when the beds should be top-dressed, the edges can be raised by the help of slips of slate, wood, or turf; thus bringing them nearly to a level, that the plants may receive copious watering, should the weather be dry, with three or four good soakings of weak liquid manure when forming their buds. Pink-culture in pots has often been tried, and frequently recommended. Last season this plan had an extra stimulus, owing to prizes having been offered for examples in pots by the Horticultural Society of London; but unfortunately the show was too early for the bloom, yet our experience is the same. The varieties generally laced very well, appeared to be smoother on the edge than those grown in beds, clean, and mostly with good white—all strong recommendations. We consider the experiment to have been highly successful, as on two occasions, the Cheltenham and Marlow exhibitions, the majority of our blooms were from pots. For early shows they will be exceedingly useful, as they can be advanced a week or ten days by placing them in a frame. The advantages of this will be more apparent during a late season like the past. The pots need not be larger than 8-inch, as a 3-light box would hold a considerable number of them, and this is a convenient size for lifting about. Soil similar, but it should contain a little more manure than that in which Carnations are grown.

We potted some permanently into the blooming-pots in autumn, others we wintered in 4-inch pots, repotting them in March; but there was no perceptible difference in the flowers. It is our determination to further test their growth in pots next season.

The old kinds that have maintained their position as favourites are Criterion, Sappho, Lola Montez, Mrs. Herbert, Narborough Buck, Great Britain, King of Purples, Laura, Optima, and Whipper-in; these have all been prominent wherever even but few have been collected together.

We would suggest that, at the forthcoming exhibitions, a permanent good would be effected were the number of blooms



required to be reduced from twenty-four to twelve, as the larger number can but compel growers to retain many varieties in cultivation, to meet the call for twenty-four, which, with a knowledge of the smaller number only being required, they would discard, and gladly too; thus giving increased opportunities for the growth of but the very best, and further tending materially to throw out of cultivation many whose room would prove more valuable than their company. We will say more: at an exhibition-time our first impulse is to look for the blooms of the few well-known best sorts; we cut from these first, and proceed as it were by instinct to certain varieties for our specimens; our box being full, the second-rate blooms are left to mainly furnish us with the crops of seed from which it is hoped to produce subjects in advance of our best models. Let us ask, Is this a judicious method of procedure? That it is the prevailing one we will not venture to deny. Criterion and King of Purples having, in the hands of Mr. Norman, proved to be goodly parents, let us urge others to follow the example thus set us by our Norwich friend. Pinks stand in need of a few such champions.

ALBIRA, ZARIA, KULLA:

In compliance with your request for a few remarks descriptive of these Pelargoniums, which were figured in your last Number, I have pleasure, in the first place, in bearing my testimony to the general fidelity of the plate. The colours, though not the exact shades, are as near as I believe it is possible to obtain coloured plates. The striking *point* in these three flowers is their being spotted on the lower petals with a distinct, well-defined, and permanent spot or feather, not liable to fade or be lost as the season advances, but which continues constant and alike, making them highly attractive objects in any collection.

Albira is a very profuse bloomer, and very constant; the petals are narrow, and it has no pretensions to a first-rate form, but it will certainly be admired for its striking head of bloom.

Zaria is much more *en règle*, being of good form and a pleasing orange-rose ground-colour; it is a good bloomer, though not so profuse as *Albira*. I anticipate that *Zaria* will be a very general favourite.

Kulla differs more from *Zaria* on the plant than in the plate; it has a stronger habit than *Zaria*, and is an excellent grower.

G. W. HOYLE.

CISSUS DISCOLOR.

THIS magnificent new variegated plant is a native of Java, and has been recently introduced to this country by the Messrs. Rollisson of Tooting. It was the admiration of every one who saw it at the Chiswick and Regent's Park exhibitions during last summer, and it has been awarded several medals. The foliage is singularly beautiful. It is a climbing evergreen stove-plant, with leaves about seven inches long and three broad, their under sides being of a beautiful reddish purple; their upper parts richly veined with red purple and white, so as to be very striking, producing a fine effect in a stove or an Orchid-house. I saw two fine plants of it at Messrs. Rollissons' a few weeks ago; they were growing in pots, and trained against the end-wall of a stove, in which the charming effect of the foliage was all that could be desired; and this, being an evergreen species, makes it more valuable, as of course it retains its beautiful leaves during winter as well as summer; and during the dull months we want some of these beautiful variegated plants to decorate our stoves.

I believe this plant is of tolerably easy culture, and grows well in a pot, or planted out in the stove. The way in which Messrs. Rollisson treat it is as follows: It is grown in a pot with good drainage, the soil consisting of light turfy loam and peat, adding some leaf-mould in equal parts, with some silver-sand, and mixing all well together. If it is grown in a large pot, three inches of drainage are given, with rough peat or moss on the top to keep the mould from stopping up the interstices of the crocks, which is very detrimental to all plants. If they have not good drainage, so that the water can pass off quickly, they will not thrive. The pot is then filled up with mould, and the plant placed about half an inch below the rim. Afterwards a gentle watering is given to settle the mould, and the plant is placed at the hottest part of the house, and always kept shaded when the sun is powerful, which keeps the foliage of a much better colour.

When grown in a pot it should be trained round some sticks, or round a trellis, or against a wall; it also looks well up the rafters of a house. After the plant has done growing, which will be about November, allow it a season of rest, by keeping it rather dry at the roots; only giving just enough water to keep them a little moist till it is time to start it into growth, which is about February; then more water may be given, but not too much at first, until it roots freely, when it may have a good supply.

Hoddesdon.

B. S. WILLIAMS.



BOWOOD.

SOME four or five miles from the Chippenham station of the Great Western Railway, and within two of Calne, one of those snug market-towns with which Wiltshire abounds, is situated Bowood, the residence of the Marquis of Lansdowne. The country round this celebrated place, though presenting no very decided characteristics, is somewhat remarkable for its undulating surface, presenting a series of gently rising hills and deep valleys, diversified by an abundance of wood and cultivated land; but it is within the park itself that this beautiful part of Wiltshire scenery is shewn to the greatest advantage. Here nature has compressed within the space of two or three miles her most lovely charms—hill and dale, wood and water—scenes of sylvan and pastoral beauty are harmoniously blended together, forming a frame-work to the mansion, and adjoining Italian gardens, rarely surpassed. We need scarcely remind our readers, that the pleasure-grounds, connecting as they do the mansion with the park, partake in some degree of its undulating character. They consist of some 80 or 100 acres, and are bounded on one side by a lake of considerable extent, which occupies the valley below the mansion and grounds, and which forms one of the principal features of the park, and shews how completely the "*ars est celare artem*" was studied in its formation and embellishment. The grounds were laid out by the father of the present Marquis, about eighty years ago, and contain numerous specimens of the more valuable trees at that time introduced; some of them have attained a large size. There is a Hemlock Spruce seventy or seventy-five feet high; one of the largest Stone Pines in England; a quantity of Pinasters, which form fine picturesque groups; Tulip trees, of large size, in quantities; while Cedars of Lebanon were planted in such profusion that numbers have had to be taken down, to allow room for the remainder. Besides the above, there is a fine Douglas Fir, forty or fifty feet high; *Pinus insignis*, thirty-one feet, and Red Cedars, Cypresses, Hollies, Evergreen Oaks, and the more common kinds of evergreen shrubs, in large quantities, and forming in winter both shelter and variety. The laying-out of the grounds evinces great taste, and is perhaps the best specimen extant of the school of earlier English landscape gardeners, of which Mason, Wheatley, and Price are the best exponents, presenting a succession of lawns and glades, interspersed with openings, shewing views of the lake and the richly-wooded hill beyond, and here and there a group of richly-cultivated country, bounded by the rounded eminences of the western chalk escarpment, which forms the horizon line to the east and south.

In the interior of the grounds a space of nearly six acres (which was formerly a nursery garden) has been formed into a Pinetum, and contains specimens of every introduced species of *Coniferæ*. The soil is a sandy loam; and though the plants are small, having been planted only two years, they are making great progress, and will

soon form an addition to the attractions of the place. We believe the arrangement of the plants in the Pinetum is unique, being a geographical one, and will therefore prove doubly interesting to those who study the geographical distribution of plants.

The new Italian gardens on the west front are nearly complete. The beds on the upper terrace are laid out in the true Italian character, having worked stone edgings, enriched with a border of box, taking the shape of the stone-work inside; this gives a high finish to the design when the beds are empty. The gardens are, likewise, embellished with a profusion of vases, &c. These gardens run the whole length of the orangery and offices (about 300 feet), forming the west wing of the mansion. The second terrace is eight feet lower than the upper one; this being separated by a wall and enriched balustrade. The lower garden, which is on a level with the main part of the mansion, terminates with a pavilion and upper walk, connecting the two, and there are some fine pieces of sculpture at different points, including a pair of noble stags in bronze, by Kiss of Berlin. Among the bedding-plants, Collins's Dwarf Scarlet Pelargonium is preferred for beds; next is Cerise Unique, Commander-in-chief, both low growers, with lighter-coloured flowers. Besides the above, were large masses of Unique, Lady Mary Fox, and *Diadematum erubescens*. The season has been too wet for the fancy kinds. For vases, Tom Thumb, Cerise Unique, Cottage Maid, Fire-Ball, and Commander-in-chief seemed the principal. Among other plants employed in vases were *Agapanthus umbellatus*, *Kalosanthes coccinea* (of this there were several beds besides), and *Humea elegans*. The principal Verbenas bedded out were, Louis Napoleon (crimson), Boule de feu, Defiance, and Mont Blanc (white), Andrew (a fine deep violet, very good), Mrs. Mills, M. Pasquin (blue, dwarf, and good). In *Calceolarias*, *Sulphurea splendens* is certainly the best bedder as a yellow, and Sultan as a self. There was, in addition, most of the usual bedding-out things in great quantities.



PASSAGES FROM THE LIVES OF SOME GARDENIAS, SHEWING HOW THEY ENDURED THE COLD.

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

THERE were three of us. We were first endowed with individuality in the propagating-house at a celebrated nursery in the suburbs of the metropolis. We remained in that nursery two years, when we quitted it under widely different circumstances. Myself (No. 1), with a companion (No. 2), were despatched one morning, among numerous other plants, in a well-matted basket, to a private establishment in one of the southern counties. As we were then in full bloom, the gardener transferred us to a beautiful conservatory; and we were not long unnoticed. The ladies of the house were, of course, delighted with our beauty and fragrance, and many were the praises they bestowed on us. But of our former companion (No. 3), I shall

not stay to tell how, but he found himself, soon after our departure, one of a motley assemblage, the property of an itinerant flower-seller, who was lustily advertising his wares in one of the fashionable thoroughfares as, "All a-growing, all a-blowing!" He stopped at a house to which he was beckoned by a lady at the window, who, with two or three other plants, purchased No. 3. They were soon the inmates of the drawing-room, and for a time all seemed to "live in clover." But as their attractions faded, so did attention; and it brooks not how, but poor No. 3, after having passed through various stages of degradation, beginning in the kitchen, and ending by being an occupant of that indescribable place, the backyard of a London residence, was for a time forgotten. But "in every deep there is a lower deep;" so our poor companion experienced. He now became black and sooty, lost all his leaves (he hadn't many when he left the drawing-room), was trampled upon by the French poodle, and numerous nightly wandering grimalkins, not to mention other more important indignities. He was placed there in autumn; he remained there all the winter, enduring rain and frost and snow.

It would be too long a tale to tell how his circumstances became altered, how he found himself at length rescued from his degrading position, and with his branches carefully sponged, occupying a place in a cucumber-frame miles away from smoky London; how he gradually put forth new leaves and branches, then buds and flowers; how he went back again to the very house of the lady, who bought him of the hawker, as fresh and as healthy as when he left the stove of the nursery in the Edgeware Road. But so it was. Plants have romantic lives as well as men.

But of myself and No. 2: we enjoyed the best treatment for a year or two, when, for reasons which I need not relate, the collection of which we formed a part was put up to be sold by auction. Very many were disposed of; my companion and I were separated. I remained behind unsold, and was returned, among others, to a greenhouse. Here we were almost forgotten, scarce any one ever looked at us. Sometimes a man, who "looked after" the place, gave us a little water, and left the door of our house open for an hour; but we oftener had no attendance at all, being left the sport of sun and drought. Winter came on: we had no artificial warmth afforded us. The frost penetrated the soil in which we were growing, and forced me to cast my leaves. The winter passed away; scarce any of us had died; a *Franciscea*, and one or two other stove-plants, looked sickly; but beyond losing the greater part of their leaves, and being covered with insects, they had experienced no material damage. Of course, the neglect to water us contributed materially to render us insensible to frost. Early in spring a neighbouring gentleman bought several of us, myself among the number. Proper treatment soon restored us to our wonted vigour, and a few months of our altered circumstances obliterated all trace of former neglect.

CRAYON.

CAPE PELARGONIUMS.

Now that this class of Pelargoniums has become more universally grown, I beg to offer a few remarks on their cultivation. It is but a few years since they were all but lost sight of; but the Horticultural and Royal Botanic Societies having offered prizes for them, they have become greater favourites. It is now twenty-five years since I worked at the late Mr. Colville's Nursery in the King's Road, at which time there was a large collection grown there, in the shape of poor small plants, in 5-inch pots, with naked stems; and it was said at that time that it was impossible to grow them so as to make fine plants, on account of their weak, slender habits. Time and better skill have, however, told a different tale, as is proved by the fine specimens shewn at our Metropolitan Exhibitions. What would old-fashioned cultivators say to the fine examples which are annually produced at these grand displays? In those days it was considered a fair specimen of Pelargonium-growing to see a plant in a 6-inch pot, supported with three or four sticks, and bare of foliage half-way up. I have taken great pains to gather together as many of the Cape varieties as I could find; but I fear some of the beautiful varieties long since cultivated, and which may be seen figured in Sweet's *Geranaceæ*, are lost. In my opinion, this class of Pelargoniums ought to be more extensively grown; for, under good management, many of them will flower in succession nearly the whole season round. Much may be effected in the way of hybridising them with some of our fine fancy kinds, as the Cape species are generally distinct in their colours, and varied in their foliage. I am the more convinced of this since I have seen that beautiful hybrid Cape variety which was exhibited at the Horticultural Society's Gardens at Chiswick in June last, by Mr. E. G. Henderson of the Wellington Nursery, St John's Wood, and which obtained a prize. The foliage is similar to that of *Glaucum*, with a fine-shaped flower of good substance. It is a good grower, and will make a fine plant either for exhibition or for the home stage.

I would now offer a few remarks on their management. When the plants have done flowering, water should be very sparingly given them, as they require a certain amount of rest before they commence flowering again. Great attention must be paid in watering this class of plants at all times; for if once they get too wet, the plant soon becomes sickly, and premature death ensues: the roots being of a fine description, cannot endure too much wet. The plants should be regularly tied out, not using more sticks than is necessary; for too many supports pushed into the pots injure the roots. Should the plants become bare of foliage, which is frequently the case with some kinds if allowed to get dry, they may be headed down with as much safety as ordinary Pelargoniums. If a little heat is at command after heading down, to place the plants in, so much the better; draw the syringe over them in the evening after hot sunny days, when they are sufficiently broken. The soil about the root may be re-

duced, and the plant repotted in the same sized pot, or it can be put into a larger pot where large specimens are required. Some of the species succeed best worked on the common forcing varieties, such as *Tricolor majus*, *Elatum*, *Elegans*.

I have found the following compost answer well for them : one barrowful of turfy loam, two barrowfuls of peat-earth, with a little well decomposed cow-dung, sifted through a coarse sieve, well intermixed with a good portion of silver-sand ; drain the pots well with potsherds and moderate sized pieces of charcoal, broken small ; break the hole in the bottom of the pot, if it should not be sufficiently large to cause a thorough drainage. Where a liberal shift is given, I have used small stones and potsherds, broken small, mixed through the soil, to ensure a thorough drainage, as so much depends upon that in the successful cultivation of this class of flowers.

In taking off the cuttings, I select some good strong shoots after the plants have done flowering, inserting each cutting in thumb-pots full of peat earth, sifted fine, and silver-sand well mixed together ; let the pots be well drained, using a little moss at the bottom ; plunge in a gentle bottom heat, where they will root freely and soon make good plants, giving a little air in the daytime to prevent the cuttings from damping-off. In shifting into larger pots, use soil as before directed.

Subjoined is a list of those kinds I am now growing ; they are very distinct in their colours, and well worth cultivation :

Anemoneflorum.	Echinatum.	Ternatum.
Ardens superbum.	„ album.	Reniforme.
Bicolor roseum.	„ purpureum.	Elatum.
„ majus.	Fulgidum.	Sanguineum.
Bipinnatifidum.	Flexuosum.	Quinquevulnerum.
Blandfordianum.	Glaucifolium.	Sæpeflorens.
Comptum roseum.	Glaucum.	Formosissimum.
Elegans.	Jenkinsoni tetragonum.	Holosericum.
Erectum.	Tricolor majus.	

I had nearly forgotten to mention, that when aphid or green-fly makes its appearance, fumigate immediately with tobacco ; otherwise the foliage soon becomes discoloured, and the plants have a sickly appearance.

Teddington.

JOHN PARKER.

THE SPOT AND CANKER IN THE PELARGONIUM.

MR. BECK'S remark in the *Florist* for May, that he has been trying, by a variety of means, to give the spot to some Pelargoniums, has brought to my remembrance an account I read some years ago, in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, of some unfortunate cultivator who had been very successful, inasmuch as his whole collection of (I think) seven hundred plants had been "spotted" in the following manner : About the time of this event it was recommended in the *Chronicle* to apply to the soil of each plant a wine-glassful of superphosphate of lime, stirring it into the surface with a stick ; and this cultivator, following

the advice, was rewarded by the spot in all his plants. I believe it was in the early part of the year, but I write from memory. Now whether this may help to make the cause of "spot" known or not I cannot say; I merely bring an old event, which appears to bear upon the point, to the notice of your readers, and leave them to their own inference and observations.

The tendency to spot I believe to be constitutional in particular varieties. I have not been teased with this pest to any amount or moment in my collection. A few varieties annually appear to require more care than others, and probably, if neglected, or without the extra care, might become diseased. All varieties will not succeed equally well in the same soil and situation. As an instance, I have always had to pay extra care to keep Centurion in good foliage, whilst Rosamond has been very healthy; and with a friend, a few miles distant, the reverse is the case, Centurion being healthy and Rosamond delicate; and that not for one season only, but year after year, *in the cold winter months*. In the cold months of the year it is a frequent thing to see the foliage of Pelargoniums, early in the morning, hung round with "dew-drops," particularly when the plants have been watered over-night; these dew-drops are condensed perspiration, and when dried up frequently leave a white residuum, which appears injurious to the foliage, probably by inducing the growth of some minute fungus when the necessary atmospheric conditions are also present.

But there is another disease, or perhaps another modification of the same, which I have generally heard spoken of as canker; and it is this form of malady that Mr. Ayres' remarks appear chiefly directed to. Every year more or less of our yearlings exhibit this sickly state; it is certainly constitutional, and probably owes more to the imperfect maturation of the seed than any other cause. Perhaps I ought to say imperfection of the seed, as I do not think it arises solely from gathering the seed too soon, but from some lack of the needful to constitute a good sound seed: unsuitable soil and treatment may aggravate the disease in a delicate subject, but would hardly give this disease to a healthy one. We always destroy any seedlings so affected as soon as observed, and I believe such is the general custom amongst raisers, so that this form of disease is not likely to be frequent in general collections. I have not observed more than two or three in cultivation subject to it, and they generally put on a more healthy appearance as soon as the warm weather comes in spring. Fancies, which Mr. Ayres describes as particularly subject to the disease, I do not grow. The year of the potato blight we had more than our usual number of cankered seedlings, and we have had more or less annually since.

This is the season for young plants, and I would remind such of your readers as intend to add to their stock, to procure the plants as early as possible; a few weeks' (or even days') delay at this season makes a great difference in the result. The plants should receive no check, but every encouragement to grow, till well-established in their blooming pots.

G. W. HOYLE.

NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Aug. 26.—Mr. Salter in the chair. There was an interesting meeting on this occasion, Dahlias, Hollyhocks, Gladioli, and Roses being present in profusion. A label of commendation was awarded to Hollyhock Daniel O'Rourke (Bircham), a promising flower and somewhat distinct in colour; and a certificate of merit to Crimson Perfection (Paul), a finely-shaped variety, bright in colour and large in size. In Dahlias, a first-class certificate was granted to Sir John Franklin (Turner), a medium-sized flower of good shape, petals cupped and good, centre full and well up, colour orange-buff; ditto to Lord Byron (Keynes), a rosy-salmon, of medium size and excellent outline, centre good, petals finely cupped; label of commendation to Wonderful (Keynes), a singular-looking fancy sort with lemon ground, blotched and striped with pink; certificate of merit to Queen Victoria (Wheeler), a flower with good outline, petals cupped, colour yellow slightly tipped with purple, size above the average, centre middling. First-class certificate to a Bourbon Rose named Prince Albert (Paul), apparently a very profuse blooming kind, bearing small crimson-purple flowers in clusters, that are very striking on account of their brilliancy. Certificate of merit to a herbaceous Phlox named Spenceri (Turner), a rosy-purple sort with a pale centre, and highly desirable on account of its fine colour and free-blooming habits, each spike being surmounted by an unusually large compact head of flowers. Some promising Fuchsias were produced by Mr. Dobson of Isleworth; a nice box of named Roses by Messrs. Paul; and there were also some Verbenas, Gladioli, and a Lobelia, the latter much spoiled by travelling.

Sept. 9.—Mr. Perry in the chair. Dahlias and Hollyhocks formed the principal subject of exhibition, while Roses were represented by a fine display of Bourbon Prince Albert (Paul), noticed in our report of the preceding meeting. Fuchsias, Gladioli, Phloxes, Petunias, and Verbenas, completed a nice display. Of named Dahlias, Mr. Edwards staged a collection of forty-two blooms, the best being Alice, Mr. Seldon, Barmaid, Mr. Herbert, and Princess Radziwill. A first-class certificate was awarded to Gladiolus Mrs. C. Beale, colour salmon slightly flaked, lower petal striped with rose. Certificate of merit to Gladiolus Gem, colour brilliant orange-scarlet, base of petal buff, and marked with rich crimson. Certificate to Dahlia Amazon (Holmes), white ground boldly tipped with lake; first-class ditto to Lilac King (Rawlings); certificate to Dahlia Brilliant (Rawlings), bright scarlet; first-class to Dahlia Queen Victoria (Wheeler); ditto to Dahlia Miss Caroline (Brittle); label of commendation to Dahlia Unanimity (Edwards); certificate to Hollyhock Remus (Paul); first-class ditto to Hollyhock White Globe (Paul), and certificate to Hollyhock Lavinia (Paul). A further description of these flowers may be furnished hereafter.

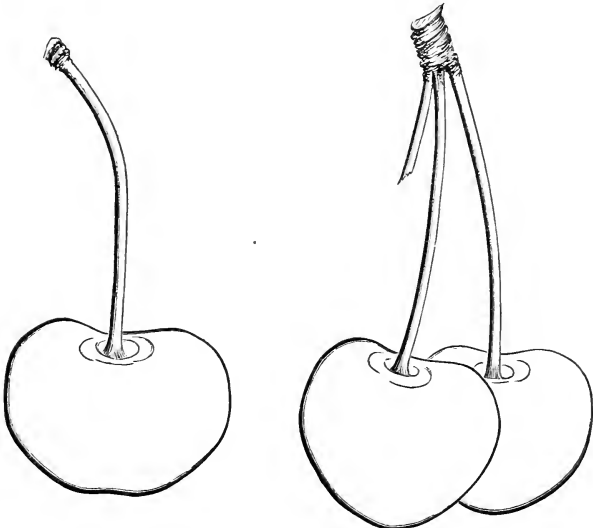
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

CHERRIES (*continued from p. 194*).11. *Downton*.

Fruit large, produced singly or in pairs; obtuse heart-shaped, much flattened at the sides. Skin pale yellow, tinged and mottled with red on the exposed side. Stalk about two inches long, set in a deep cavity. Flesh yellow, tender, very rich, sweet, and luscious, slightly adhering to the stone, which is large and round. Ripens from the middle to the end of July.

The tree is of very strong growth and spreading habit; leaves very large, young shoots long and pendent; a very moderate bearer when young, but when the tree has attained the age of eight or ten years, it produces regular crops of most beautiful fruit. An east or west wall is suitable, or it may be planted as a standard; but in either case it requires plenty of room.

It is a Cherry well worthy of cultivation, and I may add that it is the richest of all the pale-fruited kinds. It was raised by the late Mr. Knight of Downton, as the name implies.



Bigarreau.

Bigarreau Napoleon

12. *Bigarreau*.

Synonyms: Graffion, Turkey Bigarreau, Harrison's Heart, Bigarreau Royal, Italian Heart, West's White Bigarreau, Bigarreau Gros, Gross Bigarreau de Princesse de Hollande, Bigarreau Tardif, Groote Princesse, Bigarreau de Holland Transparent (of some).

Fruit growing for the most part singly; extremely large, blunt heart-shaped, compressed at the sides, and much flattened at the base; varying but little in shape. Stalk about two inches long, very stout, and inserted in a deep cavity. Skin pale yellow, dotted and marbled with lively red on the sunny side. Flesh firm (almost too much so), pale yellow, juicy, and rich; if fully matured, has an excellent flavour. Ripens the end of July or the beginning of August.

The trees are very "thrifty," having wide-spreading branches and large broad foliage. If planted as a standard, it forms a noble head.

13. *Bigarreau Napoleon.*

Synonyms: *Bigarreau Lauer*mann, *Lauer*mann's Kirche, *Lauer*mann's Grosse Kirche, *Lauer*mann's Herz Kirche.

Fruit of the largest size, growing in clusters of twos and threes. Heart-shaped, and regularly formed. Skin amber, dotted with red on the shaded side, having a crimson cheek. Stalk about two inches long, rather stout, and inserted in a deep narrow cavity. Flesh amber, slightly adhering to the stone; very firm, juicy, sweet, and of excellent flavour. Ripens in the end of July and beginning of August.

Although the common *Bigarreau* is a very excellent and well-known Cherry, I consider *this* variety superior in some points, as it is equal in flavour, more productive, and the fruit is not so liable to *crack* in ripening.

It will bear well as a standard, but if trained, either aspect is suitable. It is a very desirable kind for growing on north walls,—the fruit will hang for a great length of time in such situations.

Frogmore.

J. POWELL.

[To be continued.]

MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

APPROACHING this great garden by the principal entrance, the first objects that attract attention are some fine specimens of the Moreton Bay Pine (*Araucaria Cunninghamii*) decorating the lawn; they are cultivated in large tubs, and placed there during summer, but are all housed in winter. Another beautiful object is *Dacrydium cupressinum*, about fourteen feet high. This is one of the most beautiful of conifers; it has long slender branches, which are pendulous, hanging down to the ground. At a short distance from the entrance is a fine flowering specimen of the large *Magnolia grandiflora*; it is about twenty feet high, stands on the open lawn, and never fails during its flowering season, which is the latter part of summer, to be covered with large fragrant white flowers. From twenty to thirty are now expanding daily. *Thalreuteria paniculata*, a deciduous tree from China, is here about sixteen feet high, forming itself into a large, almost globular head, eight yards in diameter. It has a good foliage, and bears large pannicles of yellow flowers, which are produced in

great profusion. It is a fine tree for a lawn, though the flowers do not last very long in perfection; they are now beginning to fade.

In one of the hot-houses adjoining, which has lately been painted and partly re-glazed, is a collection of Begonias, numbering about fifty species. Several of them are at present in flower; one species, *B. umbilica*, is a dwarf-growing plant, with rose-coloured blossoms. It is one of the prettiest of the tribe, is most suitable for growing in a shallow pan, and has the good quality of being almost always in flower. In the same house is a collection of magnificent tree Ferns, from the East and West Indies and South America. A noble specimen of the Dove Orchid (*Peristeria elata*) is also placed in this hot-house for the flowering season; it has five spikes of flowers on it.

The house used as a show-house for summer is at present very gay with Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, Petunias, the red and white varieties of *Lilium lancifolium*, *Salvia bicolor*, one or two specimens of *Hæmanthus coccineus*, and a few other interesting plants. *Tacsonia mollissima* is here growing luxuriantly, but at present it is very scanty of flowers. *Fuchsia venusta*, planted out in an open south border, and trained against the wall, is now in bloom. This plant has been recently introduced by Mr. Linden; it is worthless for an amateur; the flowers are rather small, about the size and colour of those of *Zauschneria Californica*.

In a house with a north aspect, recently erected for the cultivation of Ferns from temperate climes, is *Lilium Wallichii*, in flower; it is eighteen inches high, the flowers are eight inches long in the tube, and five inches across the limb, of a creamy-white, and fragrant. *Clerodendron fætidum* is also in flower here. This house is found very useful for placing a few flowering plants in, having a still, quiet atmosphere; they last for a long time when once expanded. The Venus's Flytrap (*Dionea muscipula*) and the curious side-saddle flowers (*Sarracénias*) are grown here with advantage.

The Sikkim Rhododendrons are making good progress: *R. Campbelliæ* and *R. argenteum* are sturdy plants, more than two feet high; the leaves of the latter are sixteen inches long. This appears a large growing kind, the buds of it are very large, and will no doubt break with vigour. Part of the plants are kept in a house with Azaleas, and part are in a cold frame, and are exceedingly healthy.

The plants in the herbaceous grounds appear to be past flowering sooner this season than usual; though so gay two or three months ago, there is now scarcely any thing except composites to be noticed. *Rudbeckia grandiflora*, a good border-plant with large yellow flowers, and *Helianthus multiflorus* are among the best; this latter has double yellow blossoms three inches across. *Pyrethrum uliginosum* is a fine autumn flowering plant, bearing abundance of large white flowers; it grows from three to five feet high, and is an excellent kind for planting in the shrubbery. *Emilia coccinea* is a good border-plant, the flowers are of an orange-scarlet, and resemble those of groundsel; it has been in flower for several weeks past, and will remain through the autumn. Among Asters there is such proximity both in habit

and colour of flowers that it is difficult to make a selection; they are useful plants for the shrubbery. *A. dracunculoides* and *A. grandiflorus* have large flowers of a bright blue. *Tritoma Uvaria* is one of the finest ornaments in the herbaceous grounds; many large specimens (mostly on an east border) are now in the height of their beauty, some of them have thirty flower-stems on them. *Buddlea Lindleyana* and *Hemia salicifolia*, a showy hard-wooded Mexican shrub, are flowering profusely against a west wall; *Poinciana Gilliesii*, against an east wall, is growing luxuriantly, but it has not flowered well this season.

In the great Palm-house, the growth of the Palms, Musas, &c., has been so rapid, that it begins to assume the aspect of a tropical forest; *Plectocomia elongata*, a splendid oriental Palm, has already reached the top of the house, which is sixty-five feet high. Several species of *Musa* are laden with fruit; *M. Cavendishii* is one of the best, as it may be cultivated in a small stove, which is an advantage it enjoys over the other kinds; it is laden with fruit, and has a stem only about four feet high. The Mango-tree (*Mangifera indica*) has ripened about a dozen fruit, and many more are in a forward state. *Strelitzia angusta* is one of the most conspicuous objects in this house, and is about thirty-five feet high. *Doryanthes excelsa* may be expected to blossom in a short time, its flower-stem is already about fourteen feet high; this plant is also kept in the large Palm-house.

Among bedding-out plants, *Alysum variegatum*, intermixed with Enfield's scarlet *Verbena*, forms a beautiful bed for the early part of summer; but the *Alysum* must be kept thinned out, or towards autumn it becomes too strong for the *Verbena*, and destroys the beautiful effect which would otherwise be produced. It also forms a good contrast, intermixed with *Lobelia erinus maxima*; but it is not so showy as when it is mixed with scarlet flowers.

J. HOULSTON.

LISIANTHUS RUSSELLIANUS.

The following is Mr. Cuthill's mode of managing this *Lisianthus* :

I cannot say that I have succeeded with this plant through any extraordinary care; on the contrary, I think by giving it too much attention, and changing it about from shelf to shelf during winter, you kill it. The last two winters, I have placed the pots in pans and put them on a shelf, within one foot of the glass, in a house where *Camellias* are; they are not moved nor touched, not even to displace a dead leaf, during the whole of the winter, from the 1st of September till the present month, just keeping them moist enough to keep them from flagging; never watering on the surface, always in the pans. In February, they are shifted into 8-inch pots; the mixture of mould, composed of half rich yellow loam, the other half peat or bog-mould, with a little sand; they are then treated as above. They are exceedingly fond of liquid manure, moderately rich, with a heat

of 75°, and as the summer advances they will thrive in 90° well. Masses of this flower in a conservatory are very attractive; there is no flower lasts so long upon a plant; one bloom has lasted twenty-nine days before it faded.

The best time to sow the seed of this splendid plant is in March; and as the seed is very small, it requires additional care in sowing; for when sown in the usual way upon a loose soil, the first watering carries it along with it, and hence failure.

Prepare the following compost: half loam, the other half made up with leaf, peat, or bog-mould, with a little sand; place plenty of drainings in the bottom of a 48 or 32 pot, fill it with the compost very tightly, and on the top place half an inch of sand; damp the sand with water to harden the surface, sow the seed and sprinkle a very little dry sand on the top; place a propagating glass over the pot, or a piece of glass will do; place your pot into a heat of 70° or 80° with a pan under it, for the future watering; at no time water on the top; the pan ought never to be allowed to get dry. The seedlings will appear in three weeks or more; when about three weeks up, plant them singly in a 60-size pot in the above compost, with plenty of drainings in the bottom; place them again in the back of your cucumber-pit or frame; after this you cannot give them too much water overhead and in the pans; and by the autumn, if they have been kept in a good growing heat, they will be fine little bushy plants; top them at every joint. In September, shift them into large 60's, merely to keep their roots in a more intermediate state for the winter; after this all top-watering must cease, and a pan placed under each pot to receive the watering; and as the winter approaches, not a drop of water must be allowed to fall on the plant. The drier the top mould gets next the leaves and stem, the more certain of preserving your plant. The best place I have found is the coldest part of the stove, very near the glass; I have also kept them well in the warmest part of the greenhouse; in all cases just water sufficient to keep the plants from flagging. If the winter be dry, water once a fortnight; if damp weather, once a month or so; towards the end of February place them in a cucumber-pit or frame, in a heat of from 70° to 75°; and when they begin a fresh growth, shift them into as large pots as convenient, remembering the larger the pot the finer your specimen; my largest plant had 600 blossoms on it, and was grown in a no. 8-sized pot. As the spring advances, it is almost impossible to give them too much heat and moisture; they are very fond of liquid manure. It is useless to try to grow a fine plant in any place approaching to dry heat, nor less than 70° to 80°. I have grown them five inches in seven days.

In removing out of the pits, great care must be taken in not allowing the sun to shine on them for some days, as the change from a damp close heat to a dry house will be too much for them. By the above treatment they will come into flower about the 1st of July, and keep blooming from two to three months, forming a most splendid ornament for the drawing-room, conservatory, or greenhouse.

Camberwell.

JAMES CUTHILL.

REVIEW.

The Garden-Frame. A pamphlet of 38 pages. Groombridge and Sons.

THIS is both a useful and cheap treatise, the object of which is to instruct amateurs, as plainly and intelligently as possible, how to form, how to use, and how to make the most of this useful and excellent horticultural appliance. The dimensions of the three-light frame, which is that recommended, are generally 10 feet long and 4 feet wide, 15 inches deep at the back, and sloping to 7 inches deep at the front; but it is advised to alter the depth from 15 to 18 inches at the back, and from 7 to 10 inches in the front, as these will better suit the objects in view. This frame is to be employed for forcing Cucumbers on hot dung, raising vegetable and flower seeds, propagating plants from cuttings, and lastly, to be used as a hybernatory; and as winter is fast approaching us, when all of us will be put to our wits' end where to store away our summer pets, we have thought it well to extract the following chapter, not less for the purpose of affording instruction on this point, than for shewing the manner in which the several matters which the treatise contains are managed.

"We now come," says our author, "to the last aspect in which to consider the garden-frame; and it will be allowed that as a winter protection for the plants of which we have been treating, it may be regarded as an important feature in the amateur's garden. There is nothing more trying to the patience of the horticulturist, than to see all his labour lost, or his hopes disappointed. After providing, by much care and attention, a fine stock of healthy plants, which are to adorn the flower-beds or balconies during the following summer, his first consideration is—what is to be done with them? how are they to be kept? and where shall they be safe from the hard frosts of winter and the keen cutting winds of spring? Here, again, the garden-frame supplies these desiderata.

"The simplest and best mode, except when a pit heated with hot water is available, is to dig a pit about 8 inches deep, of the exact dimensions of the frame. At each corner of this pit, and in the centre of the south and north sides, have a pier of bricks rising to the level of the ground; on these piers allow the frame to rest. The whole depth of this pit with the frame on it will be 26 inches at the back, and 18 at the front; these heights will afford sufficient room for plants of a large size. To render the pit perfectly secure from the influence of frost, there should be some clean straw placed against the outside of the frame the whole of its depth, and it should be as close as it will possibly lay; against this straw throw up a mound of earth, sloping it away from the top of the frame; this will form a complete protection from the influence of the frost. Let us now direct our attention to the management of the plants in this pit which we have constructed. About the month of October it will be neces-

sary to give heed towards the welfare of the young stock, and the sooner they are housed the better; but before filling the pit with the plants, the floor of it must be laid about 4 or 6 inches thick with either lime-rubbish or coal-ashes, a mixture of both will answer well. The object of this is to prevent the worms rising and entering at the bottom of the pots. In arranging the plants, let all the tallest be placed at the back of the pit, and the smallest towards the front. Those which are deciduous, such as Fuchsias, China, and Tea-scented Roses, Hydrangeas, &c., should be placed nearest the front of the pit, as they will be able to do with less light than the Geraniums, Verbenas, Heliotropes, and other plants which retain their leaves during the winter. After they have been properly placed in their winter-quarters, they must receive as much air and light as it is possible to give them, so long as the weather continues mild and open; and it is not until we have unmistakable indications of winter having set in, that we are to deprive them of these necessaries. The great objects to be attended to during the winter are—first, to keep out the frost; and secondly, to keep the plants sufficiently dry. The best way to keep out the frost is to cover the lights with old blankets or other woollen materials. In watering the plants, this must be done with great judgment, as the whole success of wintering almost depends on this alone. It is only when the soil seems to have got thoroughly dried that water is to be given; but it will rarely happen in a pit of the kind we have described that watering will be required at all, but when it is requisite to do so, a fine clear day should always be selected. When water is given, it should be with a pot without a rose to it, it being allowed only to come in contact with the soil, without touching the leaves or shoots. Another matter of importance is the proper management of the plants should they become frosted. It may happen that there will be frosts so severe as to penetrate the pit and freeze every plant in it. Should such be the case, the frame must on no account be opened, no admission of light or air allowed, but let the whole be kept as close as possible until the external atmosphere has yielded to opposite influences. It is only after a thaw, therefore, that the pit is to be opened, and a free supply of light and air given. Such is the management that will be requisite during the winter. In the spring, when the frame will be required for forcing purposes (about the middle or rather the end of February), and will consequently have to be removed from the pit, it will be necessary to have the pit hooped over, and securely covered with mats, and such other protecting materials as can be procured. We have seen a very good covering for this purpose formed of straw hurdles, made close and thick, and placed over the pit thus A. These may be additionally protected with mats, &c.”

It will be gleaned from the above that every thing that is advanced is strictly practical, and therefore we can safely recommend it to our readers as a sure guide on the subject on which it treats.

NOTES ON NEW BEDDING-PLANTS.

ALLOW me to direct attention to a few plants not commonly known, which I consider are likely to become excellent for bedding purposes, and which therefore every person who wants them in large quantities will do well to commence with in time. The rage is evidently setting in the direction of Pelargoniums for beds; and I happen to know that some superb things in that way are already preparing for the market.

Of Pelargoniums, undoubtedly the greatest novelty is *Hendersonii*, a pure white flower of the scarlet section, which produces a good truss, and plenty of them. It originated, I believe, on the continent, at least Mr. C. P. Lochner of Paddington informs me that he brought the same thing from France last season. The flower is of course narrow in the petal, but sufficiently broad to be effective, and as it appears to be a free seeder, we look to it as the parent of some good things. Mountain of Light (Lee's), though a delicate, indeed very shy plant in the winter, promises to form a fine bed; the marking of the foliage when vigorously grown is very distinct, and the colour of the flower is also very rich. It also seeds freely, so that ample room is afforded for those who are disposed to try their hands at breeding bedding Pelargoniums. The Willmore Surprise, of which such a strange story of its being crossed with a Hollyhock was circulated two years back, though constant, is never likely to prove much more than a curiosity, as it is a course-growing and shy-blooming plant,—two serious disqualifications. The old Double Purple or Copenhagen is very superior to it, and that, I think, will form one of the best bedding-plants in cultivation. The truss is large, plentifully produced, and well above the foliage, and the colour rich lilac-purple. This plant also seeds freely, and may yet give us something better; at any rate a more varied set of double flowers. The Amazon, a new scarlet of the large trussing section, is only adapted for large beds, and even then it is too much like Smith's Emperor and Shrubland Scarlet to be of much interest to the flower-gardener. For pyramids, as single specimens on lawns, or for training against trellis-work, it will be found useful; but it is too coarse for bedding purposes. Shrubland Pet, from which so much was anticipated, proves to be an old friend under a *new name*,—one which we have known for the last ten years. So far from its being a Shrubland Seedling, I have reason to believe it to be an imported species or hybrid. I have grown it under the name of *Quercifolium atroseum*; it is known in Hertfordshire as Old Windsor, and in some of the nurseries as Curata. If it is an English seedling at all, it most likely originated between Moore's Victory and *P. fulgidum* or *flexuosum*; and as I am writing, I am told it was raised by Mr. Dennis of the King's Road, Chelsea, which is not at all improbable. It is a plant of splendid habit, but upon rich soil not at all suitable for flower-garden purposes. On poor sandy soil, or plunged in pots, or planted in vases, and fully exposed to the sun, it blooms beautifully, and

forms a neat and interesting plant late in the season; but if well grown, it will be found almost impossible to bloom it before August or September. It is only just to remark that Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son are entirely blameless in this matter. I know they were not at all aware, prior to their sending it out, that the Shrubland Pet was an old plant. Of the pink Scarlets, as they are commonly called, the Pymmes Seedling, and Smith's Lady Holmsdale, though not very distinct, are still worth growing; but of these things, sent out late in the spring, it is almost impossible to judge at present. Lady Holmsdale is rather the largest flower, and has a slight marking in the leaf; but both are much like Ingram's Princess Alice, though not quite so strong growing. Of Fancy varieties I have some hundreds planted out for experiment, comprising all the leading varieties, even those at a guinea and a half each; but at present I am not quite convinced of their suitableness for our fickle climate.

Among *Calceolarias* I would particularly recommend *Sulphurea splendidissima*, a fine and distinct yellow kind, producing large trusses and a constant succession of them. The height does not exceed a foot. It requires to be planted rather thickly in good soil, and to be assisted with a little weak manure water in dry weather. Wellington Hero is a variety sent out by Messrs. E. G. Henderson this season. It grows to the height of 18 inches, produces large pannicles of brilliant orange flowers, each flower being three times the size of *viscosissima*, and quite as bright in colour. Messrs. A. Henderson and Co. have a set of shrubby seedlings which are very promising.

Phlox Mayii variegata is a splendid plant, and under good management will form a distinct and very fine bed. Each flower is beautifully variegated with lilac and white, and they are produced in great profusion. To insure its keeping well through the winter, it should be struck early, so as to get the plants strong. *Phlox Thomsonii* is another variety of *Drummondii*, with brilliant crimson flowers, which ought to be grown in every flower-garden.

Linaria reticulata, a new plant introduced by Mr. Stark, is a neat and interesting plant, and for rock-work or small beds in a shaded situation it will be found very useful; being a dark-crimson purple flower, it is not suitable for a sunny situation. It requires a light rich soil and plenty of water in the growing season. *Lobelia erinus ramosoides* is another of Messrs. Henderson's plants, and certainly the finest of all the dwarf bedding *Lobelias*. It is very compact in habit, brilliant in colour, and the flowers, though small, are produced in ample profusion. We should imagine it to be a seedling between *L. compacta* and *erinus grandiflora*, as in habit it is intermediate between the two.

Of *Heliotropes*, unquestionably *H. corymbosum* is the best for bedding purposes, being dwarf, free, and compact, and not exceeding a foot in height. *H. Voltaireanum* and Salter's Gem are scarcely distinguishable in the open air; indeed I almost begin to think Mr. Salter must have made a mistake in sending the plant out, as I have never seen it at all like the seedling plant in colour. *H. Voltaireanum*

nanum is a plant of neat and distinct habit; and I have two varieties from the continent, viz. Perfection and Louis Napoleon, both very dwarf and compact. I have also another, *H. submolle*, a species with leaves as large as *Magnolia grandiflora*, but what the flowers may be I know not at present.

Petunias are improving, though slowly, as they are gaining both in form and substance. Young's Crimson King is certainly the king of crimsons, and puts all other bedding varieties into the shade. It is fine in form, good in substance, brilliant in colour, compact in habit, and in every respect a very first-rate bedding-plant. *Striata* (Smith) is also an excellent bedding variety, with flesh-coloured flowers and dark-crimson throat and veining. *Shrubland Rose* is a good bedding variety, as is *Count Zichy*, a stronger-growing kind of nearly the same colour. *White Giant* (Smith) is promising, though not quite up to the mark; in fact, I am influenced in my judgment by a much finer one which I have seen.

Among *Verbenas* there are a few that must not be passed unnoticed. I would wish it, however, to be understood that I speak of varieties adapted for bedding, and such as produce fine and good-coloured trusses and a good succession of them. Among these, *Ormsby Beauty*, a variety sent out by Mr. Turner, is certainly one of the most promising. It is very compact in habit, and produces a complete mass of flowers. The colour is bluish-purple, with a distinct light eye. *Duchess of Kent* (Turner), a variety in the way of *Princess Alice and Beauty*, is very pretty, but not quite sufficiently distinct. Of the varieties sent out by Mr. George Smith, *National*, *Koh-i-noor*, *Eliza Cook*, *Standard*, *King*, and *Ariel*, are very promising, especially *King*, while *Orlando*, being an improvement upon Mrs. Mills, speaks for itself as the best of the blues. When planted in good soil, or with a little cow-dung beneath it, or when well supplied with manure water, we have found *Satyr* make a distinct and very splendid bed; and *Admirable* is also an excellent variety, scarcely less valuable than *Figaro*. Some of the continental varieties are blooming with me at present. I have not noticed any thing at all remarkable among them. I might enumerate a lot of new things which have come under my notice, but as they are not thoroughly proved, it would be premature to do so.

WM. P. AYRES.

NEW PLANTS

FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

Paxton's Flower-Garden for September contains coloured plates of—

The **THREE-FLOWERED ABELIA** (*A. triflora*). A beautiful half-hardy shrub from northern India, which we doubt not will prove an acquisition.

The **LARGE-FLOWERED GLUTINOUS DIPLACUS** (*D. glutinosus*, var. *grandiflorus*). A greenhouse evergreen shrub, from California, somewhat resembling the old glutinous *Mimulus*; but larger and more buff-coloured.

The **FIERY-RED MORMODES** (*M. igneum*). A distinct-looking hothouse epiphytal Orchid, from Central America.

As usual, several pretty woodcuts ornament the miscellaneous part of the work.

In the *Botanical Magazine* for the same month we find—

The *ROSCEO CURCUMA* (*C. Roscoeana*). An orange-coloured stove-plant, which has been several times exhibited from Syon.

The *WALLICH MECONOPSIS* (*M. Wallichii*). A very handsome blue-flowered plant, from Sikkim Himalaya, which is highly promising. We hope it may prove hardy.

The *GREENISH-BROWN CALANTHE* (*C. viridi-fusca*). A not very striking Orchid, from Assam.

The *JAMAICA EBONY* (*Brya ebenus*). A yellow pea-flowered stove-shrub, or small tree, which must be very handsome.

The *HAIRY-STEMMED CALANTHE* (*C. vestita*). A pale-coloured Orchid, now found in most collections.

The *SEA-SHORE MALCOLMIA* (*M. littorea*). A beautiful hardy plant, with pale green aspect and pink flowers, somewhat resembling those of a Phlox.

The following notices are from Kew.

SCABIOSA CAUCASICA. This is an admirable species for a border or the centre of a bed; it grows about two or three feet high, and forms a large tuft; the flowers are two inches and a half in diameter, and of a pale blue.

SCABIOSA CAUCASICA, var. *ELEGANS*. This variety has a very compact close habit, it grows about a foot high, has narrow lanceolate leaves, and large flowers of a light blue. These species of Scabious are all hardy evergreen perennials, and with the others above noticed are all at present (July) in flower at Kew.

NIEREMBERGIA CALYCINA. Several species of this genus are in cultivation; they are very pretty greenhouse plants, of dwarf habit, and useful in pots for purposes of decoration throughout the summer. The usual state of *N. calycina*, as found among collections, is a small and rather straggling-growing evergreen trailer. It is a very interesting species, and is useful as a bedding-out plant, when, if properly treated, it forms one of the neatest and prettiest beds that could be desired, the flowers being white, and very large for the size of the plant, and the foliage small; when in flower it has a very great resemblance to a species of *Dryas*. To form a small bed, a dozen or eighteen plants would be required; and if well regulated and kept pegged close down, they will soon cover the entire surface, and when in flower they have a pleasing effect; the flowers being about an inch and a half high, and each one inch in diameter; they thickly cover the whole bed for a considerable time during the summer. It is a valuable plant for the flower-garden, as there are not many bedding-out plants that have white flowers. In addition to *N. calycina* the following white-flowered plants form good beds: *Rosa alba*, *Petunia nycctaginiflora*, *Campanula carpatica alba*, *Verbena teucrioides alba*.

NIEREMBERGIA FILICAULIS (*N. gracilis* of gardens) is a slender, rather erect-growing, and much-branching kind; it forms a tolerably good bedding-plant if planted rather thickly, and pegged closely down, in a situation that is somewhat sheltered; being a very delicate plant, it is apt to suffer from wind or heavy rains. It grows about a foot high, the flowers being lilac and white, with a yellow centre. To grow it in perfection, it must be kept as a pot-plant in a greenhouse or conservatory, where the flowers will be dry; they are then much more abundant, and make a beautiful display during summer.

ACHIMENES MULTIFLORA. This is one of the most lovely of this beautiful genus; it is familiar to most cultivators, and is found in nearly all collections, yet one rarely sees a good specimen of it; being a difficult plant to manage, it rarely attains that perfection which is observable in most of the other kinds. It requires a moist stove-heat until the flowers begin to expand, then it should be removed to an intermediate house, kept quite dry overhead, and watered cautiously at the root. It should never be kept very wet; for if at all soddened, it is sure to damp off: a watering should be given, and then it should be allowed to become nearly dry before any more is applied. One plant in a 6-inch pot is quite sufficient, and better than more; for if too thick, they become crowded, and spoil each other. There is a specimen of it grown under the above treatment at Kew; it is now two feet high, has nearly sixty expanded flowers upon it, with many more progressing, forming an erect floral pyramid of fifteen inches.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

SPRING-FLOWERING SCILLAS.

VERY beautiful little plants are the spring-flowering Squills, almost bearing company with Snowdrops and Crocuses, which generally form the whole array of garden-flowers to greet the first approach of spring. With these too the prevailing cerulean hue of the Scillas would form a fine contrast. Why is it, then, that they are so seldom seen? for it is rare to meet with them, except in the gardens of the curious, and there not in profusion. I would most strongly recommend them to notice, as plants which should be grown as commonly as Crocuses and Snowdrops in every garden where early spring-flowers are at all sought for. They have many recommendations. Growing but a few inches high, and bearing for the most part blue flowers, they would form beautiful beds, or margins to beds, in situations where now such plants as Snowdrops and Crocuses are almost exclusively depended on for the earliest bloom. The Snowdrop, as is well known, furnishes white blossoms only, and the Crocus supplies various tints of white, yellow, orange, and purple, but in neither is the pure blue colour to be found. Those, therefore, who desire to render their gardens ornamental at the earliest dawn of spring should procure and plant largely of the plants in question; and there are several kinds adapted for the purpose. I will just mention two or three. *Scilla bifolia* grows about three or four inches high, and when growing freely, throws up several flower-scapes, each of which bears from four to eight star-like blue flowers, during April and May. *S. verna* grows about the same size, and bears a roundish head of purplish-blue flowers in May and June. *S. amœna* is also about the same stature, and produces largish drooping light-blue flowers in April and May. *S. siberica*, another of these dwarf species, has drooping blossoms of a beautiful clear light-blue, which are borne in April. Of *S. bifolia* there are at least two very distinct varieties, one having white, the other pink blossoms. They are all cultivated with facility.

O. R.

BRITISH PLANTS.

Saponaria officinalis, though found in this neighbourhood, is nevertheless a scarce plant. The flowers have a strong tendency to become double, in which state they are very ornamental. This is considered by herbalists to be a useful plant for many purposes.

Sedum acre is quite a showy plant on walls, &c. The flowers are of a fine golden colour, and much esteemed for their beauty by cottagers.

Linaria minor. This small flower is found in shallow stagnant water near Windsor; but it is apparently rare in this quarter. I was unable to procure more than a few plants of it.

Ballota nigra is a plant of frequent occurrence, and chiefly within the vicinity of houses.

Chelidonium majus is common in these parts, being observed at Old Windsor, Chertsey, Egham, and on an old wall at Thrope.

Scutellaria minor, when in full bloom, is a charming little plant. It grows near Cumberland Lodge in ditches which have been partially dried through the summer; and it is equally abundant among the Brake Fern on the way from Cumberland Lodge to Bishopgate.

Scutellaria galericulata is of a handsome blue, and more showy than the above. It is a plant well deserving of culture, and will thrive in almost any situation in which moisture is afforded. It is frequently to be seen in ditches in Windsor Park, and other places.

Viola tricolor, var. *arvensis*, is common in fields and cultivated grounds all about this neighbourhood.

Viola odorata is a frequent plant in all our hedge-rows, and a favourite with every one. It is as often seen with flowers of a pure white and of a lilac colour as with blue.

Menyanthes trifoliata may be found on "Staines Moor." I commenced a search for it on the moor, and was soon successful; but the lateness of the season (September) precluded me from seeing it in flower, though this plant is often to be found with lingering blossoms on it as late as the time I have just mentioned.

Englefield Green.

WILLIAM WHALE.

LOBELIA FULGENS MULTIFLORA.

THIS is one of the handsomest plants that are grown for bedding. It is not to be found in many establishments; but I do not know for what reason, as it is very easy to cultivate if properly attended to. There have been several nurserymen and gentlemen here this year, and all of them seemed very much surprised to find a bed of this beautiful Lobelia growing and blooming so finely. The plants are four feet high, and covered with blossoms. It produces its flowers, which are of a fine rich scarlet or crimson, from July to October. No garden ought to be without a bed of this charming plant, whose colour is very distinct from that of any other bedding plant; and therefore it cannot fail to be an acquisition to the flower-garden. It also looks well planted on the borders, intermixed with other flowers.

To grow it in perfection, it requires a good soil. It does best in pots during the winter in a little heat. The best way to be successful with it is to take the plants off the bed after they have done blooming, part them (every bit will grow), put them into small pots, and place them in a little heat till they are well rooted; then remove them to a cooler house, taking care not to give too much water at the roots during winter, only just enough to keep the soil a little damp. Pot them afresh into larger pots in March, and encourage them to grow strong; and as they begin to root, give them more water, and keep them in the house till April. Afterwards move them into a cool pit or frame, for the purpose of hardening them a little before planting out.

Herts.

B. S. W.



THE BOURBON ROSE.

ABOUT thirty-five years ago, a French botanist, M. Breon, visited the island of Bourbon, and found growing, in a garden at St. Benoist, a Rose altogether new to him. The flowers were rosy-carmine, beautifully cupped, and the petals remarkable for their size and smoothness. Our botanist did not fail to appreciate this *nouveauté*, and sending it to Paris, it was there multiplied, and scattered abroad: this was the original Bourbon Rose. It is not a species, but an accidental hybrid, supposed to have sprung up between the common China Rose and the red Four-seasons.

Some of our readers will doubtless remember the Rose Ile de Bourbon, or Bourbon Jacques—for under both these names it was disseminated; and it is from this Rose, variously hybridised, that all the Bourbon Roses have been obtained. For the first few years most of the seedlings raised were of the same colour as the original; some were finer, and many more double; one of which, Augustine Leleur, remains a good Rose to this day. The first variation was the production of kinds of a clear and beautiful silvery tint, then of a dark purple and crimson hue, till now we have in the subject of this notice a flower as brilliant in colour, and equal in form, to almost any Rose. The habit of Prince Albert is dwarf; the shoots are very robust, and well clothed with large, rich, green foliage. It usually blooms in large clusters, but does not grow rampant, like Madame Desprez, but produces short, massive shoots, more in the way of Comice de Seine et Marne, from which it is probably a seedling, although more robust, larger, brighter in colour, and more double. As it is of dwarf habit, and blooms freely from June till November, it will probably prove an acquisition as a bedding Rose. Our drawing was taken from a flower in summer; the autumn blooms we have observed are of a richer but less brilliant hue.

The history of this Rose is briefly this: Mr. Paul of the Cheshunt Nurseries found it growing in the garden of the raiser, in the neighbourhood of Fontenay-aux-Roses, near Paris; and being struck with the beauty and brilliancy of the flowers, purchased the entire stock, and now, for the first time, offers plants for sale.

The Bourbon Roses generally are hardy and easy of culture; the short-wooded, free-blooming kinds require two annual dressings of manure and close pruning; they are then the most beautiful of autumn Roses, flowering better and

more abundantly late in the season than in summer, fine flowers often expanding at the end of October. To the culture of this group (Bourbon) we may perhaps find occasion to return specially hereafter.

THE HOLLYHOCK.

As it has been proposed to have an exhibition of this beautiful flower in or near London during the year 1853, the following remarks may perhaps not be considered out of place in your pages. They have been suggested by an excellent article on the same subject, which appeared in the *Gardener's Chronicle* of September the 18th, under the initials J. E.

With regard to the "properties" or form which a good Hollyhock should possess, the individual flower has often been well enough described; but one very material point has not been sufficiently attended to, namely, the manner in which the flowers should be arranged on the spike. However perfect in form each individual flower may be, if a Hollyhock do not "spike up" well, that is, if the flowers be not so arranged as to conceal the stalk completely, at the same time without being too crowded, it cannot be called "first rate." Nothing spoils the appearance of a stand more than to see, as one frequently does, two or three spikes which exhibit an inch of green stalk between each flower; and for this reason a little overcrowding is less objectionable than the reverse. But in a first-rate Hollyhock the flowers should be arranged one above another in regular gradations, at such distances as to be liable to neither objection.

The drooping habit also alluded to by J. E., which some varieties possess, is very objectionable; it gives a mean appearance to the spike, for which no excellence of form or beauty of colour altogether compensates.

As respects the mode of exhibiting, there will probably not be much difference of opinion that "ginger-beer bottles" ought not to be allowed; and the suggestion by J. E. of eleven spikes (or any uneven number), to be staged in two rows, the front row alternating with the back, is an excellent one: when twelve spikes are shewn in two rows of six and six, they look far better than in three rows, and the proposed alternation will greatly improve their appearance. As to the size of the boards upon which they should be exhibited, it will perhaps be better not to make any very stringent regulations at present, until we have more experience, but to leave the matter, for a time at least, to the judgment of exhibitors. A board fifteen inches in width, with holes nine inches apart, as proposed by J. E., would not give nearly room enough for two rows of well-grown spikes, which are often from seven to eight inches in diameter; and when the spikes alternate with one another, it will be necessary to leave

sufficient space between those in the front row, to see the back row to advantage. A board twenty-two inches from back to front, with holes in two rows of six at the back, and five in the front, alternating with one another, and placed five inches from the edge and twelve inches apart, would not be too large for well-grown spikes. There is an objection to raising the board higher at the back than the front, as it would put the spikes out of the perpendicular, which would have an awkward appearance; nor does such elevation seem necessary for Hollyhocks, as some sorts will always produce longer spikes than others, and such will, of course, be placed in the back row, thereby giving the desired effect. The board should be neatly covered with fresh green moss.

With regard to the length of spike, nothing should be allowed under fifteen inches; but it would be a pity to fix any limit above that height, as, with good growth and proper shading, spikes of some varieties may be got three feet long, and even more; and if the exhibitor choose to take the trouble of bringing them, the longer the spikes the nobler appearance they make. They ought, of course, to be in full bloom to the very summit. Judges should be very particular on this point, and not allow six or more inches of unbloomed stuff to be shewn, as is frequently done, but should at once reject those with green tops, which are quite as objectionable as green eyes in Dahlias. With a little care there is not much difficulty in making all the really good varieties close over the top entirely.

As to the number of spikes to be required, eleven is perhaps the best number for Nurserymen, and seven, in two rows of four at the back and three in front, for Amateurs; and the latter should be allowed to compete in the Nurserymen's class, if they have courage enough to do so.

As to the proper time for an exhibition of Hollyhocks, the 8th or 10th of August is about the date they are generally at their best; and the writer can state, from several years' experience, that an attempt to get them in at the same time as the Carnations and Picotees will be a failure five years out of six; nor is there any necessity for doing so, as the Hollyhock is quite worthy of an exhibition of its own; indeed it is destined at no very remote period to become the most admired and popular flower in the garden. G. H.

[Our own views entirely coincide with those of our Correspondent, with the exception of the manner of exhibiting spikes. In our opinion they appear to the greatest advantage in pots known as 32's, or 6-inch pots, the tube holding the water being sunk in the pot in sand, the top of which should be covered with fresh green moss. By adopting this plan they can be placed at any distance apart, according to their size, and shewn in three rows of four spikes each, or, what is better, two rows of eleven spikes, six in the back and five in front, thus displaying every spike to advantage. The back row might be raised, similar to Pelargoniums, at the same time keeping them perpendicular, or a short spike might be brought up to correspond with the others.]

It is quite true that Hollyhocks cannot be shewn along with Carnations generally; but as the middle of August is the best time for Hollyhocks, Dahlias can be exhibited with them, when it is known there will be shows at that time. With a few rows of forward plants, and the chance crown-blooms from the general stock, a good stand may be shewn. Indeed this is no supposition, as it fell to our lot to take the first prize at York, for 24 varieties of Dahlias, on the 4th of August 1842, and we have shewn a dozen good ones in July.

As our Correspondent's ideas respecting the flower are so good, we hope at a future time to give his system of cultivating this interesting plant.]

BROCCOLI.

PERMIT me to draw attention to the following six early sorts, which may prove useful to some of your readers. Broccolies are now so numerous that it is difficult to select kinds suitable to keep up a succession through the autumn and winter months.

1. *Snow's Superb Early White*. Heads middle-sized, well protected with leaves; hardy. If sown early in March, the first week in May, middle of June, and the end of August, the produce will be fit for table during the months of November, December, January, and March; and if the season be mild, the last sowing will succeed the spring Cauliflower.

2. *Walcheren*. This closely resembles Cauliflower, being white, excellent, and large. If sown the third week in March, it will be in season through August and September. Sown in May, it will come into use in December and January. If the weather is mild, it is very serviceable for sowing with autumn Cauliflower for use in June.

3. *White Cape*. This is a very useful variety, of intermediate size; if true, forming compact heads. If sown in April and May, it is in season throughout January and February.

4. *Adams' Early White* is large and good, and rather new if sown in April and May. It is in season in February and the beginning of March.

5. *Grange's Early White* (Syn.: *Bath White*, *Marshall's Early White*, *Invisible White*). If sown at three different periods, viz. April, May, and June, it is in use from the end of October to February, according to the season.

6. *Early Purple Cape* (Syn.: *Grange's Early Purple Cape*, *Blue Cape*). Sown in May and June, it continues in use from September till January. If sown in the latter end of August, and the young plants pricked out on a dry sloping bank, it will stand the winter with little protection, and will come into use about the middle of June.

Frogmore.

R. MARR.

THE HYACINTH.

Now that the season has arrived for potting Hyacinths, I venture to give a list of a select few, culled from the many we at present possess, and to add a remark or two about their culture. It is with some satisfaction that I perceive the Horticultural Society offers a prize for the best six sorts in April next; and I sincerely hope that the call may be liberally responded to; for I see no reason why the Hyacinth should not in its turn be a truly popular flower, not misunderstood by the many, as at present, but thoroughly appreciated, and grown as it deserves to be. Would a special exhibition of Hyacinths be worth promoting? This is a question to be considered; in the meantime I pass on to the consideration of the following varieties:

Names.	Colours.	Flower.	Average height in inches.	General character.
Appelius . . .	Light red	Single.	12	Very showy.
Anna Maria . .	Blush, with dark eye . .	Double.	18	Full of bells, a good variety.
A-la-mode . . .	Light porcelain blue, with dark stripes	Double.	16	Full of bells, good.
Amiable Rosette .	Deep rose	Single.	18	Very good, full of bells.
Baron Van Tuyll	Darkish blue	Single.	18	Full of bells, a good variety.
Blocksberg . . .	Light porcelain blue . .	Double.	16	A handsome variety.
Bouquet Royale .	Deep salmon blush . . .	Double.	16	In the way of Grootvorst, but deeper in colour.
Bouquet Pourpre	Dark purple	Double.	16	Full of bells, pretty.
Bellerophon . . .	Dark blue, with rather light centre	Single.	16	A well formed and good var.
Charles Dickens .	Light blue	Single.	18	A fine, striking variety.
Comtesse de la Coste	Deep blush	Double.	16	Very handsome, bells short and close.
Comte de St. Priest	Very light porcelain blue	Double.	16	Full of bells, a good variety.
Dongratuit . . .	Clear white	Double.	20	Full of bells, very handsome.
Diebitsch Sabalskanski	Deep carmine	Single.	12	Most profuse bloomer.
Emicus	Dark blue, with light eye	Single.	18	Full of bells, very handsome.
Emphion	Deep rose	Single.	15	A peculiar colour, and worth growing.
Graaf van Nassau	Light blue	Single.	18	Full of bells, a good flower.
Grande Vedette . .	Clear white	Single.	16	A good bell, rather loose, but very pretty.
Grande Vedette . .	Light porcelain blue . .	Single.	18	Large bells, full and handsome.
Grootvorst	Light blush	Double.	16	One of the best in cultivation.
Grande Vainqueur	White	Single.	16	An excellent variety.
Heroine	Deepish yellow	Single.	16	One of the best yellows.
Honneur d'Amsterdam	Light blush	Double.	18	Very large bells, and hangs loose.
King of the Netherlands	Light blue and slate . . .	Double.	18	Good. Form and habit the same as Laurens Koster but lighter colour.
Kroon van Indie . .	Light purple	Semi-dbl.	18	Rather better than Queen of England.
La Candeur	Clear white	Single.	14	Full, an excellent variety.

Names	Colours.	Flower.	Average height in inches.	General character.
La Dame du Lac .	Light red	Single.	18	Full of bells, throws two stalks.
La Vestale . .	Creamy white	Semi-dbl.	18	In the way of Dongratuit, but not so clear.
La Grandeur . .	Light yellow	Semi-dbl	12	Stiff habit, one of the best yellows.
Le Franc van Berkhey	Deep pink	Single.	12	Full of bells, a good flower.
L'Ami du Cœur .	Dark red	Single.	16	Full of bells, very pretty.
L'Ami du Cœur .	Dark blue	Single.	16	Full of bells, good.
L'Unique	Plum colour	Single.	18	Novel in colour, very handsome.
Laurens Koster .	Dark blue	Double.	18	Full of bells, a splendid flower.
Lord Wellington	Deep porcelain blue .	Double.	18	Full of bells.
Lord Wellington	Rose striped	Single.	18	Good bell, handsome and showy.
Lord Wellington	Light blush, with pink eye	Double.	18	A fine and handsome var.
Mars	Deep red	Single.	14	Full of bells, good.
Madam Talleyrand	Clear white	Single.	15	Well formed, full, a good free blooming variety.
Madam Zoutman	Light pink	Semi-dbl.	18	
Minerva	Creamy white	Double.	16	In the way of La Vestale, but better.
M. de Faesch . .	Light pink, with blush stripe	Single.	16	Full of bells, very showy.
Mignonne de Dryfhout	Light porcelain blue, with dark tip	Semi-dbl.	20	Full of bells, a good flower.
Ne-plus-ultra . .	Clear white, purple centre	Double.	20	Loose, a handsome bell and worth growing.
Nimrod	Light blue	Single.	14	Full of bells, excellent.
Oscar	Light blue, with dark blue stripes.	Single.	20	A large and bold variety.
Orondates . . .	Light porcelain blue .	Single.	15	Well formed, very handsome.
Prince Albert . .	Bright black purple . .	Single.	15	Very handsome, the best dark variety.
Prince of Wales .	Light salmon pink . . .	Double.	16	Full of bells, pretty.
Prince of Waterloo	White, slightly tipped with green, blush eye	Double.	18	Rather loose, but a handsome flower.
Prince Frederick	Very light porcelain blue, with a peculiar greenish heel	Double.	18	A very good flower, changing to a light slate-colour, with a greenish-blue heel.
Prince of Saxe Weimar	Dark purple	Semi-dbl.	18	Full and very handsome.
Paarlboot	Lilac blue	Double.	18	Good and desirable, a very distinct colour.
Passetout	Light porcelain blue .	Semi-dbl.	15	A good variety, beautiful in colour.
Panorama	Rich carmine	Single.	14	Full of bells, handsome var.
Perruque Royal .	Deep blush, with pink stripes	Semi-dbl.	18	Large bell, rather loose, showy.
Premier Noble . .	Clear white	Single.	16	Very pretty.
Professor Lindley	Deep blush, with dark eye.	Double.	16	A very good variety.
Queen of England	Light purple	Semi-dbl.	18	Tolerably full of bells, and pretty.
Richard Cœur de Lion	Dark blue	Single.	18	A handsome variety.

Names.	Colours.	Flower.	Average height in inches.	General character.
Reine Blanche . . .	Clear white	Single.	16	Full of bells, good.
Sans Souci . . .	Bright red, with white eye	Semi-dbl.	10	Dwarf and robust, having the appearance of a double stock.
Sultan Aehmet . .	White, with pink eye . .	Double.	13	Rather loose, but pretty.
Triumph Blandina	Light blush, with pink eye	Semi-dbl.	13	Short well-formed bell, good.
Tubal Cain . . .	Dark purple	Single.	16	Full of bells, a good variety.
Tubiflora	Light rose	Single.	14	A robust kind, with a peculiar purplish tint as the flower ages.
Victoria Regina .	Clear white	Single.	16	A pretty variety, full of bells.
Virgo	French white, with pink eye	Single.	18	One of the best whites, full of bells.
Vulcan	Dark blue	Single.	16	Full of bells, good.
Waterloo	Dark red	Double	16	One of the best in cultivation.

The varieties above enumerated were selected from a collection of 163 sorts when in full bloom, and their heights, colours, and general characters noted at that period. Let it be understood, however, that in all these points various changes may arise under different treatment. The collection alluded to had been grown well, and the growers of it have always been celebrated for their fine Hyacinths.

The soil should consist of maiden fibrous loam, which has been stacked about two years, rich decayed leaf-mould, and a little sand. The mixture to be in the proportion of two-thirds loam and one-third leaf-mould. Let it be quite free from insects, and use forty-eight and thirty-two sized pots, according to the growth of the variety. Select a dry hard bottom, under a wall, if possible, for placing the pots on, and cover them with rotten tan (or, when this is not procurable, sifted ashes), to the depth of eight or ten inches above the pot. Let them remain there for a month or so; then move them into a dark frame for a day or two, and gradually inure them to the light, at all times keeping them free from cold winds and draughts of air. Permit them to remain in the cold frame, so as to harden the plants and influence their colours; and remove them into the greenhouse to flower, as may be required.

Hyacinths in glasses.—With respect to these, I cannot do better than quote from Mr. G. P. Tye's *Practical Hints on the Cultivation and Properties of the Hyacinth*. He says, "Having filled the bottles with clean rain-water, introduce the bulbs; but do not let them touch the water by half an inch. Place them in a dark closet or cellar, in order that the roots may grow first. * * * * * When the roots are of sufficient length (say four or five inches) remove the bottles to a situation where the bulbs will have light, but not too bright at first; and in a week or so place them near the glass in a greenhouse, or in a sitting-room window. In each case be careful to avoid too great a change of temperature, which should be but little higher

than that of the place from whence you remove the bottle. Let the plants have air on all convenient occasions, or they will grow tall, pale, and weakly. * * * * * It has recently been ascertained that the Hyacinth discharges an excrementitious matter from its roots. Such being the case, the water becomes poisonous, and requires changing every two or three weeks. Let the fresh supply be of the same temperature as that in which the bulb has been growing; for, remember, the heat of the room or greenhouse has taken off the 'chill.' The flower will receive a check if you do not attend to this."

I must also recommend to the notice of all growers of Hyacinths in water Tye's registered glass and wire support, which supersedes all yet introduced, and has a support that really proves itself to be so. They can now be obtained of all seedsmen.

OBSERVER.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

CHERRIES (*continued from p. 221*).

14. *Florence.*

Synonym: Knevett's late Bigarreau.

Fruit very large, obtuse heart-shaped and regularly formed; a little compressed at the sides, with a slight suture. Skin amber-coloured, marbled with light red, and having a bright red cheek when fully exposed. Stalk long, quite slender, and set in a deep even cavity. Flesh pale yellow, very firm, juicy, sweet, and when fully matured of excellent flavour. In season from the beginning to the end of August.

The Florence is a very desirable late Cherry, resembling the Bigarreau in appearance, but ripening much later, and it will hang a long time on the tree. It is of strong growth, the leaves being long and narrow, irregularly and deeply serrated, and having very long petioles; it is a good bearer when trained against an east or west wall, or it will thrive as a standard.

15. *Late Duke.*

Synonym: Anglaise Tardive.

Fruit very large, obtuse heart-shaped, and very even in its outline; borne several in a bunch. Skin yellowish white, mottled with red on the shaded side, and having a dark-red cheek; but when fully exposed, the entire surface is covered with dark glossy red. Stalk slender, of moderate length, and inserted without much depression. Flesh pale yellow, tender, subacid, and very juicy. Ripens about the middle of August, and will hang well till the middle of October.

The Late Duke is a fine, large, handsome Cherry, but a little too acid for dessert; still it is often used on account of its lateness and fine, showy appearance; it is, however, principally employed for tarts, &c.

The habit of the tree resembles that of other Duke Cherries, inclining a little to the Morello; it blossoms very late, consequently it escapes the spring frost, and generally produces very heavy crops. It is a variety well worthy of cultivation, bearing well as a standard, but succeeding best trained against an east or north wall.

16. *Kentish.*

Synonyms: Common Red, Flemish (of many), Virginian May, Early Richmond, Kentish Red, Pie Cherry, Sussex, with five or six others, mostly French.

Fruit of medium size, round, a little flattened at both ends. Stalk short, straight, rather stout, set in a deep even cavity, and attached firmly to the stone. Skin light red at first, changing to a deep dull red at maturity. Flesh a little firm, acid, and very juicy. This Cherry is mostly grown as a standard, and the fruit used for tarts or for drying. It is an old variety, said to have been introduced by Richard Haines, in the reign of Henry VIII., and formed the first Cherry orchards of Kent.

17. *Morello.*

Synonyms: Dutch Morello, Large Morello, Black Morello, Late Morello, Ronolds's Large Morello, Milan, Du Nord, Griotte Ordinaire du Nord, September Weichsel Grosse (small), Morello (of some).

Of the Morello there are several varieties, such as the Plumstone, Rumsey's Late, Frogmore, and Weeping; but owing to the close resemblance of the fruit, and its being used in the same way, it will be needless to make any distinction here.

The fruit is above the middle size, round, and of a dark-red colour, approaching to black. Stalk of moderate length, rather slender, and set without a cavity. Flesh very tender, of a deep purplish red, resembling that of the Mulberry, extremely juicy, with an agreeable acid flavour. Ripens in August; and will hang for two months on the tree.

The Morello will bear well as a standard in favourable soils; but it is mostly trained against north walls, where it succeeds admirably. The fruit is used for steeping in brandy, and for preserving with sugar; it is also a great acquisition in the shape of a dessert fruit during the autumn months.

The above closes my list of Cherries, which, together with those before noticed, includes most of the kinds worthy of cultivation.

Frogmore.

J. POWELL.

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## TULIP-BEDS.

FOR the successful issue and full realisation of my notions of perfection in relation to Tulip-culture, the operation of "making my bed" has ever been my greatest study. Nor has my perseverance gone unrewarded during the ten years it has been my pleasure to cultivate these gems of Flora. My "first-fruits" were modest yet successful;

for at the very onset my efforts were directed to the exhibition-table of a long-since defunct society held in Walworth ; and I at starting, perhaps luckily, hit the mark. Season after season did I test my growth with that of contemporary exhibitors of the metropolis. I aspired to something more ; and the floral records of the past few years tell the (to me) pleasing tale of battles fought and victories won. This preface is simply dotted down that my friends may hold with greater confidence the routine I have long followed and now publicly recommend. To a country grower much of the labour here enumerated as actually necessary to me can doubtless be dispensed with ; but I, who have had to contend against an atmosphere closely allied to that of mid-London, have found the full benefit of this "ground work" in the superstructure, by a development of colour, purity, and size which but few metropolitan cultivators have succeeded in obtaining ; and although somewhat irrelevant, it is no boasting when I assert that, at my humble garden, situate in a low, damp, and clayey locality, and but three miles and a half from St. Paul's, for colour and vigour few of my country friends have equalled, and none surpassed me. Pansies, Pinks, Picotees, Carnations, Tulips, Roses, and Dahlias, have each and every one of them come under my care, and with a very general degree of success. All this is due to one important fact, viz. that I have grown them, leaving nothing undone that could in the least promote full development. But to the Tulip.

In the selection of the site, let the bed run north and south, if possible. Mark it out 4 feet 3 inches wide, and of a length to suit the extent of the collection to be grown. My bed consists of one hundred rows, and giving each row a distance of 6 inches, the entire bed measures  $50\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Let all the soil be thrown out to the full depth of 2 feet below the ground level, and a further alley down the centre of 12 inches wide by 12 inches deep ; fill this alley with brick rubbish or other similar draining material, giving it a slight inclination and an outlet. This will secure perfect drainage, a condition of the greatest moment. Immediately on the drainage, and covering the entire surface of the bottom, place a layer of partly-decayed stable manure, to the thickness of 6 inches ; on this, after well treading down, fill in the soil or compost to a level with the surrounding ground. As respects the soil or compost much might be said. Mine was naturally of a heavy, tenacious character ; but by thoroughly turning, and with large mixtures of Wanstead loam, three and four year old stable manure, silver-sand, and leaf-mould, but little of the original remains ; and these form the staple of my medium for the certain production of my favourites. The soil is thrown out every year to be well aired ; and to compensate for annual wear and tear, I add an occasional barrowful of rich old Carnation compost, maiden loam, leaf-mould, &c., at all times avoiding aught that may "be poor or seem poor." Every third year I go down to the lower stratum of manure, replacing it with fresh, and well incorporating the old with the superincumbent soil. Compost similarly constituted forms the mass to fill in with when the boards are fixed, the latter being

1½-inch deal, 9 inches wide, and giving the full 9 inches above the surrounding level.

Even with so much exciting material, I am in no way convinced that I drive *too much* colour into my blooms; it *is the* amount of colour obtained that has so long wedded me to this system of "high cultivation" in preference to the "starvation plan" so long stereotyped by writers. Tulips need "good growing" as much as any subject with which I am acquainted; the only care needed in the use of rich condiments is, that they be previously well subdued by atmospheric influences.

I will give one fact more ere I close. Last season I planted in my best bed forty breeder roots (liberally presented by a midland friend), and comprising the principal varieties of the far-famed and highly-valued Chellaston seedlings. Of these I have to record that thirty-four roots did "break." Is not this contrary to the old prestige of forcing into a rectified state by the "poverty principle?" Doubtless, however, entire change of soil and situation contributed much to so important a result.

*Wace Cottage, Holloway.*

JOHN EDWARDS.

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TREE MIGNONETTE.

THE *Reseda odorata*, or common sweet Mignonette, treated after the following manner, forms a real treat in the conservatory during the winter and spring months.

Sow in spring a number of small 4-inch pots. When up, clear off all the plants but one in the centre; as it grows, train it upwards to a stick until it is a foot high, or two, if you please; do not allow any side-shoots to grow on the stem, and remove all leaves to within a few inches of its top. When the plant gets as high as you wish it, top it, and then it will throw out side-branches. As they advance, pinch off their tops until you have formed a nice bushy head to your plant; and above all things, do not allow any bloom to appear until it has become strong, which will be by winter, if it has been well attended to. For the first winter it will be advisable not to have them in larger than 8-inch pots. Mignonette being an annual, if the seeds are not picked off after flowering, it is ten to one but the plant will die. I have had excellent Tree Mignonette three years' old, very bushy, and full of flowers all winter. Mignonette is often neglected at Midsummer, when our hands are full of other work; and yet this is the very time when Tree Mignonette wants most care; for the flowers not being wanted during summer, ought then to be removed, in order to have a fine winter display. To keep worms from entering and disturbing the roots, add a handful of soot at each shifting over the drainage.

Mignonette delights in sandy loam not too light; and being a gross feeder, a little diluted manure-water may be given once a week with advantage. If this is contemplated, the mould need not be made so rich in the first instance.

Winter Mignonette, as it is generally called, requires to be treated differently from the above. It is generally sown about the 20th of August; if later, it will not acquire sufficient strength by winter for the London market. I generally grow from eight to ten plants in a 48-sized pot, which is six inches deep. For this sowing it is safest to use a light sandy and rather poor mould, for if the latter is too rich and strong, the plants damp off during winter. Out of nearly a thousand pots, I have often scarcely lost one by attending to this, by not allowing a drop of rain to fall on them during winter, by never watering them unless they were flagging, and by admitting at all times plenty of air. In the case of frost coming, however, they are closely covered up, sometimes for a week or fortnight together; and if you have not followed the above rules, you will suffer severely from damp. Do not expose your plants for some days after the frost breaks up, and that only by degrees; above all things do not expose them to the sun. My anxiety to give them light, after being so long covered up, has sometimes led me for the moment to forget this, and I have suffered severely for my negligence.

Should the winter prove mild, the plants will root into the ashes they are placed on; therefore they must be lifted up occasionally to break the roots. Slugs will annoy you, if you do not look after them; they fatten on Mignonette. To retard some of the pots, pinch the heads off the plants; by this means they will not flower so strongly as those not pinched, and will yield a succession of bloom.

Camberwell.

JAMES CUTHILL.

PROPAGATION AND TREATMENT OF BEDDING-OUT PLANTS.—No. II.

OF the thousand and one operations that make up the sum of garden routine, each bears a connexion, more or less evident, with every other. In duly recognising such a connexion, and in exercising the necessary amount of forethought to carry it out, rests much of the success in a horticultural campaign. And it is from the fact of the existence of this connexion that gardening rises superior to a mere mechanical art, which requires only the rule and compasses for its successful practice.

Nor is this connexion of operations less worthy of recognition in small than in large gardens. The amateur, with a few rods of ground and a pit of half-a-dozen lights, has equal necessity for the practical appreciation of the truth with the conductor of the most complicated establishment. The success of either in a great measure depends on it.

To the immediate subject of these papers it is especially applicable. The preservation through the winter of store-pots of soft-wooded young plants depends in a great degree on their previous treatment. Every gardener knows what havoc, even with the most

careful attentions, is every season perpetrated among his bedding-stock. With inferior management how much is the evil augmented!

The daily increasing demand on the head and hands of the gardener as winter approaches often delays the due attention to propagating matters until weeks after they should have been completed. These delays involve much subsequent vexation and disappointment, and which are purchased, too, at the expense of no mean amount of labour, and from these causes.

Cuttings, if required to produce healthy, sturdy plants, cannot be chosen with too much attention to their soundness and perfect organisation. It is true, certainly, that almost every portion of many plants will produce a duplicate. But then such plants! You may, for the sake of argument, parody a line from a well-known satire, and insist that

“A plant’s a plant, although there’s no strength in it.”

But few persons will insist that there are not various degrees of constitutional vigour in plants as in animals. And I hold it to be equally true, that to expect the same degree of perfection in differently-constituted plants, of the same species even, is as futile as to suppose that all men are capable of a like degree of intellect or physical display. There is a homely proverb that teaches us not to expect success in attempting the manufacturing process of converting a sow’s ear into a silk purse.

Little less hopeless is that of attempting a high degree of development with weakly constitutions or diseased plants; and plethoric or half-ripened cuttings are not the kind of shoots to produce healthy ones. I am aware that the truth of these remarks is not universally admitted; yet I believe them to be correct, and to demand a much greater attention than is given to them.

But, independent of other considerations, cuttings procured from the open borders late in autumn are, as a general rule, deficient in the necessary qualities for producing plants capable of combating the untoward influences of winter, even when good accommodation can be afforded them. And when it is otherwise, which it must be confessed is the rule rather than the exception, the result is still worse. In fine, too much attention to the selection of proper cuttings cannot possibly be paid. By exercising due discrimination, time and labour are economised, and the results reaped are more satisfactory.

As the greater number of bedding-out plants have to be wintered in their cutting-pots, a considerable share of attention should be given to render them in a condition to withstand damp and frost. Growth during the winter months should not be aimed at; to retain them in good health is all that is required. Before placing them in their winter quarters, they should be placed under such condition as will enable them to become ripened and well established at root; and when finally stored, all immature growths should be removed with a sharp knife, and any diseased or weakly plants destroyed. Nor should the young plants be allowed to crowd each other too

much; better to remove a few than to lose the greater portion by damp and mildew. Watering, too, requires more than ordinary attention. The cutting-pots, as they are removed from the propagating-pit, are so full of soil, that when water is given in any quantity, the greater portion runs over and saturates whatever they may be placed upon. This in winter, and in a cold frame, is of course not to be permitted; and to obviate it, as water must sometimes be given, some of the surface soil should be removed, to afford space enough for its application. It will not often be required; but when it is given, let it be given thoroughly.

Among many kinds, *Verbenas* especially, the green-fly becomes a great pest. To eradicate them, tobacco-smoke is the best remedy. Prevention is, however, better than cure; and if healthy growth be at first established, and all puny attempts at subsequent elongation are destroyed, the insect annoyance will be of seldom occurrence.

CRAYON.

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### GARDENIA FORTUNI.

Among the numerous species now in cultivation of this highly fragrant and favourite genus, none perhaps possess more especial claims on our notice than this fine plant. Its beautiful double flowers, measuring from three to four inches across, of the purest white, embosomed in its fine glossy foliage, are exceedingly attractive; and each blossom, as it were, a bouquet in itself, combining a large amount of constitutional vigour with a free habit of flowering. It is a plant of rapid growth; and under good management, large bushy specimens may be obtained in a comparatively short time. Unlike the other double-flowering kinds, it blooms once only in each season; but as it continues for some time in flower, a few succession-plants will suffice to prolong the blooming period through a considerable portion of the summer.

The propagation of this plant is most easily effected by cuttings of half-ripened shoots of the young wood taken off with a heel, cut smoothly over, and inserted in silver-sand in a well-drained pot, and afterwards plunged in a gentle bottom-heat, and covered with a bell-glass; five or six weeks will generally suffice for their becoming well rooted, when they may be potted off singly into 4-inch pots, and again placed in heat. Supposing the cuttings to have been taken in June or July, the young plants, when well established, may receive a second moderate shift, and be continued growing in heat, as before; care should, however, be taken not to keep them growing too late in the season, as that prevents the ripening of the wood before the dark days of November come on. When the plants cease growing, they should be removed to a cooler situation for the winter. A temperature of 45° to 50° will suffice during their period of rest, at which time water should be sparingly but judiciously given when required.

Presuming plants have by this means been provided, a young healthy stock obtained from the nursery about the beginning of

March, the best should be selected and plunged in a gentle bottom-heat in a temperature of from  $60^{\circ}$  to  $65^{\circ}$ , to start them into growth; when this commences they should, if in good health, receive a liberal shift—say from a 5-inch to a 9-inch pot, care being taken to remove any impure soil, and to gently disentangle the matted roots, without destroying the ball more than is necessary. After repotting, the plants should be plunged as before, and encouraged into vigorous growth. With the increase of solar heat at this season, a free use of the syringe should be resorted to on all favourable occasions, using water of the temperature of the house or pit in which the plants are placed; during bright sunshine a slight shading should be provided, any indications of flower-buds removed, and the points of the stronger shoots topped, to preserve a dwarf bushy habit. When requisite, a second shift should be given into 13-inch pots; and afterwards the treatment continued as before. With due attention to air, water, stopping, and tying out the branches, fine compact plants will be obtained. A little observation will shew the cultivator how far stopping will be beneficially consistent with the due production of flower-buds; when this is secured, the plants may be gradually hardened and wintered as before.

If the plants are required in bloom at an early period of the following summer, say May, they should be placed in heat by the early part of February, or later, as may be required; when the blooms begin to expand, the plants may be removed to a warm part of the greenhouse or conservatory. After the flowers are exhausted, the shoots may be pruned back to a well-placed joint, and the plants removed to a close situation in heat, until the buds have broken freely. At this time they will require repotting. If the pots are well filled with healthy roots, a larger shift may be given. The required size must, however, now be determined by the convenience or inclination of the cultivator; but I may state, that *G. Fortuni* is a free-rooting plant, and the flowers are usually larger and more abundantly produced when allowed plenty of pot-room; if want of space does not allow of large pots being used, the ball of soil should be considerably reduced, and the plants repotted in the same-sized pots; in this way they may be kept in vigorous health for some years; and when eventually overgrown or unhealthy, they may be replaced with some of their young and now vigorous progeny.

I find this *Gardinia* to luxuriate in a compost of equal parts of fibrous hazelly loam and peat soil, broken up in a rough state, adding a sufficiency of sharp sand to preserve porosity in the soil. With the above a liberal supply of charcoal, broken to half-inch size, is mixed; this acts as a fertiliser, and assists in keeping the soil in an open, healthy condition. Any more stimulating matter I prefer applying in a liquid state during the season of growth, when a watering twice a week with clear manure-water is highly beneficial. Should that tiresome pest the mealy bug make its appearance, no time should be lost in its extirpation. This is most successfully accomplished by taking the plants outside the house, and, after laying the pots on one side, well syringing the foliage with water at  $150^{\circ}$  degrees; by repeating

this after an interval of a few days, the insects will be destroyed without injury to the foliage, or impairing the health of the plants, which should be carefully shaded for a few days after each operation.

*Maddersfield Court.*

W. Cox.

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### MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

ALTHOUGH the golden tinge of autumn now appears on the landscape, stretch the eye in whichever direction one may, still the garden is at present nearly as inviting as at earlier periods of the year. Fewer plants are certainly in flower than in the preceding month; but then, should the weather prove favourable, many of the summer-flowering kinds will remain in beauty some time longer. Amongst herbaceous plants, *Sternbergia lutea*, a bulbous plant about six inches high, from the south of Europe, with large yellow flowers, is in great perfection. It is very similar to a *Crocus*, and when planted in large patches, has a good effect. *Vittadinia trilobata*, a low-growing plant, with flowers much resembling those of the Daisy, is a good border-plant, which flowers through summer and autumn. *Anemone japonica* is still in good perfection; this plant grows luxuriantly in light soil, and forms a bush three feet high. *Loasa lateritia*, *L. Herberti*, and *L. aurantiaca*, are excellent for planting in the centre of a bed and training on sticks, as they flower profusely at this season of the year; they likewise answer well for training against a wall.

In a hot-house adjoining the herbaceous ground are some specimens of tropical fruits, together with *Amherstia nobilis*, &c., in a thriving condition; *Passiflora princeps*, *Ipomœa Leari*, and *Batatas bonariensis*, trained against the back wall, are now in the height of flowering. The sacred Indian Bean (*Nelumbium speciosum*) grows luxuriantly in a large tub here; the stems are six feet above the water, and the leaf measures two feet four inches across during summer: it seldom fails to produce plenty of its large showy rose-coloured flowers. In one of the smaller hot-houses are *Ixora coccinea*, *I. odorata*, and *I. incarnata*, together with *Clerodendron hastatum*, all in flower; the latter has a large pannicle nearly two feet long. In the stove aquarium the white, blue, and red Water-lilies are now flowering, though not so abundantly as they were a short time back; amongst them the *Nelumbium speciosum* is growing as freely as can well be imagined. Outside this house, at the east end, is a large specimen of the Honey-flower (*Melianthus major*); it grows very vigorously, and is protected by a mat-covering in severe weather. It is a very fine ornamental plant; but to ensure its flowering regularly, it must be kept in a greenhouse or conservatory.

The greenhouse plants, being now all housed for the winter, should be kept rather dry, and as much air given as possible every mild day. There are but few among them in flower at present, except one or two *Pimeleas*, *Crowea saligna*, and one or two others of minor importance. One of the prettiest of autumn-flowering bulbs is the Guernsey Lily (*Nerine sarniensis*). This species is a



native of Japan, though naturalised in Guernsey, from whence the bulbs are largely imported to England; it grows about a foot high, and blossoms without leaves, in an umbel of from seven to eleven moderately large flowers of a deep-rose colour on the apex of the stalk; it is a very useful plant, if cultivated in pots, for enlivening the greenhouse at this season. About a dozen pots of it, with from one to three bulbs in each, are beautifully in flower in one of the houses here.

*Lapageria rosea*, a handsome flowering evergreen shrub, with a habit similar to a *Smilax*, is one of the most beautiful of autumn-flowering plants, presenting a neat appearance, united with showy flowers; it richly merits extensive cultivation. It is a suitable kind for pot culture, where it can be trained on a trellis against a pillar, or it may be planted out and trained against a wall. The stems are slender, branching, with smooth ovate-lanceolate coriaceous stalk-leaves, from the axils of which are pendulous lily-like blossoms three inches long, of a deep rose-colour, spotted with white internally. It is a native of Chili, and was introduced in 1847. This plant is cultivated at Kew in a greenhouse with a north aspect; it is planted in light compost, and trained against the wall, and is at present about six feet high; it appears to be a tolerably free bloomer, several flowers are now expanded, and many more are progressing; they are very large for the size of the plant, one or two issuing from each axil, of a good colour, thick in substance, and they last for a considerable time in perfection. This is one of the most valuable plants for the greenhouse or conservatory, and will no doubt soon find its way into every collection.

*Gynerium argenteum* (the Pampas grass of Brazil) is one of the most attractive ornaments of the garden at this period of the year. Many and variable as the kinds in cultivation are, none have such a magnificent appearance as this gigantic grass, or are so highly ornamental. It is of a coarse habit, with a robust constitution; it is hardy in the south of England, but in the north it may possibly require some slight protection during severe weather. It grows freely in common garden soil, and soon forms itself into large tufts. To grow it successfully, so as to have it most effective, it should be planted on a clump, with a few dwarf-growing things around it; but it is far preferable to keep it as a single specimen on some corner of the lawn, or in some situation where there is plenty of head room. A splendid specimen of it is now growing here; the leaves are narrow, eight to ten feet long, and sharply serrated on both sides; it has twenty-seven flower-stems, each about the thickness of one's finger, and eleven feet high; on the apex of each is a panicle two feet long, which beneath bright sunshine looks like a large feather spangled with silver.

*Kew.*

J. HOULSTON.

## NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*October 7.*—Sufficient members were not present on this occasion to form a meeting, consequently no awards were made. As might be expected at this advanced period of the season, subjects of exhibition were not numerous. Mr. Ingram, gardener to her Majesty, at Frogmore, sent a new scarlet *Pelargonium* named *Harlequin*; it is a pale scarlet, with a large full truss, the individual flowers being also fine, and evidently a free grower; its novelty, however, consisted in its very peculiar foliage, each leaf having a strong horse-shoe mark, which, in about half the foliage, is of a bright pink colour, the rest of the leaf being pale green, and all three colours singularly distributed on other portions of the foliage. Several Dahlias were present: Mr. Burgess sent *Beauty of the Grove*, a dull yellow, tipped with crimson-purple, good in form, centre, and general outline. Mr. Turner had several varieties, among which was *Plantagenet*, of which there were six blooms, all in very good order; in shape it resembles but is superior to Mr. Seldon. He also furnished *Grand Duke*, a blush lilac; large and very deep. Mr. Knight exhibited three blooms of a fancy variety, clear pale yellow in colour, distinctly tipped with white; in form it is equal to many of the selfs. Three blooms were also shewn of *Lochner's Claudia*, which has been previously described.

## CULTIVATION OF THE AZALEA.

HAVING been a tolerably successful cultivator of this most attractive greenhouse plant, I feel some degree of confidence in submitting the plan of cultivation I have adopted to the consideration of your readers. I invariably select free, well-grown young plants, as I consider that on this one point rests, in a considerable degree, the probability of obtaining first-class specimens; and in the case of *Gledstanesi*, *variegata*, and other delicate growers, I would recommend that they be plants worked on the strong-growing sort, *Phœnicea*, as I find that such present a more vigorous foliage and habit, with a finer bloom, than those growing on their own roots. Indeed, many successful cultivators prefer the whole of their plants grafted on the strong-grower alluded to. In the first week in March I give my plants their first shift: say if they be in 5-inch pots, I move them into 6-inch pots, according to their habit and individual vigour, carefully observing, on every occasion, that a sufficient amount of broken material, with a proper arrangement, is provided, to secure efficient drainage. The soil I use and prefer is the peat obtained from Wimbledon Common, and a portion of silver-sand (according to the condition of the peat), passed through a coarse sieve, so that every lump be properly reduced. I am particularly careful to retain the whole of the fibrous matter in the soil. When the first shift in March is accomplished, I place the plants in a temperature of 55°; and as the season advances, bringing with it an accession of light and solar heat, I allow

the temperature of the atmosphere to range from  $70^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$ , being careful, when an increase of heat occurs from the action of the sun, to shade and to admit air. As I find in practice that oft-repeated minor shifts are preferable to large pottings at greater intervals, in the end of May or the beginning of June I give them another removal, using the same description of soil, and carefully observing that the fresh material be properly pressed around the soil and roots of the previous shift. I now, and previously if necessary, look over my plants, stopping all that may require it, as attention to this point, in the first season of their growth, is highly necessary to obtain the form desired by the cultivator. The shape of the plant, of course, is a matter of taste—some prefer the pyramidal, some the globular. For my part I prefer the former, as I think it displays the beauty of the flower, singly as well as collectively, to greater advantage than the latter shape; and I also am of opinion that a group of pyramidal-shaped plants is more effective than a mass of plants of a globular form. I do not wish to be understood that a stiff mathematical figure is intended—a plant may be trained in an easy, natural form, and yet display a pyramidal contour.

In August I give my plants another and final shift for the season. During the period of their growth, I use the syringe freely, but discontinue it as the wood ripens, gradually admitting more air till it be thoroughly matured, when I place them in the open air on a piece of ground covered with sifted ashes or some other material calculated to prevent the access of worms. By following the above plan, in the space of two years I have obtained plants two feet in height and two feet in diameter at the base. In the case of blooming plants, an annual shift will be quite sufficient, though that must depend on circumstances. In the case of large plants, I have used a portion of one sixth pure virgin loam with advantage.

I may mention, in conclusion, that some object to sifting the soil, as they consider that the process, to a very material extent, deprives it of its fibrous matter; and that, if even after the sifting, the fibre be returned, it cannot, without considerable difficulty, be again so commingled as to produce a material equal to what could be obtained by a careful chopping—a process they recommend in preference to sifting. On this point, however, much depends on the nature of the material used; for there is a wide difference, for instance, between the peat found in the North of England and the peat found on Wimbledon Common. The former is of a poor sandy description, requiring a portion of leaf-mould to render it fit for use; and the latter is full of fibrous vegetable matter, such as the cultivator delights in. It must therefore be clear that, in preparation for use, the two peats would require a different treatment; and I am certain that a sieve with a mesh of the dimensions I use (1 inch by  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch), and my mode of passing the whole of the material through it, must accomplish all that could be effected by the process of chopping, be it ever so carefully done; and at the same time I feel satisfied that it would secure a greater uniformity of texture, the advantage of which in pot-culture I need not point out.

ZETA.

## NORTH-LONDON FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

September 14.—There was a capital exhibition on this occasion, every available inch of space being covered. The following awards were made :

*Dahlias*—Amateurs : 12 blooms, 1st, Mr. Robinson, with John Edward, Queen of Whites, Duke of Wellington, Fearless, Mr. Seldon, Absolom, Queen of Lilacs, Scarlet Gem, Sir C. Napier, Richard Cobden, Princess Radziwill, and Triumphant ; 2d, Mr. J. S. Prockter, with Mrs. C. Bacon, Richard Cobden, Queen of Lilacs, General Faucher, Scarlet Gem, Louis Kossuth, Sir R. Peel, Nonpareil, Sir F. Bathurst, Fearless, and Utilis ; 3d, Mr. W. Holmes, with Mrs. C. Bacon, Mr. Seldon, G. Glenny, Queen of Lilacs, Sir F. Bathurst, Duke of Wellington, Richard Cobden, Sir R. Peel (misnamed Sir C. Napier), Roundhead, Fearless, Shylock, and Elizabeth (Daniell's) ; 4th, Mr. H. Hunt, with Queen of Lilacs, Mr. Seldon, Queen of the East, Admiral, Shylock, Dr. Frampton, Duke of Wellington, Sir R. Whittington, and Fearless ; 5th, Mr. J. Edwards, with Morning Star, Thames Bank Hero, Mrs. Seldon, General Faucher, Una, John Edward, Admiral, Mr. Seldon, Sir C. Napier, Sir R. Whittington, Queen of Beauties, and Triumphant ; 6th, Mr. Cook, with G. Glenny, Elizabeth, Absolom, Scarlet Gem, Earl Clarendon, Princess Radziwill, Mrs. C. Bacon, Admiral, Fearless, Triumphant, Malvina, and Alice ; 7th, Mr. Windsor ; 8th, Mr. Weatherall ; three other collections were staged in this class. Six distinct Fancy Dahlias : 1st, Mr. J. Edwards, with Miss Compton, Rachel, Mrs. Hansard, Jeannette, Highland Chief, and Elizabeth ; 2d, Mr. Holder, with Cricket, Miss Ward, Spectabilis, Claude, Kossuth, and Elizabeth ; 3d, Mr. J. S. Prockter, with Miss Weyland, Queen of Faries, Elizabeth Miss Ward, Mrs. Hansard, and Rosenante ; two other collections were also staged.

Twelve *Hollyhocks* : 1st, Mr. Holder, with Comet, Princess Royal, C. Turner, President, General Bem, Spectabilis, Prima Donna, Magnum Bonum, Napoleon, C. Baron, Venosa, and Model of Perfection. Twelve *Verbenas* : 1st, Mr. C. P. Lochner ; 2d, Mr. Weatherall ; the leading varieties in these groups were, King, Napoleon, Exquisite, St. Margaret, British Queen, Rosea, Mrs. Mills, Defiance, Laura, Marianne, Brilliant, Magnificent, Lilac Rival, Virginius, Standard, and National. Six *Fuchsias* : 1st, Mr. M'Ewan ; 2d, Mr. Cragg ; the sorts being, General Oudinot, Novelty, Fair Rosamond, Don Giovanni, Orion, General Changarnier, Splendida, Snowball, and Prince Arthur, &c. ; these were the most showy.

Dealers : 24 *Dahlias*, 1st, Mr. J. Keynes of Salisbury, with Princess Radziwill, Negro, Douglas Jerrold (Keynes), John Edward, Queen of Whites, Mr. Herbert (Keynes), Malvina, General Faucher, Sir F. Bathurst (Keynes), Una (Keynes), Essex Triumph, Annie Salter, Mr. Seldon, Magnificent (Keynes), Standard of Perfection (Keynes), Fearless, Duke of Wellington, Sir J. Whittington, Queen of the East, Sir R. Peel, Beauty of Kent (Keynes), Frederick Je-

rome, Goliath, and Triumphant (Keynes); 2d, Mr. Legge, with Fearless, Leda, Queen of Beauty, Magnificent, G. Glenly, Round-head, Queen of Dahlias, Thames Bank Hero, John Edward, Marchioness Cornwallis, Sir J. Whittington, Mr. Herbert, Carmina, Mrs. C. Bacon, Duke of Wellington, Phantom, Sir Charles Napier, Triumph, Seraph, Sir R. Peel, Barmaid, Summit of Perfection, Fame, Sir Frederick Bathurst; and Mr. Hunt also staged a collection of 24 sorts. Twelve Fancy Dahlias: 1st, Mr. J. Keynes, with Empereur de Maroc, Elizabeth, Rachel, Miss Compton, Laura Lavington, Mrs. Willis, Princess Charlotte, Cricket, Elegantissima, Rainbow, Nancy, and Mrs. Hansard; 2d, Mr. H. Legge, with Maid of Lodi, Mrs. Hansard, Princess Charlotte, Miss Compton, Madame Rose, Belle de Nugent, Jetty Treffz, *Striata perfecta*, Miss Blackmore, Jenny Lind, Lady Grenville, and Belle de Pecque; 3d, Mr. Hunt, with similar sorts.

Twenty-four *Verbenas*: 1st, Mr. G. Smith; 2d, Mr. Shockley. The best sorts, as far as display went, were Standard, Miss Jane, M. Jullien, Alba Magna, King, Model of Perfection, Heloise, Koh-i-Noor, Marianne, Defiance, Ariel, St. Margaret's, Gloire de Paris (famous for bedding purposes), Eliza Cook, Grandis, Joan of Arc, Exquisite, Alboni, Surprise, Brilliant, Macrantha, and Orlando. Six *Fuchsias*: 1st, Mr. G. Smith, with Cartoni Armada, Nonsuch, Actæon, Prince Arthur, and Nil Desperandum. Extra prizes presented by Mr. Turner for 6 blooms of Dahlias let out by himself; the first was won by Mr. Robinson, and the second by Mr. Prockter. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Cook also competed. The best sorts shewn were, Morning Star, Queen of Lilacs, Mr. and Mrs. Seldon, Shylock, and Scarlet Gem.

Of *Roses*, Mr. Wilkinson had some fine bunches, among which were admirable blooms of Souvenir de la Malmaison, Madame Guillotte, Safranot, Lady A. Peel, Souchet, Acidalie, La Reine, Comte de Paris, Baronne Prevost, Devoniensis, Mrs. Elliott, Leveson Gower, Sidonia, Madame Laffay, Lamarque, Duchess of Sutherland, Goubault, Géant des Batailles, Comtesse Duchatel, Amandine, Louis Napoleon, Queen, Bouquette de Flore, Mrs. Bosanquet, Paul Joseph, Armosa, Cramoisis superieure, and Duchesse du Thuringe, which, we take it, will be likely some day to displace Bourbon Queen, being a very desirable addition to the most select collection.

*Seedlings* were numerous, and proved, as they always do, a source of much interest; amongst Dahlias, Sir J. Franklin (Turner), took the lead; for to a first-class certificate was added an extra prize for the best Seedling, offered by Mr. Lochner, and also a further extra prize offered by J. Edwards for the best bloom in the entire exhibition. This speaks better things than we could possibly say of it; there were in all over 400 blooms staged for competition, and to be the best among so many proves that it must indeed be first-rate. The second best Seedling prize was awarded to Plantagenet (Turner), a deep violet, bold and novel; this also received a first-class certificate, as did Bob (Drummond), a bold scarlet, previously noticed; Brilliant (Rawlings) was similarly rewarded; this is likewise

a scarlet; Wonderful (Keynes) had the like distinction conferred on it, more for its novelty than actual quality, the base of the petals being amber and blotched purple towards their tips; this class of flowers will ere long be popular if not made too numerous by frivolous distinctions, and moreover the present blotches must become regular stripes or flakes, bold, distinct, and well defined. Of other seedlings, Claudia (Lochner) is a striking fancy; purple with bold tip of pure white; Grand Duke (Turner) was commended as being useful, colour deep rosy lilac; Henriette (Howard), Hercules (Rawlings), Conquering Hero (Rawlings), Kossuth, Sir J. Paxton, Cambrian Beauty, and some others, made a larger number than usual. In *Fuchsias*, first-class certificates were awarded to Glory, and to Lady Franklin, both from Mr. G. Smith; the former is a glorious dark, the latter an approach to purple and white, so much needed for contrast, our lights at present running mostly with scarlet collars. An extra prize was awarded Mrs. Hansard, as being the best Fancy Dahlia in the entire exhibition, the selection falling on the bloom exhibited in the raiser's first stand, to which we have already directed attention.

J. E.

#### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

October 16.—The Secretary in the chair. The new regulations printed on the cover of our Number for September came into operation on this occasion, and the result was a very interesting exhibition. Of Green Peas there were several dishes, the best being from Mr. Burns of Chevening; it consisted of Knight's Marrow. The varieties sent by other exhibitors were, Long Junquil, a little-known Pea, but apparently of first-rate quality, the pods being large and well filled; Early Warwick; Great Britain, a large-podded sort; Knight's Tall Marrow, and some foreign Peas in poor condition. Pears were produced in considerable quantity; but every exhibition either contained one or more unripe fruit, or did not consist of the number of sorts required, and therefore they were all disqualified; nevertheless, they were treated this time without reference to the regulations, and prizes were awarded, 1st, to Mr. Robertson, gardener to Sir A. Dunbar, Bart., Duffus House, Elgin; and 2d, to Mr. Anderson, gardener to the Earl of Stair, at Oxenford Castle, Mid Lothian. The first of these consisted of fine fruit for the north of Scotland; the sorts were, Winter Nelis, Sinclair, Marie Louise, Easter Beurré, very large specimens of Grosse Calebasse, Thompson's very fine Duchesse d'Angoulême, and Glout Morceau. The second comprised Marie Louise, Louise Bonne, Gansel's Bergamot, Autumn Bergamot, Autumn Bon Chrétien, and a "new variety of Marie Louise." Among other lots were some beautiful foreign Pears, from Mr. Lewis Solomons of Covent Garden. Messrs. Lane contributed Golden Drop and Blue Imperatrice Plums, and a dish of the purple Guava. Mr. Woolley, gardener to H. B. Ker, Esq., sent Morello Cherries in good condition;

and Mr. M'Ewing a dish of Keens' seedling Strawberries, middling-sized but rather acid. There were also some Pine Apples and Grapes, of which Mr. Davis of Oak Hill sent an excellent basket of Muscats. Of Orchids, a fine specimen of *Vanda cœrulea*, than which few plants are more striking at this season, was shewn by Messrs. Lucombe and Pince; and a smaller example of the same showy plant by Mr. Woolley. The Rev. Mr. Ellis sent *Dendrobium flexuosum*, with white flowers striped on the lip with orange. Of other plants, Messrs. Standish and Noble contributed a new evergreen shrub, *Skimmia japonica*, bearing a profusion of beautiful red berries, which, rising in clusters above the handsome foliage, are exceedingly attractive at this season. It is believed to be hardy, but of this further proof is required. A charming *Gesnera*, with cherry-coloured flowers having a pale throat, was exhibited by Mr. Glendinning of Turnham Green. Mr. Snow sent cut specimens of *Aralia japonica*; Mr. Cole, *Medinilla Sieboldii*, and a well-grown *Gusmania tricolor*; Messrs. Low of Clapton communicated *Plectranthus concolor picta*, a hothouse plant, with tender pale-green leaves, prettily blotched with deep brown; Mr. Francis furnished cut Roses in beautiful condition. Among other plants from the Society's garden came the pretty little winter Violet Grass (*Cochlearia acaulis*), which, if sown in an American border, or similar place, grows and blooms from this season up to Christmas. A little patch of it taken up and put in a saucer, in water, will also keep flowering a long time, rendering it an interesting plant for the drawing-room window. Along with it were the Golden *Lachenalia* (*L. aurea*), a new and very handsome species, producing long spikes of bright yellow tubular flowers. *Chrysanthemum Hendersonii*, an early sort, and a collection of hardy annuals, among which were *Tropæolum Lobbianum*, brilliant orange-scarlet; *Tagetes signata*, a little-known and rather handsome sort; *Cosmos bipinnata atropurpurea*, with large starry purple flowers; the Zebra Mallow, *Lupinus pubescens*, and *Hartwegii*, and others.

#### BRITISH PLANTS.

*Ænothera biennis* is a very showy plant, which is often cultivated in herbaceous borders. I have seen it in a clover-field in this locality, and in other situations; but unquestionably it is an outcast from our gardens.

*Saxifraga granulata* is often cultivated, and is well deserving of that attention. In favourable soil, the stem is about twelve inches high. The flowers are white, and somewhat large.

*Caltha palustris*, agreeably with its specific name, is found to inhabit situations that are swampy. The flowers greatly enliven our meadows during spring: they consist of large petals of a deep yellow. Division of the roots is the most successful mode of propagating this plant. The assignment of it to the parterre, in situations corresponding with that in which it is found in our meadows, would

prove the most advantageous method of promoting its growth ; but its adaptation to any locality, not *too* unfavourable, points it out as a generally useful plant.

*Campanula patula*, or field Bell-flower, is in some places scarce, though found in many counties, Middlesex included. The corolla of this plant displays a colour much admired by all. It is an excellent herbaceous plant, and has often been cultivated, and found to answer the end in view.

*Chrysanthemum segetum* is extremely plentiful in this neighbourhood, and presents in some of our corn-fields a perfect Californian spectacle. It is a great enemy to the farmer, being found generally in the best-cultivated fields, where the soil is loamy, while about Edinburgh this plant is said to be almost a stranger.

*Cichorium Intybus*, or Chicory, is a handsome flower, generally blue, but sometimes white, and occasionally red, changed, it is said, by the acid of ants. The white variety may be seen by the side of the road between Egham and Staines, as also in other places in this neighbourhood, though in far less abundance than those plants producing blue flowers. I have observed that in some districts this plant is rarely found.

*Serratula tinctoria* is not a common plant in this locality, yet it may be found on Egham Common and near Bagshot. The flowers are purple, and it is a plant well worth culture.

*Lobelia Dortmanna* is a handsome flower, which is drooping, and of a pale blue. It is a stranger to this neighbourhood.

*Lobelia urens* is a pretty inviting flower of a deep purple. It is a rare English plant.

*Englefield Green.*

WILLIAM WHALE.

#### NEW PLANTS FIGURED IN CONTEMPORARY PERIODICALS.

*Paxton's Flower-Garden* for October contains coloured plates of the WOOLLY CLEMATIS (*C. lanuginosa*), a very fine large blue-flowered hardy climber from China. One of the best of the genus.

The BEAUTEOUS VERONICA (*V. formosa*), a handsome evergreen half-hardy shrub from Van Dieman's Land, with pretty blue flowers and small green box-like leaves.

The PURPLE-STAINED LÆLIA (*L. purpurata*), a magnificent stove Orchid from St. Catherine's in Brazil. The sepals and petals are white; the lip purple and yellow; flowers large and showy. It was shewn at one of the Chiswick exhibitions last year by Messrs. Backhouse of York. As usual, the number contains some pretty woodcuts.

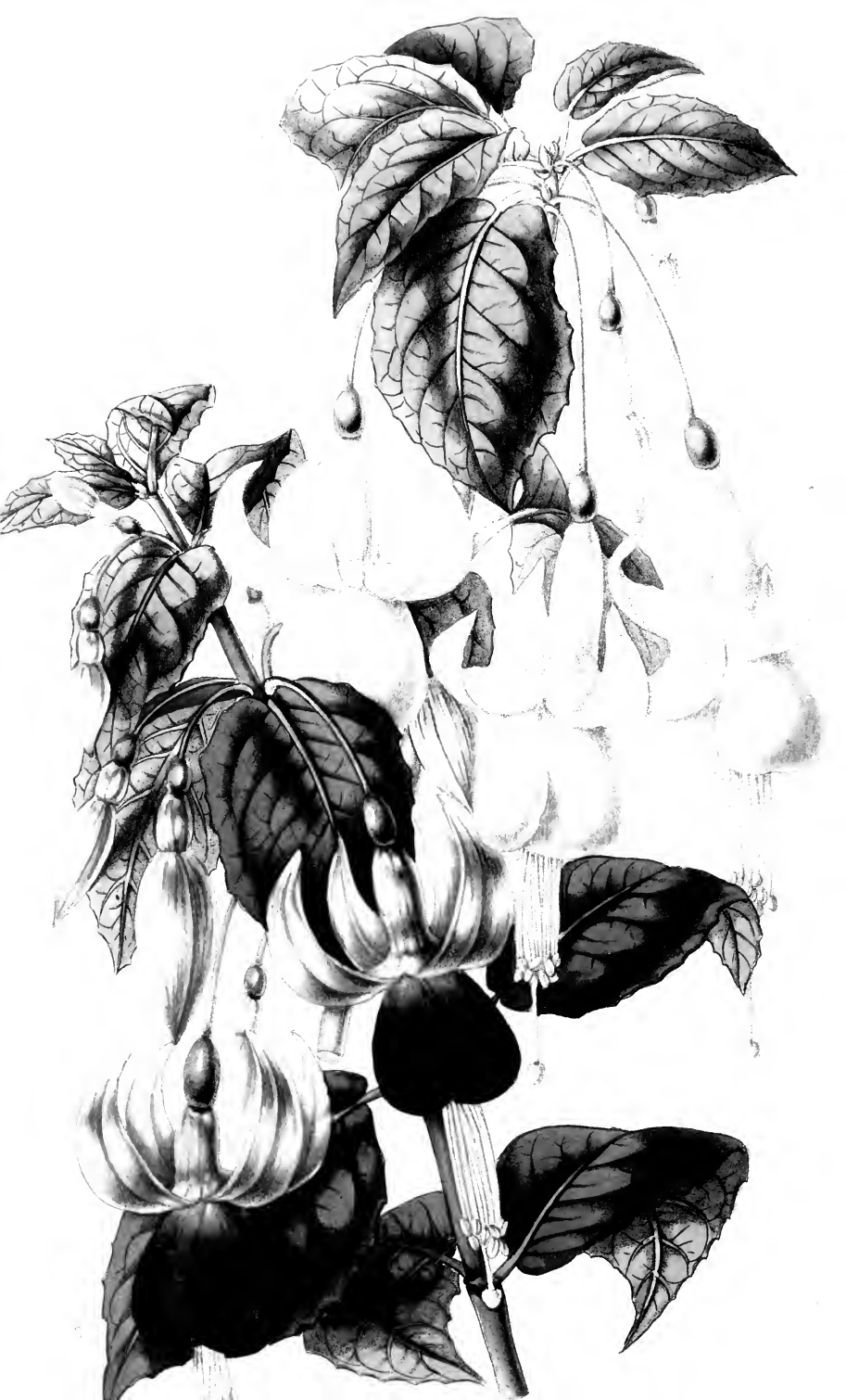
In the *Botanical Magazine* we find the GIGANTIC LILY (*L. giganteum*), a fine thing introduced by Dr. Wallich from Nepal. It grows very high; the flowers are white, with purple sheaths, greenish below, inclined downwards, twelve on the raceme, fragrant, tube two inches in circumference at the base, gradually dilating upwards. The leaves measure ten to twelve inches long, and eight inches broad; and altogether this must be a very striking Lily.

The BLOOD-COLOURED TACSONIA (*T. sanguinea*), a pretty rosy-flowered conservatory climber from Trinidad.

The above are the only plates given this month; the rest are to appear in the next.







## THE FUCHSIA.

OUR Illustration this month represents a pair of exceedingly fine Fuchsias. The light variety, Duchess of Lancaster, now in the possession of Messrs. E. G. Henderson, St. John's Wood, was raised by Mr. Stirzaker of Lancaster, and is remarkable for its purity, smoothness, substance, and fine form; and, like the dark variety, is faithfully portrayed by our artist. Glory was raised by Mr. Banks of Deal, the successful raiser of so many fine varieties already before the public, and is in the hands of Mr. G. Smith, who has kindly favoured us with the following excellent remarks respecting this deservedly popular flower.

“ This noble plant, adorning as it does alike the castle and the cottage, is now rapidly advancing in all the leading points which constitute perfection, such as substance, contrast of colour, &c. The following may be mentioned, for example— 1st, a brilliant coral tube and sepals, with corolla of intense violet; 2dly, a pure white tube and sepals, with corolla of deep violet; 3dly, a white tube and sepals, with bright scarlet or orange; also white tube and pink corolla; and 4thly, of selfs: in this class there are two or three noble varieties. It may be interesting to mention, that most splendid varieties have been raised of late greatly surpassing those dull, coarse kinds that were our best some few years back, crosses chiefly from Fulgens.

As regards cultivation, let a commencement be made with striking the plants for exhibition. September is decidedly the best for plants to be shewn in June or July, and March for those in September. Select cuttings from the base of the stock plant, choosing those with triangular joints, and placing them in gentle heat, with a little shade. As soon as rooted, pot them in thumb-pots, in equal parts of rich fibry loam, peat, and decomposed manure, with silver-sand, and a little powdered charcoal over the crock for the first potting; and as you pot on into larger sizes, the charcoal may be used coarser; the peat and loam should be chopped fine, but not sifted; this will be found a valuable compost through all the stages of their growth. In October the plants should be potted, and placed in any gentle heat, such as a frame in which cucumbers or melons have been grown. If this is not convenient, a warm greenhouse will answer; if in the former, remove them into the latter by the middle of November; let them be placed in the warmest part near the glass, and the plants will continue to grow fast until January, when they should be removed into

sixty degrees of heat. Let them be shifted into three-inch pots; and where plants are required to be grown spherically, take care to encourage all branches, stopping them back to the second eye, by pinching them all round twice, leaving the leading shoot to grow unstopped until it may have attained a sufficient height. This will insure fine bushy plants. The form of the plant is, of course, a matter of taste. Most splendid specimens have been produced at Messrs. Frasers', Lea Bridge Road; they were grown as standards, about five feet high, with their branches drooping nearly to the pot, and covered with bloom; these were quite equal, if not superior to any thing usually met with both as to growth and beauty. Those who wish to possess themselves of plants of this description, will obtain them by removing the eyes on either side up to the last four joints from the top; and having now your plant grown to the required height, remove the leader, when the four joints that were left undisturbed will push freely. These should be stopped at the second joint, in order that the head may become sufficiently branched. Do not expect much the first year; the second, with good care, they ought to be quite satisfactory.

The Fuchsia must be placed out of doors for a month or two, especially those that have flowered early; this gives strength to the wood for the next year. Set them out in a shady situation as soon as their beauty is past, until October, when they should be removed to a place of rest, any where, so that the frost and wet are kept from them. If you want them early in June, let them be fresh potted; and if you require them in the same-sized pot, rub a little of the old soil off, supplying the same with fresh. Like the Pelargonium, the Fuchsia always flowers best when the roots reach the side of the pot, so that with large plants the one-shift system should be practised; place them in the usual heat, give them the usual care, and when the plants come into bloom, supply them with manure-water twice a week; no liquid fertiliser is perhaps better for this plant than that made from sheep-manure. Let the plants stand in pans during the blooming season; shade on all occasions when the sun is bright, the light sorts especially; syringe frequently, fumigate, &c.

The following list comprises some of the best in each class, viz. Darks: Glory, a splendid variety, raised by Mr. Banks; tube and sepals bright scarlet, the latter broad and well reflexed; corolla deep violet, bell-shaped; flowers large; plant of fine habit. Dr. Lindley, also by the same celebrated Fuchsia raiser, is a noble variety; tube and sepals coral red; corolla dark violet-purple; flower large, and habit good. The

foregoing are new. *Nil Desperandum* (Smith), a fine dark, with red tube and sepals, and corolla of violet purple; of fine form and habit. *Voltigeur* (Banks), this is rather small, but amply makes up for this deficiency by its beautiful habit and abundance of bloom; colour deep red, with violet-purple corolla. *Clapton Hero* (Batton), tube and sepals waxy scarlet; the sepals are too small to make a first-rate show-flower, but the corolla is very large and fine; purple; this, with good habit and free bloomer, makes it a desirable flower. *Don Giovanni* (Henderson), crimson tube and sepals; corolla rosy purple; flower rather coarse, but of fine habit, and free bloomer.

Light varieties: *Lady Franklin* (Smith), tube and sepals pure white, the latter very broad and well reflexed; corolla a purplish pink; of fine form and good habit, and a free bloomer; one that will be much sought after. *England's Glory* (Harrison), tube and sepals white, the latter expanded, but rather narrow and short; tube fine, corolla orange-scarlet; a free bloomer, and appears to be a good grower. *Mrs. Patterson* (Patterson), tube and sepals white, the latter expand well, with corolla of violet purple; of fine habit and free in growth. This forms a new and distinct variety, being as large as *Orion*. *Sidonia* (Smith), tube and sepals blush, well reflexed; corolla violet purple; a free bloomer and good habit. *Conspicua* (Banks), white tube and sepals; vermilion corolla, large and showy. *Prince Arthur* (Nicholls), tube and sepals pure white; corolla scarlet, very large.

*Selfs*: *Alpha* (Smith), red, with fine form, and sepals well reflexed. *Orion* (Smith), dark crimson; extra large and fine.

It must be borne in mind that the foregoing are all first-class varieties for exhibition, but that there are many others which are very ornamental, of good habit, and well adapted for decorative and general purposes."

*Tollington Nursery, Hornsey Road.*

G. SMITH.

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## THE PLEASURES OF A GARDEN.

CUTTING my last bouquet for the present season on the 13th day of November, I fell naturally into a train of reflections upon the events of the past and the pleasures of a garden; not a garden made classical with statues and rare vases, delighting in sparkling fountains, ornamented with palatial arbours, or rejoicing in cool grottoes and secluded walks—though, when it has been mine to enjoy such rarities, I have enjoyed them with a relish unsurpassable; but the pleasures

of a garden unpretending in its character and narrowed in its area, such, indeed, as may belong to a poor office-writer, with a stipend not exceeding the wage of an ordinarily skilled mechanic, and opportunities for its culture most limited. Yet, still my garden has its pleasures, sweet, and not transient; still it is a delightful thing, the "concentration of a thousand pleasant objects;" still does memory present, with fond affection, its long array of beauties unfaded; and many days of gloom and hours of monotonous toil will be relieved to myself and my old office-chair by pleasant reveries on the flowers that were, and fond anticipations of those to come.

And shall I tell how pleasures so simple have been so sufficient? how with opportunities of the most limited degree, I have needed never to repine; and how my daily bouquet has rarely, for eight months in the year, failed me? Two short rules have sufficed. I have confined myself to flowers of the easiest culture, and have learned to be content with results easily attainable and within my reach. Early rising has compensated for long office-hours, and afforded time for those little attentions in themselves so sweet and so delightfully requited. Strong health has been given to me for a seeming sacrifice of rest; and Nature seen in her dress of richly-spangled dew, more gorgeous than diamonds or orient pearls in beauty, has been my daily enjoyment. Then, indeed, are the many glories of Nature most glorious; then are her sweetest odours poured forth; then it is we are most ready to sing with Wordsworth:

" God made the flowers to beautify  
The earth and cheer man's careful mood;  
And he is happiest who hath power  
To gather wisdom from a flower,  
And wake his heart in every hour  
To pleasant gratitude."

Then it is when "pleasant gratitude" rises most spontaneously to the Author of all good for the richly-varied beauties around us; then is the Pansy most pleasant, the Pink most delightful, the Wall-flower most sweet, the Rose most charming; then strongest within us is the love of those sweets

" Which comfort man in his distress,  
Which smile when he is gay;  
Their fragrance and their loveliness  
They yield him day by day:  
For patience and for humbleness,  
No servitors like they."

And fostering them we reap a rich harvest of peace and content. Such peace and such content, such pleasures as have been reaped by a poor office-writer, may be realised by every one; and it will gratify his fervent wish if his brief reverie shall conduce, even in the least, to a wider diffusion of the pleasures of a garden.

NEMO.



## THE NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY :

## PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

“The Committee have a large and open field before them in which to extend their operations ; and they deeply feel the amount of responsibility which such an enlarging sphere of action will be sure to entail upon them.”—*Extract from First Annual Report.*

It is not yet two years since the National Floricultural Society was called into being, with the view of forming a competent tribunal before which the merits of new Florists' flowers and garden hybrids might be tested. That such a tribunal was necessary, was proved to the originators by the number of new plants which were continually palmed on the public at high prices, by means of flattering descriptions, and afterwards found to be inferior, or too similar to existing kinds, or perhaps altogether worthless. Such a state of things was producing incalculable mischief. A good thing in the hands of a man unaccustomed to sell, or too honest to colour his productions, often remained unappreciated, till the time had passed in which he should have benefited by it. On the other hand, a bad thing, in the hands of a man less scrupulous, or a successful puffer, realised a large sum ; the purchaser was duped and disappointed ; the confidence of the public in the honesty of Florists was shaken ; the whole system was deranged, and the wheels of the machinery clogged and fettered. It was under this state of things that the standard of the National Floricultural Society was raised ; and the gathering around it of 205 members in the brief space of one year, comprising the leading amateurs, nurserymen, and florists, proves not only how much the want was felt, but proves also a confidence in the early promoters of the scheme. And, looking to the past, we think the workings of the Society have justified that confidence ; not that we think it has been free from error, no human institution can be ; but those who have purchased only what has received its mark of approbation, will not say they have been deceived or their money wasted. Thus far, we believe, the Society has done much to secure for the honest trader a fair remuneration for his industry and skill, has done much also to protect the credulous or unsuspecting from deception and fraud ; and in having done this, it has in some measure restored the confidence of the public, produced order from disorder, and left the wheels of the machinery freed from hindrance or impediment.

But while we congratulate the Society on being able to dwell thus pleasantly on the past, we must not let that arrest our activity in the present, or dim our vision of the future. We must remember that we cannot remain long stationary ; our march must be either *progressive* or *retrogressive* ; and no lover of the art will be long in deciding which it shall be ; and we hope he will be equally ready to help in raising the lever which shall give to us the onward motion. Every nurseryman and florist, from the humblest to the highest ; every amateur—from him who finds pleasure and relaxation in the

cultivation of his Pinks or Pansies, to him who luxuriates amidst the choicest and most extensive collections—is deeply interested in this question.

This does not seem precisely the time or place in which to panegyrisé floriculture; but, viewed from the present stand-point, never was there a better opportunity *to do something great* in its service. Its patrons are increasing numerically beyond precedent; its votaries are rising rapidly in the social and intellectual scale; floriculture itself is struggling to escape from its present unnatural position; it can no longer remain a mere appendage to horticulture; it may continue a handmaid, but not a vassal or a slave; it is now in a position to take an independent stand on the highway to greater and more extended honour; and whether it shall do this, *and when it shall do it*, depends mainly on its own supporters. It is no use crying to Hercules: the gods help those who help themselves. Floriculture may be a humble companion to stand in the ranks beside Sculpture and Painting. The Florist may not be able to *mould at will* from the shapeless mass figures which shall fire the imagination, and awaken those emotions which give so much pleasure to the mind; he finds much already prepared to his hand; the materials he works with are not passive, but active; yet he has a power over them which does not leave his labours altogether the result of chance; and the forms he rears are also calculated to please the eye, refine the understanding, and enlarge the heart.

But we must not extend our observations on this point. It is more our purpose to direct attention to the future. Our march must be *progressive*; and I would suggest three means for the accomplishment of our end.

1. Let a small plot of ground be obtained, not too far from London, on which glass may be erected as the funds will allow. This should be devoted to the raising of seedlings, and the testing of novelties. It should be under the care of a person competent to carry on the processes of artificial crossing and hybridising, and also to grow the plants to their highest state of development.

2. I would suggest that a separate exhibition for every Florist's flower be given, at the time when such flower is expected to be in greatest beauty, and that prizes be awarded to the most successful productions. Every plant to be considered within this range that produces *marked* variations and improvements from seed.

3. I would also suggest that a lecture, paper, or essay be read at each meeting, on the flower then exhibited, obtaining, where practicable, the most distinguished cultivator of that flower to read the same, or write it, to be read by the secretary.

The first of these means, the garden, would require an increase of funds; and this we propose to obtain by an increase in the number of subscribers and by donations. The second means, exhibitions, would, we believe, in a little time, prove more than self-supporting. The third means, lectures, would entail no additional expense on the Society, but would still prove a most interesting feature. I just offer these few crude thoughts, and leave them for the consideration



of the members and lovers of flowers in general, hoping they may bring forth something that shall prove serviceable to the progress of floriculture.

*Nurseries, Cheshunt, Herts.*

WILLIAM PAUL.

### BRITISH PLANTS.

*Erica cinerea* is abundant in my neighbourhood, the preponderating soil of which is peaty. In some of our uncultivated tracts of land, and where there are but few habitations of men, we find this acceptable little plant, with its associate (*E. tetralix*), rendering these forlorn wastes truly gay and cheerful during the greater part of the whole gladsome season of summer. When young, it is in general browsed down very much; and is by some considered very nutritious, since cattle are unmistakeably known to thrive on this and all other pasture-lands wherever an abundance of heath is found to predominate.

*E. tetralix* is equally as plentiful as the variety just mentioned. Its flowers are not unfrequently pure white, though indeed in any case it may justly be pronounced a rival to many of our foreign species, both as to general appearance and also as respects the pleasing contrast presented by it in regard to colour. The flowering season may be deemed at its height about the month of August, though more frequently it extends over nearly the whole of our summer. This plant, and a frequent companion, so overrun our barren pasture-lands, as to prove of the most material service to many an indigent labourer, who is prospectively encouraged to cut his peaty sods, composed of heath, of a moderate thickness, and to store them up during the autumn, and which in time become dry, and form his principal fuel throughout the cold and desolate winter. This is the uniform practice on that extensive portion of land known as Chobham Common, where a number of these heaps may be observed. This, with the last-named species, may be seen presenting an unusually gay appearance in Windsor Park, about five minutes' walk from the "Obelisk," where these varieties in colour are annually displayed, and form the circumstance of numerous foot-paths having been formed by the browsing down of these plants by rabbits and other animals, at the first glance of the spectator he is suddenly reminded, as it were, of some perfect geometrical garden, by the regular and profuse blooming of this attractive little Heath, whose cultivation is warmly recommended.

*Calluna vulgaris* (*Erica vulgaris*) is a well-known, and when in flower, in no way a despicable under-shrub. Like the other, it is used for a variety of purposes. It is more particularly employed for edging to garden borders, and is eligible for such a purpose beyond any of the other native sorts. At one time the young tops were employed in the manufacture of beer. All the British species are

any thing but problematical in their culture, in general succeeding well in their natural soil, but requiring time to become established in any new home. Admirers of the British Ericaceæ may observe some of the indigenous kinds in great abundance in many parts of Windsor Park, on Callow Hill, as also on the spacious Egham Enclosure, adjacent to Chobham Common, already alluded to, where, during the propitious weather of our summer season, these plants present a truly ennobling appearance to those otherwise dreary and neglected spots.

*Cyclamen hederifolium* is a favourite border-flower with all persons. It possesses the advantage of being neat and dwarf in habit, and though its property is to yield blossoms somewhat delicate in character, yet the same have generally been considered tolerably showy; while the comparatively long duration of the period it continues to bloom, is perhaps not the least important feature to be noticed in attempting my description of this plant. Early in their development, these flowers become to us welcome harbingers, apprising us of the speedy approach of another congenial spring and summer, when wild flowers will smile, and in quick succession again unfold their varied blossoms, to charm us by their accustomed gaiety of colour and shade. It is clearly a plant to be desired in our garden-borders, or even in beds, contributing its full moiety of colour at a very early period of the season. The *habitats* given for this interesting plant are exceedingly limited, both in number and extent; to furnish some adequate idea of the disputable character of the various stations in our country claiming to have given it birth, one may not perhaps do better than cite the remarks of an observant botanist on the whole genus: "None of the species can have any claim to be admitted as indigenous, if, indeed, any can properly be said to be naturalised."

*Englefield Green.*

W. W. HALE.

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#### MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

THE falling of the leaves and the clouded days of November, coupled with the paucity of out-door flowers, render the garden somewhat unattractive; nevertheless there are always a few hardy-flowering things to be found, so that a bouquet may be gathered up even to the depth of winter. Among greenhouse plants very little is at present in flower: *Acacia platyptera* and one or two other kinds are, however, developing their globose heads of bright yellow blossoms. *Indigofera juncea*, a pretty flowering Australian shrub, is at present gay with pink flowers. *Cobæa scandens*, a large coarse-growing evergreen Mexican climber, with large purplish bell-shaped flowers, is thickly covering the back walls of two of the greenhouses, a situation for which it is well adapted; it is at present in flower, and will continue throughout most part of the winter. *Eccremocarpus scaber* and *Passiflora hybrida-cœrulea* are excellent plants for covering a similar situation; both of these are at present in flower here.

In a hothouse which contains the Tropical aquarium, in which *Nymphæa dentata* and *micrantha* are the only aquatics at present in flower, are some fine specimens of *Gesnera Herbertiana* and *Ruellia macrophylla*, with *Jasminum hirsutum*, *Rondeletia speciosa major*, a few *Ixoras*, &c., all in blossom, intermixed with some strong healthy plants of *Achimenes picta* coming on for winter decoration. These plants are grown here in shallow pans, five or six plants in each, kept in a brisk heat until they commence flowering. They are then removed to a milder temperature, where they flower freely, and the blossoms last a long time in perfection; they are kept dry over head, and sometimes attain the height of five feet with sixty expanded flowers on one stem. On the east-end of this house outside is a plant of *Eucalyptus pulviger*, a white-looking fragrant evergreen New Holland shrub of considerable beauty. It stands here without protection, and is at present in flower. In a small stove adjoining, which has recently been converted into an Orchid-house, the plants are more healthy and looking better than they have done for several years past, a proof that small houses are infinitely better for the cultivation of this tribe of plants than large ones. Many of the *Cattleyas* and *Dendrobes* are making strong growth, and the other kinds are looking well. *Cattleya labiata*, *C. guttata*, *Zygopetalum Mackayi*, *Calanthe vestita*, *Cœlia macrostachya*, several kinds of *Lady's Slippers*, and a few other plants, are in flower. On the front table of this stove is arranged a group of *Tillandsias*, &c., which are particularly striking from the variation of colour in their leaves; they are on a raised sort of rockwork covered with *Lycopods*, which being green tend materially to enhance the beauty of their foliage. A few of the most conspicuous are, *Tillandsia amœna*, *T. morelliana*, *T. acaulis zebrina*, *T. acaulis viridifolia*, *Echmœa discolor*, *Vriesia speciosa* (this has a flower-spike now on it more than two feet long), and one or two unnamed species with two-coloured leaves. In one of the large stoves formerly used as an Orchid-house, and glazed with long British sheet-glass, the panes have all been taken out on the south side, cut into smaller squares, re-glazed, and painted on the outside, "stippuled,"\* to prevent the rays of the sun from injuring the leaves, and in a measure to do away with canvass-shading; but this remains to be proved by next summer's sunshine. *Klugia notoniana*, a succulent balsam-like stove-plant, lately introduced from Ceylon, is at present flowering here; it has a one-sided raceme of very bright blue pendulous flowers, which, though of a colour that is much desired, the scarcity of them (for it is not a very free bloomer) will be against it becoming a plant for general cultivation. *Æschynanthus Teysmannianus* is a species which has a proximity to *Æ. Javanicus*, and was introduced to Kew from the continent. It is grown on a flattish open pan suspended from the roof of a moist stove, where its slender trailing branches hang down four feet; the flowers are red, hairy, with a green calyx darkish towards the upper

\* "Stippuled" is an architectural term for painting, and pouncing, to *destroy the lines left by the brush*; it looks like pepper all over.

part; the leaves are fleshy, elliptical, about an inch long, hairy beneath, entire on the margin. It is flowering freely here at present.

In the open borders, under west and south walls, *Verbena geraniifolia* is in as good perfection as in the height of summer; this is a valuable kind, as it flowers throughout the summer and autumn. The double-flowered Meadow Saffron (*Colchicum autumnale flore-pleno*) is one of the prettiest things in the herbaceous grounds; it flowers without leaves, and should be planted in light soil near the margin of the borders, where at this, its flowering season, it has a beautiful appearance. Against an east wall is *Arbutus Andrachne*, one of the best of our half-hardy trees, just coming into flower; it has a very smooth wood covered with a fine powder, the leaves are of a bright shining green, very smooth, and the young branches are red. It is apt to suffer here in winter by the leaves becoming brown, unless slightly protected. It is a native of the Levant.

*Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.*

J. HOULSTON.

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#### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

November 2.—C. Wentworth Dilke, Esq., in the chair. Chrysanthemums were invited; but owing to the dull weather which had prevailed, none could be produced except Pompons. Of the latter there were three exhibitions—one from Mr. Ivery of Peckham; another from Mr. E. G. Henderson of the Wellington Road; and a third from Messrs. Chandler of Vauxhall. Those from the last-named firm were, however, not for competition. Messrs. Henderson's plants arrived too late, and therefore the prize offered (a Knightian medal) was awarded to Mr. Ivery, whose sorts were, Autumnus, buff, with a brown centre; Sacramento, a very handsome variety, bright yellow, with a brown eye; Minon, delicate pink, with a brown centre; Hendersonii, pure yellow; Argentine, white; and Surprise, pink, with a brownish centre. Messrs. Henderson had one named Solfaterre, very like Sacramento, but perhaps larger; Ranunculus, pink; and a brown kind named La Liliputienne. The rest were not different from those above enumerated. Among Messrs. Chandler's plants was one named Le Nain Bé-Bé, a small pink sort, with a faint scent like that of Violets. Chrysanthemums are again invited on the 7th instant, when we hope there will be a good display. Among other subjects was an exhibition of twelve young plants of *Æschynanthus splendidus*, from Messrs. Lumcombe and Pince of Exeter. These were much admired, owing to their clusters of brilliant fiery red flowers, numbering from eight to ten in a head. They appeared to have been the flowering tops taken off early this autumn, struck and grown in 3-inch pots: a Knightian medal was awarded them. Of Orchids, Messrs. Veitch produced *Calanthe vestita*, a lovely late-flowering species, with large white blossoms, having a red eye; also a plant of the charming *Vanda cœrulea*: a Banksian medal was awarded. From the Society's garden came

plants of the lovely *Veronica Andersonii*, than which a prettier winter flower for the greenhouse can hardly exist; a bright red-coloured hybrid *Bigonia*, raised between *Mancata* and *Cinnabarina*; the little *Cochlearia acaulis*, four Pompon *Chrysanthemums*, and some Tree or Perpetual Carnations, which are very useful conservatory and greenhouse plants at this season.

THE CARNATION AND PICOTEE BLOOM OF 1852;  
AND STRAY THOUGHTS ON THE SEASON.

THE past season has been one of a peculiar character in more than one particular. Notable for its long drought—the unusually low temperature which prevailed during the spring months—the remarkable heat of July—the prevalence of thrips, and the brevity of the bloom. Such circumstances may seem to afford little room for remark, and less for congratulation; nevertheless, I trust my readers and myself may spend a few minutes not unprofitably together, and that they will rise from the perusal of my short remarks with my own conviction, viz. not only that the past season has been full of satisfaction, but that it affords ground for congratulation, and sanguine expectation to all interested in these lovely flowers, far exceeding any of its predecessors.

Let us first revert to the meeting of the National this year, held in the ancient city of Norwich. Favoured by its excellent secretary, we enter the exhibition with the privileged few, that our observations may be made quietly, and without the busy life of a large crowd to interrupt; and what a scene meets our view! Was ever a richer galaxy of these “fair flowers” presented? We look long, eagerly, and critically; and then with ’bated breath answer, Never! Rare, indeed, in their magnificence are our pets, and worthy are they of the admiration so freely expressed. All around us, equally intent with ourselves, are the giants of Carnation culture; and it is worthy of note to observe the harmony which a delight in similar pursuits has produced in minds often dissimilar and of opposite temperament. Easy kindness pervades the whole; and it is one of the many advantages of floriculture, that no exclusiveness is known within its pale. Whilst we have been thus communing and admiring the wonders before us, time has rapidly passed, and now, the great doors being opened, the public, the great arbiter of all fates, comes in to make its award. It is not long in being decided; we can read it in the sparkling eyes, the pleased and delighted countenances, and the lingering steps of the many visitors; and we read therein the plain deduction, that the Florist’s labour is no longer a fancy—a mere chimera of the brain—but an art, a science, delightful in its pursuit, and capable of affording the most refined enjoyment to thousands. Then we agree, that snatching such enjoyment from a season so adverse in character, is a satisfaction a thousand fold enhanced—made sweeter by the dangers encountered and difficulties overcome.

We agree, too, that the meeting has been worthy of its name, and the fame of those supporting it.

Calling into aid our magic wand, we turn now to a meeting of another kind, the "Towns'" exhibition, held at Derby. It was proposed as a modest "interlude" to the National—a meeting merely of the midland towns; but on looking at the list of those engaged, we agree it has quite outgrown that character, and that a drama of no mean importance is being enacted on our little stage. Before us are productions from Edinburgh, York, Wakefield, Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham, Leicester, and Derby; and from remarks which are made in our hearing, we learn that nothing but the late day of exhibition prevented the metropolis, with Stamford and Northampton, from taking part in the competition. And what are the attractions which have produced this extended competition? Heavy prizes, doubtless, will account for the interest displayed, and large attendance. Not so; the prizes are honorary, and all the labour and expense involved in bringing these beautiful flowers to this table, and this interested multitude to this hall, have been incurred solely in vindication of floral ability and floral worship. But surely something beyond the mere vindication of our own importance, here symbolised in the "Town," has excited this keen interest, and the earnest confabulation which is going on all around. Let us listen. The subject engaging attention is the mode of shewing the flowers; and what says a speaker near us? "You will be glad to hear that we have unanimously determined our flowers shall be shewn ON CARDS; the question has been long agitated, but I look upon its solution as palpable as the merits of Free-trade *versus* Protection." The speaker has come at the head of the deputation from the most important town here represented; and the attention with which his remark is received, and the applause it elicits, sufficiently bespeaks the sense of the meeting. Another speaker, pale and thoughtful, says, slowly but emphatically, as he heartily grips the hand of a friend he is leaving, "It is indeed a fact, that differences of opinion, asserted or assumed, vanish into thin air, when we come face to face with the subject before us to illustrate our remarks." We agree, then, that the past season not only has been full of satisfaction, but that in this proved unanimity of opinion, and in the wide diffusion of a system (because understood) which places the flower worthily before the public, there is ground for congratulation, and an expectation of progress in the future, correspondingly rapid in its development.

A few words referring to those flowers which have been most prominent are necessary before I close. Foremost, I take those sent out during the autumn of 1851, as we all turn first to novelty. Of these, it is not enough to say they have supported their reputation; they have exceeded all the encomium which had been passed upon them. Who is there who can forget the magnificence of Falconbridge—its fine form, large size, delightful colours, and refinement? Who the superb proportions, the clear white and glowing colour of Mrs. Norman? the nobleness of Rutland? the delicacy of Prince Arthur? the exquisite purity of Ganymede? the fine form, regular

marking, and broad petal of *Ophelia*? Who is there who will not agree with me, that their merits have not been sufficiently dilated upon? and who does not wish our classic *Florist* would be more "chatty" upon the beauties of her favourites? Giulio Romano, Hogarth, Mary, and Grace Darling have sustained the repute which preceded them. Ringleader, S. B., a northern variety, is a flower of good shape, fine colours, and much refinement, and will be appreciated when more known. Of flowers which are now being offered, the following are indispensable to all who wish to obtain a leading place at the forthcoming competitions, viz. General Monk, C.B., Lady Macbeth, Red Picotee, heavy edged; Bridesmaid, light-purple edged; Haidee, light-purple edged, and Victoria Regina, heavy rose or scarlet-edged. I have just said, who is there who does not wish the *Florist* would describe more at length the beauties of our favourites? and must confess myself fairly caught in my own trap; for how *can* they be described? I can merely say that General Monk, though differing in the shade of its colours with Jenny Lind, has a purer white, and is in every other respect equal to the best flowers known. Lady Macbeth excels Mrs. Norman in its greater density of colour, and freedom from the slightest spot or bar. Haidee and Bridesmaid it would be difficult to speak too highly of: for symmetry, regularity of marking, exquisite purity, and form of petal, they are unrivalled. Victoria Regina is the sweetest rose in existence; wherever seen in proper character, it will have no rival. Other flowers most deserving, and which will be found in the best *selections*, are Acca, S. F., Benedict, R. F., Friar Lawrence, R. F., Magnificent, R. F., Poor Tom, R. F.; and in Picotees, red-edged: Ann, Bellona, Lavinia. Purple-edged: Bianca, Countess, Diadem. Rose-edged: Calliope, Julia, Rosalind, and Unexpected.

Of old flowers, the following have been the best: S. B., Admiral Curzon, Lord Lewisham; C. B., Black Diamond, Duncan, Jenny Lind, Lord Milton, Owen Glendower, Queen Victoria; P. B., Princess, Prince Albert, Sarah Payne; P. F., Beauty of Woodhouse, Perfection, Premier, Squire Meynell, Squire Trow; S. F., Cradley Pet, Firebrand, Justice Shallow, Queen Victoria; R. F., Antonio, Ariel, Flora's Garland, Haidee, Lorenzo, Lovely Ann, Lady Ely, Madame Sontag, Princess Royal, and Romeo. Red Picotees: King James, Isabella, Prince of Wales, Elizabeth. Purple-edged: Alfred, King of Purples, Lady H. Moore, Lord Nelson, Princess Helena. Rose-edged: Mrs. Barnard, Green's Queen, and Venus. There has been no lack of new faces during the season. Not to note the hosts of seedlings of Mr. May's and Mr. Puxley's, as yet confined to the Royal Nursery, I have seen many of much promise from various quarters. These will be described in future years; but I must except from this present oblivion Mr. Bayley's Heavy Purple, of the largest size, broad in the petal, finely formed, unspotted in the white, and margined deeply with a lovely purple; it is quite worthy the noble name which has been conferred upon it. Turner's Miss Puxley is a fine light or medium-edged rose; and a sweet rose of Mr. Adams' will be a welcome addition to this class.

The coming year indicates no want of attraction. Already a large gathering, to be held in Glasgow, has been organised by our friends in Scotland; and the meeting of the National, transferred to the conduct of the Ancient Society of York Florists, at their urgent request, to give an additional grace to an extensive horticultural fête, to be held on the 3d and 4th of August, will lose nothing of its importance in their hands, or by the addition to its numbers of the rank and file of Carnation cultivators.

*Derby.*

E. S. DODWELL.

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#### NOTES ON THE LEADING NEW DAHLIAS SEEN DURING THE PAST SEASON BY MR. JOHN EDWARDS.

I MAKE NO apology for submitting the following memorandums on the Seedling Dahlias seen during the past season. How these may suit your own views, I can in no way judge; suffice it that they are penned in all integrity, and further with a wish of relieving yourself of the responsibility consequent upon speaking out in relation of your own property. I shall be delighted to find your own foot-notes, nor amine, however severe the critique may be.

*Amazon* (Holmes). White, deeply edged and tipped with carmine-lake; showy, novel, and constant.

*Annie Neville* (Keynes). Blush-tipped purple; petals broad yet compact.

*Bob* (Drummond). Scarlet; deep, full, and well-arranged; extensively and somewhat successfully shewn.

*Brilliant* (Rawlings). Scarlet; petals broad yet smooth; full size; grown too strong.

*Claudia* (Lochner). Fancy; dark purple with white tips; large and showy.

*Duchess of Kent* (Knight). Fancy; pale yellow with white tips; large and symmetrical.

*Grand Duke* (Turner). Bluish lilac; large yet full; shewn somewhat coarse; likely to be a first-rate flower when grown near the metropolis or adjacent to large towns.

*Kate* (Burbury). Blush, slightly tipped with purple; of fair outline and with elevated centre, which is inclined to be difficult of getting in shewable form.

*Lilac King* (Rawlings). Of fine form and medium size; very desirable.

*Lord Byron* (Pope). Salmon; medium-sized flower; of good outline; wanting centre and doubleness.

*Lord Nelson* (Bragg). Salmon-buff; good, early; but fails to maintain its compactness as the season advances.

*Miss Caroline* (Brittle). Blush-white, slightly tipped; fine form, with extra full and high centre: by far better than Marchioness, Cornwallis, although somewhat similar. I know it to be constant. Who can so say of the Marchioness?



*Miss Mathews* (Bragg). Fancy ; dull scarlet tipped with white ; full size ; deep and useful : this was not done nearly so well as it should have been.

*Plantagenet* (Turner). Purple, shaded with lilac ; large and full ; smoother, yet similar to Mr. Seidon ; high and compact centre.

*Queen Victoria* (Wheeler). Bright yellow ground, distinctly edged with red ; of good build and considerable depth ; desirable alike for fine form and novelty.

*Sir John Franklin* (Turner). Salmon-buff ; petal and general form good ; centre of the highest order ; one of the best, if not the best flower ever offered.

*Unanimity* (Edwards). Fancy ; this is of the flaked or striped class ; yellow and red evenly balanced ; clear and well defined ; petal small and smooth, with abundance of stuff and high centre : somewhat difficult to cover.

*Wonderful* (Keynes). Fancy ; this is also a flower of the same class as the preceding, with larger and more open petals, not so regularly striped ; colours yellow and faint red ; a first-rate flower in its way ; over-grown.

For a more extended notice of the above, and of eighteen other varieties, together with many important particulars relating to the whole, I must refer those interested in the Dahlia to the *National Garden Almanack and Trade Directory* for 1853.

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## ACHIMENES BACKMANII.

THIS new species is one of the handsomest of the genus, and well deserving a place in every collection where the means exist for its proper culture. It is very distinct, the colour being of a rich and beautiful reddish-purple, each flower measuring two inches across ; and what makes it more valuable, it retains its brilliant colour till the flower drops off, while several of the other species lose their brilliancy, which makes them of less value. The beauty of a flower is to keep its colour till the last. It is a free-blooming plant, grows about a foot and a half high, with beautiful dark foliage, and is of easy culture.

There are not many plants that surpass Achimenes when in their beauty. They are valuable for decorating the stove and conservatory during the summer months. They do not, however, make good plants for exhibition, as they travel badly, they are very apt to drop their flowers, and if it happens to be a hot, windy day, they generally flag. Some fine collections were shewn at the Chiswick show in July last. The plants were beautiful in the morning, when put on the stage ; but in the afternoon they were all drooping, flagging, and nearly spoilt. Besides the sort just named, the following are a few which I know to be good, viz. *A. longiflora* and *A. L. superba* ; the latter is a fine flower, as is also *Longiflora alba* ; *A. venusta* is a smaller flower ; but it is well worth growing, being very compact ;

*A. picta* is pretty ; when well-grown, the foliage is handsome as well as the flower. This species is useful in winter as well as in summer, which greatly increases its value ; for these are the sort of plants we want to decorate our stoves during the dull months. It requires treatment somewhat different from the other kinds. It is best grown in small pots. The plants should be kept growing in the autumn in a nice moist heat, which will bring them into bloom about December, and they will keep on till the spring. A succession of plants may be had in flower all the year by starting them at different times. *A. multiflora* is a pretty and distinct species ; it is an old plant, but it is seldom seen in collections, because it is more difficult to manage than some of the others. It is a free bloomer when well grown. It does not require so much moisture as the other kinds. *A. Mountfordii* is a distinct and free-flowering sort, whose colour is bright scarlet. It is in the way of the old *A. coccinea* ; but it is a much better flower, and comes into bloom earlier.

The most suitable place for growing *Achimenes* is a stove or an Orchid-house, where there is plenty of heat and moisture ; they will also do well in an early vinery, or a pit where there is a nice moist warmth. The best soil that I can find for growing them in is leaf-mould and peat in equal parts, with a good quantity of silver-sand. I generally part the bulbs, and pot them about February for the first lot of plants, and a fresh supply in March, so as to keep a succession of bloom all the summer. The way to manage them before potting is to turn them out of the pots, and shake off the old soil from the bulbs. Afterwards get the pots ready ; let them be perfectly clean, then put good drainage at the bottom, then some moss or rough peat, and then fill up with the mould, placing about six bulbs on the top and covering with mould. Set them in a warm house, without giving too much water at first ; but after the shoots get two or three inches high, water may be given freely. Keep them on growing ; and if the pots get full of roots, give them a large shift ; but keep them close to the glass, so that they can receive all the light possible, in order that they may not grow weak. They require training to sticks ; and during the summer, when in bloom, they may be moved to the conservatory, but placed on the warmest and shadiest part. After they have done blooming, they should be put by for the winter on some dry shelf in the store, and kept dry till the time for potting.

They are propagated by cutting the bulbs into pieces just as they are starting to grow. They may also be raised from seed ; and cuttings of the shoots will strike freely enough if they are taken off when young, and placed on bottom-heat in some light soil with silver-sand.

These plants would look well in baskets suspended from the roof of the house, so that the shoots might hang over the sides of the baskets. Their rich colours would have a striking effect displayed in different parts of the house ; but to grow them in this way, they require more moisture at their roots : the baskets should be the same as for Orchids. In filling them, place some moss at the bottom and

round the sides, to keep the mould from running out; afterwards fill up with the mould, and then place the plants in the centre, and keep them well watered and shaded from the burning sun. The plants should not be trained, but allowed to hang carelessly over the baskets. The varieties of *A. longiflora* and *A. Backmanii* will be best for this purpose, for the flowers are large and showy.

*Hoddesdon.*

B. S. WILLIAMS.

### THE CALCEOLARIA.

ONE of the prettiest sights that it has been my lot to see during the present year was a house full of Calceolarias grown from seed by a lady, an ardent florist, in Lancashire. The luxuriance and profusion, I may say the loads of bloom, of all colours and markings, were so effective, that amongst all the beauties of Flora that I have looked upon during the past season, none was more gratifying; and as a similar success may be easily attained by any of your readers possessed of the needful convenience, I will just note what appeared to contribute to success. The plants were all seedlings; and of course much will depend upon getting seed of a good strain, and in sufficient variety of colours and marking; all the pots of one size, 48's or 32's, so that there was great uniformity in the size of the plants; the house was span-roofed with glass at one end only, in the centre of which was the only door; the side shelves and the centre stand were of the same elevation, made of slate or stone, and covered with a layer of sand kept damp; on this sand the pots were arranged, so that when in bloom the flowers were partially intermingled, and collectively presented a mass of beauty. When the bloom was over, and a sufficient quantity of seed had been secured for another year, the plants were thrown away, and other things put in their places; and I subsequently saw the same house again an object of pleasure, being filled with Japan Lilies, many of them seedlings.

OMICRON.

### STOKE NEWINGTON CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.

*November 23d.*—The exhibition on this occasion was in advance of any previous meeting in cut flowers, but not quite equal in plants. The Pompons were shewn better than on any previous occasion, and make exceedingly interesting objects when well grown. Altogether the show was a very good one, and well attended. The stands of cut blooms, and more particularly those shewn by Mr. Taylor, deserve especial notice, being far beyond, in size and compactness, any that we have before witnessed. We hope another season to see a little more variety introduced in the collections, there being far too

many blush varieties in proportion to other colours. A bloom of Plutus was admitted to be the finest specimen in the entire exhibition; it is an incurved yellow, very full, and a perfectly symmetrical half ball. The three silver cups were won by Mr. Holmes for six plants, Mr. Taylor for twenty-four cut blooms, and by Mr. Scruby for twelve cut specimens.

Mr. Ivery of Peckham sent a collection of Pompons, which were well flowered and good variety, including several new kinds.

Class I.—Specimen plants: 1st, Mr. Scruby, with Defiance; 2d, Mr. Bundel, with Madame Poggi. The first was a large plant, with fine foliage, but rather loose, with indifferent flowers.

Class II.—Six plants: 1st, (the cup) Mr. Holmes, Madame Cammerson, Christine, Annie Salter, Pilot, Defiance, Mount Etna; 2d, Mr. Scruby; 3d, Mr. Elliott.

Class III.—Pompons in six varieties: 1st, Mr. Holmes, Le Jongleur, La Fiancée, Eliza Meillez, Modelle, Pompon d'or, Henri Chauvière; 2d, Mr. Argent; 3d, Mr. G. Smith.

Cut blooms, twenty-four: 1st, (the cup) Mr. Taylor, King, Queen of England, Guillaume Tell, Beauty, Defiance, Themis, Nell Gwynne, Lysias, Nonpareil, Goliath, Two-coloured incurved, Plutus, Rosa Mystica, Duke, Dupont de l'Eure. The remainder were duplicates, which are allowed; 2d, Mr. Shields; 3d, Mr. Scruby; 4th, Mr. Elliott; 5th, Mr. James; 6th, Mr. E. Saunderson.

Twelve blooms: 1st (silver cup), Mr. Scruby, Beauty, Pius IX., Dupont de l'Eure, Annie Salter, Rosa Mystica, Duke, King, Rabelais, Queen of England, Plutus, Nonpareil, Christine; 2d, Mr. Taylor; 3d, Mr. Bundel; 4th, Mr. G. Smith; 5th, Mr. Saunderson; 6th, Mr. Elliott; 7th, Mr. Hutton; 8th, Mr. Holmes.

Six blooms: 1st, Mr. Taylor, Beauty, Goliath, King, Plutus, Nonpareil, Dupont de l'Eure; 2d, Mr. Hutton; 3d, Mr. James; 4th, Mr. Holmes; 5th, Mr. T. Williams; 6th, Mr. Elliott; 7th, Mr. E. Saunderson; 8th, Mr. Scruby; 9th, Mr. Kirby.

Maiden growers, six blooms: 1st, Mr. Algar, Nonpareil, Goliath, King, Plutus, Beauty, Dupont de l'Eure; 2d, Mr. Farrier; 3d, Mr. G. Hutton; 4th, Mr. Monk.

New flowers: 1st, Mr. Taylor, Miss Kate, Nell Gwynne, Fortune; 2d, Mr. James. In this class there was nothing of interest.

Anemone-flowered: 1st, Mr. Scruby, Fleur de Marie, Gluck, Nancy de Jermet, Margaret d'Anjou, Deborah, Sulphurea; 2d, Mr. G. Smith.

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