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THE

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AND

GARDEN MISCELLANY.

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THE

FLORIST, FRUITIST, AND GARDEN

Miscellany.

THE RANUNCULUS.

We need scarcely state that this old favourite is still advancing towards perfection; a fact which (if proof were wanting) our present Illustration, we hope, fully demonstrates. The blooms from which our artist made the drawings were forwarded to us last June by Mr. G. Lightbody of Falkirk, N.B., by whom they were raised, but unfortunately it was found impossible to shew more than two in the space afforded by our Plate, so fine were the flowers. The third variety, of which we have a drawing, is equally as handsome as those figured.

Mr. Lightbody informs us that he has kept no account of what kinds they were raised from. One of them he has had a considerable time; but being so slow to increase, he has never been able to part with it. Nothing could be more beautiful than the flowers sent, either as new varieties, or as specimens of fine growth.

It is with much regret we are compelled to admit that this flower is now but little grown, i.e. little compared with its merit; yet as an out-door Florists’ flower what is more beautiful than a fine Ranunculus? all admire them, yet nearly all fail in their management. The few that do succeed tell you that their culture is easy enough. We fear there is often great neglect at taking-up time, and still greater negligence the remainder of the time they are out of the ground; thereby diminishing considerably the chance of a good bloom for years to follow. To assist those, however, who may be induced to give the Ranunculus a fair trial, we have much pleasure in subjoining an excellent concise practical treatise on the subject by Mr. Lightbody, whose long experience and success in the growth and management of this fine flower is well known to most of our readers. Mr. L. remarks,

"The cultivation of the Ranunculus is a very simple matter.

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The first requisite to success is the early and proper formation of the beds. I prepare mine either in August or September, choosing fine dry weather. As my stock is grown on the same beds season after season, a change of soil for the surface is necessary. Each year I remove a spade in depth off the top, the subsoil is then dug and well broken, and carefully examined for wireworm, and all sorts of vermin is hunted out; a layer of old dung three or four inches thick is then added. The manure requires to be well broken, and a sufficiency of the powder of quick-lime mixed with it to kill all the worms. After the dung is levelled, fill up with some well-sweetened soil, and remember to have about three inches of light mould on the surface, where the roots are to be planted; then merely keep the beds free from weeds, and stir the top occasionally until planting time.

"The best time to plant is about the middle of February; but before this can be done, the surface of the bed must be made perfectly level with the edging, the distance between the rows, either five or six inches, should be marked on the edging; the quickest and easiest method to plant, is to draw drills across the bed with a trowel exactly one and a half inches deep. To ascertain the proper depth, I use a notched board, that rests on the wood edge. When the drill is the proper depth, plant the roots firmly in the ground, so that the crowns may be covered the exact one and a half inches (ten large roots of strong-growing kinds are enough for a row of a bed four feet wide, when the roots are small twelve to fourteen may be planted); the roots being properly placed, return the soil to the drill and level it carefully, proceeding in the same manner until the bed is all planted.

"After planting, until the young foliage begins to appear (which will be about the first week in April), keep down the ravages of the earth-worm, close all cracks on the surface, and in the event of severe frost throw some mats over the bed during the night. As the leaves break the surface, relieve them by loosening the soil and closing it round the neck of the plants; when the latter are all up, then stir the soil carefully between the rows, breaking it fine (I use a garden spud for this purpose), of course taking great care not to cut the plants.

"I am now of opinion, that in very dry frosty weather, such as we had last spring, the frequent stirring of the surface dispenses with the necessity of watering, at least I found it so, for to have watered during the continuance of blighting, frosty weather would, I considered, have been almost certain destruction to the tubers; mine had no artificial waterings last spring, and moisture seldom fell upon them till the copious rains of June, yet I never had a finer bloom nor lifted better roots.

"When the flower-stems are well up, the awning must be got in readiness; and during hot sunshine let down the side next the sun for an hour or two, to enable the blooms to attain size. When the flowers are in full blossom protect from sun and rain, giving all the air possible, to prevent the stems being drawn; if the weather is fair, roll up the awning at night; during the continuance of the bloom,
water liberally between the rows with rain or pond water, taking every precaution not to wet the blossoms.

"As soon as the beauty of the bed is on the decline, remove the awning; and when the foliage of a plant withers, lift and clean the root, and place it in the drawers to dry, taking care that it does not contract mould. Continue taking up as the plants attain maturity till the whole are secured.

"I have known growers whose custom it was to wait until the whole stock had withered down, so that the whole might be secured at one time. To follow this plan with the Ranunculus is the certain destruction of a portion of the stock; for should rains set in, many of the tubers will start growth again; if such a mischance should happen, the danger may be lessened by easing up the roots in the beds so as to cut off the connexion of the fibres with the soil.

"Such is a brief outline of my method in cultivating this most beautiful flower; and I shall be truly pleased if any of the readers of the Florist derive any benefit from my practice."

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TO OUR READERS.

Some little acquaintance with the labours of the Superintendent of the Florist, obtained by four years' service in that capacity, leads me to call upon all the lovers of floriculture to come forward, and by their communications to assist in the enterprise. Surely we ought to be able not only to maintain such a work in its present state of efficiency, but to make it quite matchless of its kind. I know well all the labours and anxieties attendant upon its conduct,—the difficulty in selecting suitable objects for its illustrations, the incessant care and foresight required in providing matter of interest, and the temper and forbearance necessary in the selection of matter and replies to correspondents. Its usefulness ought always to form a most prominent claim to our regard. To it we ought to refer for a record of all that has appeared during the recurring seasons deserving of our notice and culture. Every month should contain communications of the result of experimental practice, or suggestions for improving our exhibitions, our soils, our modes of seeding, sowing, growing and blooming, or of hybridising.

I have often remarked with what ease a monthly number may be filled by that most useful plant—Cabbage. Now one distinguishing feature of the Florist, Fruitist, and Garden Miscellany is the original character of its contents; and its readers should know how much more expensive this is than extracted matter. In the former case, a pair of scissors supplies the compositor, involving no charge for corrections and no payment to the contributor. In the latter, there is careful reading and preparation for the press required; then the proofs have to be corrected; then perhaps a little compression or enlargement is required to fit allotted space. And, after all, profit there is none obtained or sought for; all is downright care and labour; the only reward, the promotion of our favourite gardening cause.
Come, brother gardeners, let me invite you to come forward during the present year, and by your liberal contributions and exertions in promoting its circulation, help to place the *Florist, Fruitist, and Garden Miscellany* upon a still higher ground than ever.

Ex-Superintendent.

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**THE HOLLYHOCK.**

As the following observations on the management of the Hollyhock are the result of several years' experience, it is hoped they may be of use to such of your readers as are commencing the cultivation of this beautiful flower.

By far the best plants are to be obtained from cuttings struck in the spring and early summer. In order to secure a good supply, an old root of each variety should be reserved, and planted out in the autumn in any part of the garden where the soil is sufficiently light and the drainage good. In the spring they will throw up an abundance of young shoots for propagation. As soon as these shoots become from two to two and a half inches in length, they must be taken off; if allowed to get too long, they will not make such good plants; they should be cut off close to the old root, and all the leaves, except two or three small ones at the top, removed, care being taken, however, not to injure the eyes immediately below the leaves which remain. Each cutting should be put singly into a small 60-sized or 3-inch pot, and be planted rather deep, and the mould firmly pressed down on all sides. The best soil for the purpose is a mixture of turfy loam, well-decomposed leaf-mould, and coarse sand, about equal parts of each. A thorough good drainage in each pot is essential; this remark applies not only to the cuttings, but also to the plants when shifted as hereafter directed, and during the whole period they remain in pots. When planted, let the cuttings get a copious watering, and remain for a short time in the shade till the leaves are dry. They should then be placed in a cold frame facing the north, and be shut up close for a week or ten days; after which the lights may be taken off for half an hour every morning, to dry the glass and get rid of superfluous moisture; at the end of three weeks they may gradually get a little more air morning and evening, and at the expiration of a month, should the weather be calm and favourable, may be left open all night. During the whole process of striking they must be carefully shaded from the sun, and the frame must not be left open long in dry, windy weather, as either sun or wind will soon cause the cuttings to flag. They require only occasional moderate watering, just sufficient to keep the soil moist but not wet; if water be given too freely, they are very liable to damp-off. With judicious treatment some of the cuttings will begin to strike in about six weeks; but there is great difference in this respect, some varieties not rooting so freely as others, and requiring from eight to ten weeks, and occasionally more, before they will strike. In general no heat is required, indeed it is rather pre-
judicial than otherwise; but with these lazy varieties, perhaps a slight bottom-heat might accelerate matters.

As soon as the plants have pushed the young roots through to the sides of the pots, they should be shifted into 32's or 6-inch pots, similar soil being used to that in which they were struck; and after receiving a good watering, be again placed in the frame, and shut up close for a few days, until they get established. The only difficulty during the remainder of the summer will be to prevent their running up; the best mode of effecting this is to plunge the pots on a north border, where they will only get a little morning or evening sun, to allow them only just water enough to prevent their flagging, and occasionally to lift the pots in order to prevent their rooting through into the soil beneath. But notwithstanding all the care that can be taken, some few plants will probably commence running up in the course of the summer; these must be headed back as soon as they get three or four inches high, when the eyes which were left below will push, and make good plants by the autumn.

A collection of strong healthy plants being thus provided, the next question that arises is as to the best method of wintering them. The soil must be very dry and the situation peculiarly favourable to allow of their being turned out in the autumn into the open border; unless a hand-light could be assigned to each plant, this is much too hazardous a plan to recommend. They can stand a good deal of cold, but a continuance of wet, damp weather is fatal, and where slugs abound they are very injurious. We have had more than half the number of plants turned out in the autumn (strong healthy plants too) ruined from these causes. By far the best method is to winter them in large pots in frames. About the middle of September the plants should be shifted into 10-inch or Carnation pots, in soil containing a smaller proportion of sand than that previously used; three parts of loam, two of leaf-mould, and one of sand, will be about the thing. They should then be placed in a frame in a warm sheltered part of the garden with a southern aspect, and raised up by means of cinder-ashes to within six inches of the glass. Let them be well watered, and shut up close and shaded for a few days, if the weather be bright; but as soon as they are again established, they must have all the air possible day and night throughout the autumn and winter, the lights being used merely to protect them from heavy rain and severe frost, and during wet weather being propped up at both ends, so as to keep off the rain without excluding a free circulation of air. They will now require very little water, and the best mode of supplying it is to take advantage of mild gentle showers. Weeds must of course be pulled up as soon as they appear, dead leaves removed, and vermin killed, and the surface of the soil in the pots occasionally stirred. Plants wintered in frames as above recommended will be far stronger and healthier in the spring, and will bloom earlier than those turned out into the open border in autumn.

The next point to be attended to is the preparation of the border in which the plants are intended to flower. A medium soil, neither too heavy nor too light, and a situation where they can get plenty of
sun and air, are best adapted for the Hollyhock. In the early part of the winter the ground should be dug at least two spades deep, and a heavy dressing of rich manure applied and thoroughly incorporated with the soil; let the surface lie as rough as possible, that the ground may get well mellowed with the frost.

The proper time for planting out in the spring must in a great measure depend upon the season; but when the severity of winter is over, the sooner the plants are turned out of the pots the better. As before remarked, cold, if not very severe, will not injure them; and if March, as is usually the case, prove clear and dry, they may with safety be planted out in the early part of that month, notwithstanding the nights may be frosty and the wind in the east. The ground should be lightly forked over, and the plants put out in rows four feet apart, and about a yard from plant to plant. They should be plunged a little deeper than they stood in the pots, and if the roots are matted together, it will be advisable to loosen the outside a little, but not to disturb the ball more than is necessary to free the roots. Should the weather be very dry, they must have an occasional moderate watering, which at this time of the year is best given in the morning. Slugs and snails must be looked after and destroyed. No further care will be necessary until the plants commence running up for bloom.

It must then be determined how many spikes each plant is to produce; as a general rule, no more than one should be allowed, especially if the spikes are intended for exhibition; but this rule is not universal, as some varieties, like Comet and Commander-in-chief, are liable to become coarse when grown too strong, and such should be allowed two spikes to each plant. The strongest shoots should be selected, and all others cut away as they appear; the shoots removed may be used for cuttings.

As soon as the plants are about a foot high, a strong stake must be driven down to each, and the shoots well secured with Cuba matt ing, to prevent their being injured by the wind; from two and a half to three feet out of the ground will be high enough for the stakes. As the plants progress new ties must be added, and care taken that the old ones do not confine or cut into the stalks. All side-shoots should be removed as soon as they appear, but without injuring the leaves, so as to throw the whole strength into that part of the spike which will produce bloom. From the time the plants commence running up, and during the whole remaining period of growth, they require an abundant supply of water. If the weather be dry, they should be well soaked at least twice a week, and a good dose of liquid manure be supplied occasionally.

When the spikes are five or six feet high, they should be stopped by cutting off a piece of the top; some little experience is requisite to perform this operation judiciously; it should be managed so as to leave from three to four feet of bloom on the spike when full grown, and so that, when the upper buds expand, the summit of the spike may be completely closed over with bloom. Some persons say, "What a pity to cut off the tops!" but if Hollyhocks are not
stopped, they will never produce that fine length of spike all in bloom at one time, which forms so splendid an object in the garden. All superfluous buds, too, must now be carefully thinned out. Hollyhocks differ very much in this respect; some varieties merely require the secondary or smaller buds to be removed, while others will produce nothing but a confused mass of ill-arranged bloom, unless free thinning be had recourse to: no more buds should be left on a spike than will be sufficient when expanded to cover it completely, without crowding; to attain this end they should be left as far as possible at regular intervals one above another. As the buds expand, the leaves which interfere should be gradually cut away, to give room for the flowers to open perfectly and evenly all round. Great difference of opinion exists whether spikes for exhibition should be entirely denuded of leaves or not; we think that a few leaves at the base of the spike, if fresh, and not too large, and especially the secondary or smaller ones which are produced on the flower-stalks, are ornamental, and add to the beauty of the flowers.

If the spikes are intended for exhibition, they must be carefully shaded from the sun, and protected from rain. The most convenient method of shading we have yet been able to discover is contrived as follows: "A square stake being driven down by its side, and the spike firmly secured in a proper position, a tin shade, like those used for Dahlias, but of larger diameter (about fourteen inches), must be fixed over the top; below this two or three stout iron wire hoops of the same diameter must be fastened on the stake, so as to encircle the spike at regular distances from the tin, the lower hoop being upon a level with the lower blooms intended to be shaded; the tin and hoops should each be attached to a square socket furnished with a screw, and corresponding in size with the stake, by means of which they can be slid up and down, and fastened at any required height. A piece of calico must now be tied round the whole, by means of a broad hem top and bottom, with a piece of tape running in each, the top being tied round the tin, and the bottom a little drawn in under the lower hoop; an additional tie may be provided in the middle, to make all safe. This contrivance has this great advantage over others, that it is capable of being extended to any required length, and upon the whole is less cumbrous, and easier managed than any we have seen. It should be recollected, however, that every thing must be made of rather extra stoutness, as the shades will necessarily be so large that the wind will have considerable power over them. It should also be stated, that with dark varieties it is better that the calico should not stretch the whole way round, a few inches should
be left open towards the north to admit the air; light varieties, on
the contrary, especially whites and yellows, cannot be shut up too
close.

Hollyhocks do not generally require shading for longer than a
week or ten days previous to an exhibition. Before the shade is
put on, it must be determined how far up the spike the flowers will
be fully expanded by the day of exhibition, and all above that point
must be cut off, in order that the spike may have time to close neatly
over the top, and be shewn in full bloom to the summit. To prevent
a tall spike from being swayed about by the wind, and chafed against
the shade, it may be effectually secured in its place by passing a bit
of tape round the stalk, and fastening each end to one of the hoops.

In conclusion, as these observations are only intended for the
amateur, it has not been thought necessary to describe the method
of propagating the Hollyhock by means of eyes, now so much in
vogue with the Nurserymen; or to say anything about dividing the
old roots, plants raised from cuttings as above recommended being
so much stronger and superior in every respect. Propagation from
eyes ought to be adopted only with new or scarce varieties, where as
large an increase as possible is an object; and on this subject we
may perhaps venture to remark, that if the Nurserymen consult their
own interest, they will pursue some plan to enable them to supply
better and stronger plants than they have hitherto been in the habit
of sending out.

G. H.

PLANT CULTURE.

I am glad to learn that the present year’s Florist is to contain a series
of articles on this subject by so eminent a grower as Mr. William
Barnes. This is a step in the right direction; and with so much
matter to work upon, I hope he will not be sparing of his labours.

I have at various times suddenly found myself in a garden where
stove and greenhouse-plants were mixed together in indescribable
confusion, as though the idea of one plant requiring a different tem-
perature and treatment from another was logic too absurd to be
held. With some, I think it almost impossible they can ever think
at all on the subject; and it is no uncommon circumstance for those
who are accustomed to travel amongst gardens and gardeners, to
find plants receiving treatment the very opposite of what they should
have. The result is, that pot-bound, miserable, and starved examples
meet us where health and beauty should abound. I have in the
same day witnessed such a scene of desolation, and have turned ad-
miringly to a collection of well-grown and fully-developed plants, and
how great the contrast! How sad to reflect that those gems of the
earth were so maltreated and misunderstood!

It is not only in the gardens of amateurs that I have witnessed
these miseducations, but I have seen them also in nurseries, where we
expect to find better things. I have seen wholesale mismanagement
in our leading nurseries. Plants receiving treatment directly oppo-
site to what it should be, or rather receiving no treatment at all, but
left to chance. In some cases, this neglect arises from an indolent disposition on the part of the purchaser, who can quietly possess a plant without caring to know much about it. In other cases, from a want of knowing the culture and treatment the plant should have. In some instances, the plant may be a continental importation, without a family pedigree or certificate, belonging to some almost unknown genus, and puzzling all but the botanist.

Many such plants are annually imported and are in due course sent out to the public with untraceable names, and many a disappointment is the consequence. All honour to those enterprising nurserymen who thus speculate in new plants, and at a great expense endeavour to make us acquainted with the hitherto hidden treasures of distant regions; but great care should be taken not to resell them until their value is ascertained. When a respectable house sends out a new plant, it is held, in a measure, morally responsible for it. One thing is very certain, the nurseryman who deals largely in new plants, especially from the continent, should be a botanist, or have a botanist at his elbow. Many very old acquaintances are re-baptised by our continental friends, and duly introduced to our notice under new names.

This practice, by the by, is not singular; it is followed out in other trades besides the plant trade; for I recollect seeing Shakspeare’s Merchant of Venice once played under the startling title of The Jew and the Merchant, or the Bond of Blood; which further terrified me by being a misnomer, as in the original it is a bond of flesh, no bond being stipulated for.

Messrs. Veitch and Son sent out Cantua buxifolia and Cantua dependens, and few only have bloomed them. Fuchsia spectabilis proved a puzzle. Many other instances could be cited where plants have been unsuccessfully treated; and I have never seen such plants without considering how necessary it is that nurserymen, when introducing new plants, should give as much of their history as possible, pointing out their native habitats, necessary culture, and as much information as they possess, to guide purchasers in their treatment of new plants; and I cannot refrain from indulging in the conviction that such a step would be alike beneficial to the nurseryman and the amateur. The latter would then be better able to appreciate the recommendations of the former. A very large amount of credit is given to the opinions of nurserymen; and yet how little trouble they give themselves to secure the accomplishment of their recommendations!

Turning to Florists’ flowers, what a large amount of bad culture do they endure! Many a gem, many a cherished pet, dear to the raiser’s heart—for even Florists have hearts, and deeply devoted to floricultural pursuits they are—has been condemned through being imperfectly grown.

What becomes of a child, if neglected in its early life and left to itself, without a mother’s care to watch over every ailment and symptom of disease? Need we, in our daily avocations, look far around without seeing the fearful consequences of neglect in the cultivation and care requisite to make children healthy and perfect specimens of
manhood? And wherein lies the difference between man and plant? Of the thousands of parents, how many are there who know the anatomy of the human frame? And without that knowledge, how can the necessary means be resorted to for preserving health? So it is with plants. Few, very few are acquainted with vegetable physiology, and think it quite sufficient to know the name, and leave the culture of the plant to chance, assisted by occasional waterings. Florists' flowers of all descriptions need the most careful culture; and every sceptic will have conviction brought home to him, if he will take the trouble to look over the collection of any celebrated grower; and surely, if these plants are worthy of a place in our gardens, they should be grown well, which can easily be done by studying the nature of the plant, and acting upon the result of that study. Observer.

THE CHINESE AZALEA.

As Azaleas always constitute the most important feature of our great metropolitan exhibitions in May, as no collection of plants can be considered perfect without them, and as I have been for many years a very successful grower of them, I venture to lay before your readers (at your solicitation) the plan on which I have proceeded, feeling no hesitation in asserting, that if the few practical hints here thrown out are strictly attended to, no person will fail in bringing these showy plants to that state of perfection in which they are annually seen at the different exhibitions.

I will commence with cuttings; for these select young shoots when they are in a free stage of growth, choosing such as are ripening (or what is commonly termed hard at the heel), as I have found that, by taking the cuttings off too young and soft, they often damp off and end in failure; but by allowing the wood to get partially ripe, there will be no difficulty in striking them freely; select nice young hosots, about two or three inches in length, dress them with the knife by cutting the heel flat at bottom, and removing the lower leaves for about an inch up the stem; get ready some nice light healthy peat soil, and add to it the same quantity of good clean sand, mixing both well together; prepare 5-inch pots to receive the cuttings, by putting two inches of broken potsherds in the bottom, for drainage; upon this place the soil already mixed, press it down moderately with your hand, and fill the pots to within half-an-inch of the top; on this put some nice clean sand, pressing down tight with a piece of lath, and with the straight edge of it strike the pot across the top; this will leave you a nice level surface for the reception of the cuttings, which must be inserted first in the middle, using the longest cuttings, and falling down on all sides, by working in each size one after the other, and finishing with the shortest outside. Place a bell-glass over the whole, rather smaller than the pot, so as to conveniently fit the inner side of the rim, and rest upon the sand. To prevent air from entering, press it down close upon the sand; when this is done, set them either in a frame, pit, or house, where
there is a little bottom-heat at command, plunging about three parts of the depth of the pot. When all are plunged, give a nice sprinkling of water through a very fine rose, taking off all the glasses; when done, replace the glasses, and shut down close. Little more will be required until they are ready to be potted off (which will be in about six weeks), with the exception of supplying them with water occasionally, taking off the glasses and wiping the condensed moisture out of them every second or third day, and keeping them shaded from the hot rays of the sun.

When they begin to make growth, you may conclude they are rooting; and as soon as this is the case, prepare for potting off, for which purpose select some of the same kind of peat as before, but put less sand in it. Get some thumb-pots well drained, and insert the handle of your budding-knife into the sand of the cutting-pot; lift the plants up, and allow all the sand and mould that adheres to the roots to remain; introduce this into your prepared pots; when done, press slightly down with the fingers, and place them in a hot-bed, either of fermenting manure, fresh leaves, or tanners’ bark, all of which will answer: be careful not to have the horse-manure too rank; it will require turning and watering to make it sweet, before it is formed into a bed, on the top of which, when built, place some nice sweet saw-dust, being careful not to get any from green timber, but that from good seasoned deal; place about three inches of this over the surface of the bed, and then your plants, as you pot them off, plunging them about half into the sawdust; if tanners’ bark, or good sweet leaves are employed, the sawdust will not be required. When this is accomplished, water slightly, shut down close, and keep them shaded for a few days, until they begin to root, which will be indicated by their becoming stiff, and standing upright, when their tops should be pinched off with the thumb and finger. This will cause them to break well from the bottom, and be the means of establishing a dwarf, robust, sturdy, handsome plant; keep up a nice brisk heat, by applying fresh manure, in the shape of linings, if you discover your heat declining; for it will be found that the Azalea delights in a brisk, moist heat, in which it can be grown more in one year than in any ordinary place in two. When they have broken from stopping about two inches, top them again, and continue this practice throughout the season. Under this treatment you will find in eighteen months that you are in possession of such plants as are rarely to be met with; attention must, however, be paid to re-potting, which can be performed as soon as the plants have filled their present pots with roots. As they advance, I introduce into the soil, at every shift, some broken potsherds, commencing with the size of large peas, and increasing every time they are potted, until they arrive at their final shift, when I introduce pieces as large as pigeons’ eggs; these will be found of the greatest importance in keeping the soil well drained, pure, and healthy: the Azalea does not like heavy close compost to grow in; such soon decays the roots, and brings the plant into an unhealthy condition.

As soon as the plants become too large to be grown any longer in dung or other frames, they should be transferred to a glass house
most suitable to them at the season in which they are removed. I have struck cuttings in May, potted them off in July, and kept them growing in boxes all the autumn and winter until the following April or May; I then removed them into a stove or a winery, or any convenient structure where a good brisk heat was maintained; I grew them quickly by keeping them constantly potted and topped in a temperature ranging from 65° to 70°; and daily syringing them over head with clean water. By the end of July, or the beginning of August, they will have made sufficient growth and the plants have attained a size that will insure a fine bloom the following spring; at this season they will require some preparation for ripening their wood, which must be effected by diminishing the temperature, and partially the moist atmosphere, and also by giving more air to the house; when it is perceived that their growth is retarded, and that the points of their shoots are beginning to get hard, it may then be safely inferred that they have set their bloom-buds; but until this is quite apparent keep them where they are, or they will not bloom. Always pay the greatest attention to this point; never be guided by any day of the month, or opinion from any neighbour who may say, "It is time your Azaleas were turned out of doors." Look after the state of your plants, and be directed by their appearance; and if you are not certain that their bloom-buds are perfect in the tops of their shoots, as I said before, keep them where they are. Many persons make a point of putting their plants into heat at a certain time, without looking whether they are ready for it or not, forgetting that one season they may be in right condition for their winter treatment some time before they are in another, and that some varieties are ready for this much earlier than others; it is therefore certain that no stated time can be given for this part of the proceedings; just watch the growth of your plants, and as soon as you perceive them to be sufficiently forward, and the points of their shoots plump and hard, you may then with safety subject them to a cooler temperature; and if the weather continues warm and fine, they may be removed to a nice shady place out of doors, and there remain until the proper time arrives for housing all kinds of plants. Should there be any sudden change in the weather, however, such as heavy drenching rains or frost, lose no time in placing them in their winter quarters, which should be a nice cool greenhouse or winery, giving them plenty of air and keeping the house cold and dry through the winter; but never allowing frost to enter, as I have seen splendid plants of Azaleas completely ruined by either allowing frost to touch them, or leaving them out too long in autumn; and heavy rains falling continually upon them will cause the blooms in spring to be crumpled up or deformed, wanting both colour and shape. In the beginning of the new year, where bloom is required to keep up a show in the conservatory or drawing-room, no tribe of plants is more suitable than the Azalea; by selecting some that have their buds most prominent and placing them in heat, you may keep up a succession of bloom from February until July; but of course when plants are required for succession so long, when the season arrives that we get more sun, instead of placing them in heat, they
should be set in a cold shady pit, and the sun kept from them, otherwise they will bloom before that time; but by attending to this you may keep many of the kinds in perfection until July, which I have done myself, and exhibited them at Chiswick in that month. As soon as they are out of flower, either early or late plants, remove them again into their place of growth (same as recommended before), and treat them in a similar manner. By such attention your exertions and trouble will be crowned with success.

One thing in connexion with their culture is, that they are very subject to black thrips; and if not properly attended to, these pests will ultimately destroy your plants. You can easily discover when they are establishing themselves by the leaves turning brown and spotted, and as soon as this is perceptible, fumigate, which is the only safe cure. I have heard several contend that it is not; but I am afraid these have been led away by supposition; and have not paid proper attention to the matter. I have seen plants completely covered with them; and by fumigating them with good strong tobacco, following it up for three or four times, and allowing two or three nights to intervene between each smoking, every insect has been destroyed. I have no doubt that some have failed to rid their plants of the thrips; but this has happened because they have not followed up the fumigations, for there are upon one plant no less than five distinct generations: those that have arrived at maturity strong tobacco smoke will most assuredly destroy, while others only just deposited in the shape of eggs will not be harmed but by continuing the smoking, and, as I said before, allowing two or three days to intervene, you will destroy them as soon as they come to life, and before they are able to deposit more eggs for another progeny.

At some future time, I will give the plan I have adopted for many years of grafting the weak-growing varieties of Azaleas upon strong robust stocks, and how to make a large plant in two years fit for shewing at any exhibition; also some account of my successful results upon their hybridisation, the most interesting part of all.

The following are a few of the finest Azaleas in cultivation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alba magna.</th>
<th>Holfordii.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alba striata.</td>
<td>Iveryana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora.</td>
<td>Juliana.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beauty of Reigate.</td>
<td>Lateritia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bianca.</td>
<td>Lawrenceana.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broughtonii.</td>
<td>Murryana.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carminata.</td>
<td>Optima.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coccinea superba.</td>
<td>Perryana.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conqueror.</td>
<td>Praestantissima.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coronata.</td>
<td>Refulgens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delecta.</td>
<td>Rosea superba,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Red.</td>
<td>Symmetry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exquisite.</td>
<td>Variegata.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gledstanesii.</td>
<td>Vesta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>excelsa.</td>
<td>Vivicans.</td>
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Camden Nursery, Camberwell.

W. Barnes.
DRESSING FLOWERS.

This I hold to be one of the most pernicious practices connected with floriculture. If I attend an exhibition, I am struck with admiration at the beauty of the Pinks, or the Picotees, or Carnations; I become a purchaser, and with me, do what I will, they are mere mops. I am no dresser of flowers; and if I could do it as well as some of our first artists in that line, I have not the time, and I hope never to have the inclination.

I protest against the system. Let me have first-rate flowers, combining all possible beauties from nature's hands; none of your milliner's trickery, by which all kinds of deformities are hidden; and we are beguiled into the belief that what is shewn is what we can grow and display.

I have noticed lately that the plan has been adopted with the Pelargonium. In the varieties exhibited, both seedlings and specimen plants, I could but observe last year what an amount of attention had been bestowed; how some were rolled back to give a more cupped appearance to the flower, which naturally it had not; and numberless other little arts, which I consider a serious evil, inasmuch as disappointment must be the lot of the purchaser on blooming them.

Time was when I measured the value of a flower by its appearance. Now I am obliged to draw my fingers over it; touch the petals to see if they will not spring into a different position, or look for the marks of a false flower having been removed.

To leave the subject of dressing, let me now say a word about the quantity of seedlings sent out annually by the principal raisers, Hoyle, Foster, Beck, and Gaines.

There is really no ground for doing this; and it is a pity that in the month of June all the seedlings cannot be got together in Regent Street, at the National Floricultural or elsewhere, and a decision be come to by a combined judgment of judges and growers as to what varieties (two years' old, of course,) should go forth to the public.

But to do this well, there must be a cultivation of judges; for there is as much acquaintance with the points of excellence in a Pelargonium required, as there is knowledge of the art of painting in a person who should have to judge the value of a picture; for as a man not conversant with art would choose the sign of a public-house in preference to a Vandyke or a Turner, so a person who has not deeply studied what constitutes the excellence of a flower, would choose an inferior production before one that contained the greatest excellences. I am quite willing to acknowledge that the flower to please the public is very different to what the critical amateur would require; and it was no bad idea to form a class of "Trade flowers," which should supply the nurseryman with what would sell, and give his customers satisfaction also.

Philip Havapek.

[Our correspondent is evidently no dresser, or he would know that a mop can no more be made into a good flower, than a bad-grown Geranium can be tied into a fine specimen.—Ed.]
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

APPLES.

Among the many fruits cultivated in British gardens, none are perhaps better adapted to our soil and climate than the Apple, and certainly no fruit is more universally esteemed or useful. Its beauty, wholesomeness, and the variety of ways in which it is employed, together with the earliness of some varieties and long-keeping properties of others, extending its season nearly throughout the whole year, render it the most valued of all the hardy kinds which our gardens possess.

Many hundred sorts are now cultivated in this and other temperate climes, and every succeeding year adds to the number. Several possessing excellent qualities have been raised during the present century. Nevertheless, some of our old kinds, such as the Ribston Pippin and old Nonpareil, rank among the best in England; indeed, few if any can surpass them for winter use.

In the following "Descriptive List" no favour will be shewn either for new or old varieties; and as these papers are principally intended for the guidance of amateurs, a few of the best only will be noticed, referring those who require a more extended list to Mr. Hogg’s excellent work entitled British Pomology, where nearly all the varieties will be found illustrated and described. Many Apples are known under a host of different appellations; and it is very doubtful if all the sorts can be procured from the Nurseries under their proper names, at the same time they may be had under false ones; therefore I shall give the synonyms principally in accordance with the Horticultural Society’s Fruit Catalogue.

1. Early Red Margaret.

Synonyms: Margaret, Margaret Early, Red Juneating, Marguerite, Early Red Juneating, Striped Juneating,
Striped Quarrenden, Summer Traveller, Early Striped Juneating, Eve Apple (of Ireland).

The fruit is rather small, of a roundish-ovate figure, narrowing a little towards the crown. Skin greenish yellow, nearly covered and striped with dark red when fully exposed to the sun. Eye small, slightly sunk, and nearly closed by the calyx. Stalk short and thick, scarcely protruding from the base of the fruit. Flesh white, juicy, and perfumed, rich and high flavoured. A dessert Apple, ripening about the middle of August, and should be used as gathered from the tree.

This Apple is well adapted for small gardens, on account of its bushy habit and moderate growth. It is not an abundant bearer, but owing to its earliness, beauty, and high flavour, it may be considered the best of the early kinds.

The Margaret of Miller is quite a distinct sort. Although a good early Apple, it is much inferior to the above.

2. Borovitsky.

This is an excellent early dessert Apple, originally brought from Russia.

The fruit is of middle size, roundish, a little angled towards the crown. Skin pale yellowish green, faintly tinged and striped with red on the exposed side. Stalk three-fourths of an inch long, inserted in a deep cavity. Eye set in a deep wide plaited basin. Flesh white, crisp, very juicy, and possessing an agreeable subacid flavour. Ripens from the middle to the end of August.


Fruit large, round and even in outline. Skin yellowish green, dotted all over with numerous green and brown specks. Calyx small
reflexed. Eye small, open, and seated in a deep even basin. Stalk half an inch long, of moderate thickness, and inserted in a deep even cavity. Flesh white, firm, juicy, and of a brisk pleasant flavour. An excellent cooking Apple, in use from Michaelmas to Christmas. The trees are hardy, of healthy habit, and excellent bearers, more especially when young. Branches pendulous. Leaves large, broad, flat, and evenly serrated. Fruit-buds pointed.

This truly valuable Apple was raised and propagated about twenty years ago by the late Mr. Small of the Colnbrook Nursery, Bucks. 

*Frogmore.*

*(To be continued.)*

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**HINTS FOR THE MONTH.**

A wish having been generally expressed that a Calendar of Operations should be given monthly, we readily comply; and under the above heading we shall continue to furnish such information as we think will be useful. We shall not only give our system of growing such popular flowers and plants as are hereafter enumerated, but occasionally other information will be introduced that we hope will not be less welcome and serviceable.

**Auriculas.** Keep them hardy by giving all the air possible; clean them of dead leaves as they appear; shelter them from rain, but do not allow them to become too dry; use the watering-pot very sparingly, also protect them from severe frost.

**Calceolarias.** These should be kept growing by giving them a shift when necessary; keep them clean, and be particular to destroy aphides by fumigating occasionally.

**Carnations and Picotees.** Do not let the open weather tempt you to use the watering-pot; the air is quite full enough of moisture to maintain them in a healthy state until we get drying winds and sun. They cannot be looked over too often, and cleaned of their dead foliage. Stirring the soil occasionally is beneficial, as it prevents the surface becoming green and sour. Give plenty of air. The more hardy they are grown the better, provided they get no wet.

**Cinerarias.** Whether in pits or houses, look well to keeping down insects; give them plenty of air and sufficient room to prevent their drawing. If large plants are wanted, see that they do not get pot-bound at this time, but repot as soon as they require it.

**Dahlias.** Examine them occasionally; if any portion of the root has become decayed, cut it away, and dry up any part that is rotten. If a choice or scarce kind, put it to work at once rather than lose it. Trench the ground intended for growing them next season.

**Hollyhocks.** Those in pots for planting out in March should be grown as hardy as possible, by keeping the pit-lights drawn off on all favourable occasions; see that slugs are not injuring the seedlings planted out for blooming. Any cuttings from the old stools may be put in thumb-pots; placed in gentle bottom-heat, they make excellent plants for a late bloom.
Fuchsias. Bring forward those that have been put to rest, pruning back both root and head, and potting them in rather rich soil with a good portion of silver-sand in it; place them in gentle heat to start them. Seed may now be sown.

Pansies. Prepare soil, if not already done; and keep it moderately dry for repotting into their blooming pots at the end of the month, if mild, or early in February. Keep them clean, giving plenty of air. Cover those in beds, if severe frost occurs. Press such seedlings firmly in the ground as have been disturbed by worms, or other causes.

Pelargoniums. Tie out the shoots of specimen plants at regular distances, in order to admit light and air; give the plants as much room as can be afforded, and all the light and air (not cold draughts) possible, and there will be no fear of their drawing. Fumigate if there is any appearance of aphides. A fire may be put on occasionally to dry up any damp in the house. This also applies to houses stocked with any other kind of plants; water sparingly, and keep them clear of all dead foliage.

Pinks. After so much wet, severe frost would injure many kinds, therefore provide some slight protection should it occur. Prepare some good rich soil (half may be rotten manure) to top-dress the beds early in March.

Pyanthuses. If in pots, a cold frame is best for them. They like more moisture than Auriculas, and as much air as you can give them. Examine those in beds or borders to see that slugs are not injuring the heart of the plant; and clean them of dead foliage or leaves of trees that may have accumulated around them.

Ranunculuses. (See excellent article in the present Number by Mr. Lightbody.)

Roses. Hardy varieties may now be pruned. Those in pots for early work must be kept clean, and have especial care and attention.

Tulips. Those who have kept them dry will find the benefit at blooming time; but do not cover up the beds more than is necessary, as it will draw them up before their proper time. If any should make their appearance above ground before the month is out, great care will be required to keep them from being injured by frost, and at the same time to prevent them from being drawn up weakly.

VITALITY OF SEEDS.

About the year 1838, as nearly as can be ascertained, a bed of seeds of Hibiscus Africanus was sown here; but for some reason or other the bed received another occupant afterwards. Every summer, however, this annual (which is at the present time a favourite with some) continued to reappear, whenever circumstances proved favourable to its germination; and owing to the necessary process of forking, these have of course therefore annually been brought into operation. This last season more especially, we found this "ancient" deposit
emerging from the earth into "light and life," and had the same been permitted to remain, the bed would in all probability have been replete with plants, evenly and methodically disposed to a degree exceeding even what could be expected to result from a distribution effected by ordinary care and agreeably to the judgment and skill of the most experienced planter.

Englefield Green. W. Whale.

PROPERTIES OF POPULAR FLOWERS.

In the series of articles I have promised under this head doubtless some difficulties may arise owing to the varied nature of the subjects to be treated of; and the flower I have chosen for my opening paper forms no exception, inasmuch as, as if by one consent, the palm of perfection has been long awarded to the Ranunculus, thus leaving little improvement to desire, and therefore little to say on that point. The following will, however, I opine, demonstrate a different state of things. Whatever perfection the Ranunculus may have attained to in point of form, there is still a wide field for that progressive improvement which season by season exhibits itself in all those popular subjects taken under the especial care of the Florist; the Ranunculus is particularly fortunate in possessing the patronage and energetic influence of Scotch Florists, in the first class among whom ranks Mr. Lightbody; Mr. Tyso, Mr. Groom, and Mr. Airzée may be looked up to as leading members of the home division; yet for all that, from some cause or other, the nature of which it is not the province of these papers to take cognisance, the flower is not so generally cultivated as it deserves to be.

Assuming that the coloured illustrations given with this Number are truthful representations (and I do not for a moment doubt it) of the originals, and that in the selection only first-class subjects were chosen, no better test or clearer exemplification could be given to shew the necessity of setting up a model standard, even as regards the Ranunculus.

In delineating the properties of a model flower, of which the accompanying woodcut may be taken as an example, let me begin with the outline. This must be an even and unbroken circle of not less than two inches in diameter, and formed by the outer edges of the lowest tier of petals; each tier afterwards lessening as they approach the crown of the flower, and giving an elevation full one half to not exceeding two-thirds of its entire width.

The petal must be broad, and free from indenture on its outer edge; by greater obtuseness than it at present possesses can an unbroken outline only be attained; the round petals hitherto required are particularly objectionable, in fact they destroy the possibility of achieving the ultimatum demanded; smoothness both on surface and edge is imperative, and a slightly concave, or as it is usually termed cupped form; but this cupping should not occur until approaching
that portion of the petal which is seen; their distribution must be regular, and in concentric layers symmetrically rising in exact and gradual proportion to the summit of the flower, denominated the centre or eye; here all must be close and compact, yet still maintaining due regard for an artistic whole: too much solidity is nearly as objectionable as an open centre. The texture should be close, by which substance is secured, and with increased substance should be the necessary density of colour, which, of what shade or tone soever, should be bright; all markings must be uniform, well defined, clear, distinct, and decided.

No flower is staged at exhibitions with worse taste than the Ranunculus; it should be shewn on the same principle as the Dahlia; that is, secured in the water-tube by a plug of wood, free from all fancy perforated cards, and raised a given distance from the surface of the show-board; the Ranunculus like the Dahlia requiring neither support nor dressing; as they are grown without cards, so let them be displayed.

The size of the flower has all to do with the relative distances they should be set apart for their best display; two inches are given as the least admissible dimensions of a bloom, so the latter should be staged two inches apart; the holes for the water-tubes being made four inches apart each way, measuring from the centre of each hole, giving a margin of three inches to the show-board, again measuring from the centre of the outside holes; thus will a board eighteen inches long by fourteen inches broad give ample scope for the arrangement of twelve flowers in three rows, each consisting of four blooms: for increased numbers the same measurement and system should be maintained; collections, some with three, others with four rows of flowers, are highly objectionable as well as injurious to the best interests of floral exhibitions.

The most needful corrections to the existing examples are, less shoulder; greater elevation of centre; increased obtuseness of petal; in fewer words, more exact rotundity.

Points of excellence: uniformity of size; distinct varieties; ar-
NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

I have read with peculiar satisfaction the admirable remarks by Mr. William Paul in the last Number of the Florist, detailing the necessity that existed for establishing an ordeal through which seedling Florists' flowers should pass, in order that, to a certain extent, the system of sending out inferior varieties might be checked. So necessary had such an ordeal become, that when the National Floricultural Society was first proposed, the leading Nurserymen and Florists who were consulted on the subject immediately vouchsafed their support; and no sooner was the Society enrolled and its objects made public, than, as quoted by Mr. Paul, "205 members, in the brief space of one year, comprising the leading nurserymen, amateurs, and florists, prove not only how much the want was felt, but also a confidence in the early promotion of the scheme."

It is not my object to follow Mr. Paul on every point through his well-written article, a perusal of which I earnestly recommend to every lover of floriculture and plant-purchaser; but I am anxious to enlarge on a few of the suggestions which he has thrown out.

Why not have a "National Floricultural Society's Garden?" a Floricultural Museum, where every thing new shall be sent and proved? It may be urged that many would hesitate to send new plants, fearing that they might be distributed otherwise than by legal sales; but to meet this objection, let honourable men be appointed to the care of the garden and administration of its affairs, and let confidence be invited on the part of raisers and sellers of new flowers. Those who reside at a considerable distance from the metropolis have great difficulty in getting their productions exhibited successfully in London; for it is no easy matter to get a seedling Fuchsia, for instance, to a London show, without the flowers sustaining considerable injury; and it would not only afford the majority of the nurserymen and amateurs an opportunity of seeing each variety in its true character, but would also be advantageous to the distant grower, who (if the flower possessed merits) would thus have an opportunity of making it well known. Unless a seedling flower can pass through such an ordeal, I think it should not be sent out with high pretensions. In such a garden let every thing be well grown, and the best varieties of each class selected annually and grown for years after it has been sent out, to enable the public to see the advance floriculture has made in each particular class of flower, and a carefully compiled register kept of every plant as it is issued, noting its merits or demerits.
But then arises the question, How is the expense to be met? Where can the magic £ s. d. be brought from? On this point I do not yet see my way so clearly. Certainly, a small garden would suffice; but the working of that garden could not be carried on without sufficient funds. Rendering the Society more generally useful would no doubt increase the number of subscribers; but not, I am afraid, commensurate with the large outlay required for keeping up a garden. The suggestion is valuable, and I should much like to see it carried out; for I think it is most desirable there should be a spot, easy of access, where every variety of Florist's flower should have full and ample justice done it; for there are many varieties that are condemned because they are not seen in a proper state of cultivation. Such a garden would be a boon to the country nurserymen, who would thus have an opportunity afforded them of seeing all classes of flowers well grown in one spot, and be able to form their own judgments respecting them. If the question is worthy of consideration, I trust further suggestions will be offered. If voluntary donations will assist in carrying out the object, I for one am ready to assist as far as my means will allow.

The National Floricultural Society was organised for the purpose of judging seedling Florists' flowers, and when named varieties were also produced, a certain amount of ridicule was indulged in. It has always appeared to me so desirable that varieties already in circulation should be present, that I venture to suggest that single specimens or collections of any description of Florists' flowers should be invited, and also that when characterised by superior culture, a prize in money should be awarded at the option of the judges, for the twofold purpose of marking the Society's approbation and compensating the grower for the expense of bringing his plant or plants for exhibition. Seedling flowers, if really new and good, will always bear comparison with "sent out" varieties; and unless they can bear such a criticism, they should not be let out as "new and distinct."

I greatly approve of the idea of lectures and essays, and much wish to see the system adopted. Many members attend the meetings without being conversant with the properties of a Geranium, Fuchsia, Tulip, or Auricula should possess. To such, a lecture or essay on the particular flowers then in season would be a boon. Properties, culture, history, and other topics could be touched upon most advantageously, and might become the property of the Society. It has hitherto been a great fault on the part of Nurserymen their neglecting to give proper directions respecting the culture of what new plants they may have sent out; and this remark applies with equal force to Florists. The adoption of lectures and essays would give the Society not only a valuable property, but enable it to diffuse much useful information; and to issue, say quarterly or half-yearly, to the subscribers, an elaborate work of reference in the shape of "Transactions of the National Floricultural Society," which might include a descriptive list of every flower sent to the Society for judgment, its merits or demerits, how differing from other varieties in cultivation, and naming the sorts which it most resembles. A work
of this description would hold out a great inducement to many
country and distant florists and amateurs, who could not attend per-
sonally, and who still feel an interest in all matters connected with
floriculture. The arrangement and publication I would recommend
placing in the hands of a Journal Committee.

I know that Mr. Paul has the Society's interest at heart; and all
who know him will bear testimony to his integrity, and say how
tirely free his opinions are from interested motives. I am there-
fore the more pleased at seeing such remarks emanate from his pen.
He is honourably known in floricultural literature, and will always
be ready to give his assistance to any plan calculated to enlarge the
functions of the National Floricultural Society. In a conversation
with him some weeks ago on the subject, he then expressed his
perfect willingness to give one or two lectures before the Society, in
coopération with others; and although I have not his authority to
make such a statement public, I venture to do so, feeling that such
an offer ought to be known. He has not alluded to it in his article,
and I appreciate his silence. A word more respecting censors. I
have thought that paid censors, selected annually, would be more
satisfactory, selecting say eight for that office; taking in men who,
in their united capacity, should possess a very extended knowledge of
Florists' flowers; and rendering it compulsory that five or six should
be in attendance. Let them be men of honour and position; such a
step would give to the Society the stamp of justice and fair play,
and great confidence to the public. Let me not be misunderstood
on this point. I am not reflecting on those who have hitherto filled
that honourable office; but I hold it as a principle, that in all public
Societies the executive management should be above suspicion or
doubt. Confidence is the axletree of our commercial speculations,
and of all other undertakings.

There is also a field open to the National Floricultural Society
for settling a code of laws regulating colours; for on no subject is
there a wider difference of opinion; and yet, with respect to the
colour of a flower, there should be unanimity. To describe a flower
as lake, puce, peach, or maroon, is to invite chaos; in proof of which,
take up a dozen Florists' lists, and witness the confusion in describing
the colour of a particular flower. This is a subject that ought long
since to have had full consideration; and now that we have innum-
erable shades of colours extending throughout the very large family
of Florists' flowers, it is high time something definite should be done.
To the National Floricultural Society, therefore, I suggest the ini-
tiative. Call in the aid of some of our principal artists in water-
colours, fix the regularity of colours, and issue illustrated sheets
with the colours truthfully given.

Observer.
MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

CÆLIA MACROSTACHYA. This beautiful South-American Orchid is not very generally met with, although it has been long introduced to this country. To grow it successfully it requires a rather shady situation in a moderate temperature; it should be potted in turfy or fibry peat, intermixed with broken potsherds and a little silver-sand, well drained, and kept well supplied with water. Under this treatment it will be found to be well worthy of cultivation. The leaves are about an inch broad and from two to two and a half feet long, of a dark green. From the base of the pseudo-bulb arises an erect scape near two feet high, with a raceme a foot long, of numerous purplish rose-coloured flowers, which are white internally.

 Oncidium Ornithorhynchum is valuable for autumn and winter flowering. The blossoms are very fragrant, and remain a long time in perfection; they are pale lilac with a little yellow in the centre.

 Spermadictyon Azureum. This hard-wooded free-flowering evergreen, warm, greenhouse, or stove shrub is useful, as it flowers during winter. The blossoms are borne in dense panicles six or eight inches long on the apex of the branches; they are very fragrant, and of a pale blue.

 Chorozema Flavum. This is a very ornamental plant for the greenhouse or conservatory. It grows freely and flowers abundantly. It has pretty yellow flowers.

 Cryptophragma Acaulis. This is a very ornamental low-growing evergreen herbaceous plant from the East Indies. It is one of those species whose beauty partly consists in its having two-coloured leaves, which on the upper surface are of a dark green with white nerves, similar to Eranthemum leucocarpum. It is a new plant raised from seed imported from Ceylon, and may be cultivated singly in pots, or several plants together in a shallow pan, so as to form a tolerably good tuft. The flowers are very pretty, rather small, tubular, white with an orange limb, and are borne on erect slender racemes about a foot high. It requires the temperature of a moist stove.

 Puya Funkiana is a rather showy flowering new evergreen hothouse plant from South America. The leaves are two to three feet long, flower-stalk stout, erect, two feet high, calyx and bracts of a clear shining yellow, petals white, with deep yellow anthers.

 Manettia Bicolor. This pretty stove twiner is well adapted for trellis-work, or it may be advantageously grown coiled round a few small stakes and drawn to a point at the top. It flourishes in a moderate moist stove temperature.

 Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. J. Houlston.
THE DAHLIA.

If some of our Florist flowers do not progress so rapidly towards perfection as could be desired, this cannot be said of the Dahlia. It is our pleasing duty to record the production of several first-class varieties raised in 1851, and which have been extensively exhibited and "proved," as it is termed, in 1852. Foremost amongst these is the subject of our present Illustration; a flower of first-rate qualities, with the advantage of being the greatest novelty that has been produced for many years past. In fact, we have not had a bright-yellow ground Dahlia since the days of Cedo Nulli, a variety raised by Mr. Pothecary, Upway, near Dorchester, about 1833, and sent out by Mr. Widnall of Grantchester. We have had buff-ground Dahlias; for instance, Hudson's Princess Royal, Stein's Conqueror of the World, with a lemon-coloured ground, Girling's Conspicua, Barnes' Albert and William Tell, with a foreign variety or two, which make up the list of flowers approaching this class; but all were in a short time discarded, principally for want of form. In the present instance we have brightness of ground-colour and richness of marking; it is also deep and finely built, with stout smooth petals, which are very symmetrically arranged. It has been twice before the National Floricultural Society, and received their highest award. In fact, had it been third-class in form instead of first-class, its distinctness would have made it popular. This fine variety was raised by Mr. G. Wheeler of Warminster, Wilts, who some years ago produced several very popular kinds, of which the principal were Wheeler's Venosa, sent out in 1835; Warminster Rival, sent out in 1836; and Maria in 1840.

The popularity of the Dahlia, we are glad to say, is not diminishing; on the contrary, from the opportunities we have of forming an opinion, we can with confidence state that it is increasing. At one time the Dahlia declined, not so much from want of patronage, as from injudicious friends. Let us, however, look at the pleasing side of the question, and relate with what interest amateurs, and in large numbers too, still bring their productions to our exhibitions; and in many parts of the north the taste for this flower is evidently becoming more general. The Dahlia presents many advantages to those also who grow flowers to enjoy them at home only, and have but a limited space, as it produces a long succession of bloom; and should an insect perchance destroy your first bud, or if it should be injured by wind or other causes, one has not long to wait for a second blossom.
As a flower for exhibition, the Dahlia has no equal; should we be unfortunate this week,—and the best growers have reverses at times,—before another is past we have an opportunity of regaining our lost laurels without waiting till next season to recruit our strength. Looking back for a number of years to the principal shows of this flower, there is a lesson to be learnt. In 1834 we were present for the first time at an exhibition of Dahlias; since then (excuse us for saying it) we look back with much pleasure and some little pride to the long list of meetings we have attended, not having missed a season during the nineteen years without fully joining in the exciting part of showing for competition; and with what success many of our readers are aware. We are not certain, however, should we be spared to complete the twenty years, that we shall not leave this laborious part to other hands, although we have the vanity to feel we are equal to the work of winning a few more first prizes yet. It is, however, no light matter to get your flowers ready, reach the train, ride to York, exhibit them, and come back the following night. Many such journeys as this occur annually.

In tracing the principal prizes for Dahlias, the highest was 25l., given at Norwich in 1840; but there has been a large number of 20l. each. Birmingham for several seasons gave first prizes to that value, the last of which was in 1840. The same season a prize of that value was awarded at Cambridge. In 1841, Halstead, Warwick, and Tamworth, gave prizes of 20l. each, since which there has been nothing above 10l. But what we wish to point out is, the impolicy of giving such high prizes, and so few in number. For a time the system was almost fatal to the Dahlia fancy; for by giving the 20l. for the first, and no second or third, a large grower or two were enabled to monopolise the whole of the rewards, which, as a matter of course, caused a great many to give up the pursuit. A more healthy system, however, now prevails, shewing that experience has not been thrown away upon us. Not that we have any objection to good prizes; on the contrary, we think the painstaking grower should be rewarded for his exertions with a good substantial mark of distinction, provided there is not too great a disparity between the 1st and 2d and the 2d and 3d prizes. We had almost forgotten the sweepstake of one hundred guineas for 24 blooms at Birmingham, which we were fortunate enough to win in 1847.

Having named a few of the principal prizes awarded to Dahlia blooms, it may be interesting to many of our readers to know the amount that some of our popular varieties have changed hands for, when raised by amateurs, or those who do
not usually propagate for sale. Beauty of Teffont was the first that commanded a high price; this variety was raised by the Rev. S. B. Ward of Teffont, in 1835, and was purchased by the Messrs. Brown for 60l. Then followed Yellow De-
fiance, purchased by the same firm at the high price of 200l., certainly the highest amount ever given for a Dahlia; it was sent out in 1840. Essex Triumph, raised in 1841, was sent out in 1843 for 60l.; Marchioness of Ormond, 105l.; Shylock, Beeswing, Alice, and Cleopatra, for 100l. each; Lady Sale, 70l.; Nonpareil, Sir J. Richardson, Duke of Wellington, Bob, Sir R. Whittington, and British Queen, 50l. each; and Queen Victoria, figured in the present Number, 105l. There are many other varieties that would have brought large sums in their day had they not been sent out by the raisers; such as the Hon. Mrs. Harris, raised in 1834, Unique, Beauty of the Plain, Mr. Seldon, Sir F. Bathurst, and Princess Radziwill. It does not, however, follow as a matter of course that the higher the price the better the flower; this is regulated in a great measure by what the flower has done, its popularity, novelty, and improved form. If a flower has made a name from its intrinsic merits, a large sale will follow; the price being generally in accordance with this contingency. On the other hand, some of our finest and most popular flowers have been purchased for trifling sums. Sir C. Napier, red, and Mrs. Hansard, a fancy variety, were sold for 5l. each. The latter, it is true, was purchased from the seed-bed, and therefore a mere speculation: the former was scarcely known; but being the purchaser of Shylock and Sir C. Napier, flowers of the same class, it will astonish many that the highest-priced flower was the most profitable in a commercial point of view, Shylock being known to almost every grower, Sir Charles only to a few. Of the 24 Dahlias we have enumerated, 9 have gone out of cultivation as show flowers. The oldest was the Hon. Mrs. Harris. Of those retained, the oldest is Essex Triumph. This is still a favourite; the most remarkable fact about which is, that, after it was distributed, it produced blooms beautifully shaded with bright crimson, thereby enhancing its value and beauty, and causing it to be more esteemed than before. It had two formidable rivals of the same age and class: Mountjoy's Virgil and Trenfield's Ad-
miral Stopford. The Admiral stood the longer of the two; but the Essex flower has "triumphed" over them both; and 3 are new varieties, which will be sent out next spring.

In next Number we shall give a descriptive list of the best Dahlias that came out last spring. We have had seve-
ral complaints that we did not report the Dahlia shows to the
extent we ought to have done, or notice the new productions, and, we think, with some reason. We hope, however, that this article will help to make amends for any omission under this head.

IN PRAISE OF CLIMBING-PLANTS.

Good reader, imagine a bright morning in July, with all the accessories that your imagination can fill up as incidental and belonging to the country at that particular season. On such a morning, being "out for the day," I step out of the railway-carriage at the pretty little hamlet of —— in Herefordshire, and wend my way through green lanes, and across blooming fields, to the garden of an old friend. It is but a small one—a very small one; but to me it is, as far as it goes, the beau ideal of a garden. Neither does it derive any of its charms from choice exotics. The plants it contains are of the most ordinary character, yet there is an indescribable air of beauty, of elegance, about the whole, that at once takes you by surprise, and charms you to admiration.

Now, there are many points in this little garden to which I would refer; but I dare not trust myself to speak of them in detail, or I know not when I should drop my pen; but of the principal attractions I will, with your permission, say something; promising, however, to be brief. The great source of beauty in the garden, then, is its climbing and creeping plants. They scramble over the banks, twine around the trunks of the trees, and weave festoons over head, as they fling their fragile stems from bough to bough. The Honeysuckle, Clematis, a few Roses, and the Periwinkle, are conspicuous. Sometimes they are exhibiting their beauties alone; in other places in combination. In yonder corner is an old decaying oak mantled in Ivy; but a climbing Rose has mingled its branches, and numerous glowing buds and blossoms are studding the deep-green foliage, adding a beauty not to be described by the pen. On that nook of lawn a few iron rods have been fixed, and some plants of our common Honeysuckle induced to cover them; and there they are, a very pyramid of beauty, and their fragrance pervades the whole garden. Here is a mass of Ivy wandering at its own free will as a shrub on the lawn, mingled with Roses and Honeysuckle, forming a mass superlatively beautiful. Every tree has its climbing companion; pillars and trellises are covered with them; creepers in the shrubbery, climbers on the trees, trailers on the ground.

Our gardens have not half enough of such plants. Say what you will, gardeners are essentially prosy and formal in their tastes. If they admit a few of the plants of which I speak, it is only to plaster them to a wall, or torture them into the intricacies of some hideous wire-work. In such instances they are out of place. Plant them in situations suitable, and give them at least a full share of liberty; and who can say how much they are capable of beautifying a garden? Try them.

CRAYON.
ACROPHYLLUM VENOSUM.

Although this beautiful plant has been introduced to our green-houses from New Holland since the year 1836, it has by no means become common; but when grown in the shape of a nice dwarf bushy specimen, I am not acquainted with any thing among hard-wooded plants more generally admired than this, with its beautiful white bottle brush-like flowers, and light bronzy leaf most beautifully serrated round its edge. From the very few plants of it exhibited at our great exhibitions, it may be supposed that it is a plant very difficult to cultivate; but such is not the case. By paying attention to the following practical remarks, any grower of it may meet with perfect success.

In the first place, procure a bushy plant from any respectable nurseryman, or it can be propagated readily from cuttings, by selecting some half-ripened pieces with a hard heel, and introducing them into pots prepared for cuttings, and filled nearly full of nice sandy peaty mould, upon the top of which place half an inch of sand; press it down closely, insert the cuttings under bell-glasses, and place them in a little bottom-heat, where they will strike readily: but a young plant, if healthy and clean, would be preferable, and save much time in the formation of a fine specimen. When you have succeeded in obtaining a plant, supposing it to be in spring, the first thing to be attended to is to examine the roots, and if fresh and healthy, prepare some light healthy peat-mould; break it well up, and add to it half the quantity of nice sharp sand with a portion of broken potsherds. Mix these well together, and thoroughly drain your pot; then take your plant, place the mould all round it, and press down firmly. One thing to be borne more especially in mind, when under the operation of potting, is, never pot deep, but keep the collar of the plant elevated above the ball of earth, so that no water may at any time lodge there. When finished potting, place it in a close pit, where it is not exposed to cold cutting winds or currents of air; shut the pit up in good time in the afternoon, and syringe the plant overhead with clean tepid water, when it will soon begin to grow vigorously; and any long straggling loose shoots that may make their appearance should be removed in order to keep the plants round and bushy. If they do well, they will want another shift about the month of July. Be very particular in examining the roots; and as soon as it is perceived that they have filled their pot, give another shift, as I have found it to be a plant that very much dislikes to meet with a check when it is disposed to grow. At the same time I should not advise shifting too late in the season, say not after July, as in this case it might receive as much injury as by letting it alone; therefore always calculate, when you think of shifting it, whether there is sufficient time to allow it to fill the pot with roots before the growing season is finished, which is generally in August, as I scarcely ever found plants make much growth after that time; and by making a point of giving it the last shift for the season in July, there will be sufficient time for it to get well-established in its new
pot before the season arrives to prepare it for winter. About the middle of August (if the weather is settled and fine,) place it in a sheltered rather shady situation out of doors for a few weeks, where it will gain strength and check its growth in a great measure; but as soon as any sudden change in the weather takes place, such as heavy drenching rains, lose no time in removing it into the greenhouse, as nothing is so injurious to this plant as permitting the mould to become wet and saturated at this season, when its roots are in a state of torpidity. When in the greenhouse set it in a light airy place, as close to the glass as possible. Water through the winter with great care, rather let it get too dry than too wet; but always act as near as you can upon the bounds of moderation in each case,—neither too wet nor too dry. Here it will ripen its wood, and soon begin to shew bloom-buds, and in April and May it will expand its beautiful bloom.

When out of flower, it should be judiciously pruned by cutting back to a symmetrical shape, and then placed in a close pit, syringing it overhead, and shutting up close early in the afternoon. It will soon begin to throw out shoots with great vigour and strength. When well broken examine its roots, as by this time it ought to require another pot; but by no means attempt to shift it after you have pruned it back until it has broken again, as the severe check upon the top, and disturbing the roots at the same time, would have, in most cases, a fatal effect. By following this practice, and treating the plant through the growing season by shifting it when in need, and attending to the wintering of it, there will be no difficulty in becoming the possessor of a splendid specimen, such as would do credit to the most select collection.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell.

William Barnes.

ON DRESSING FLOWERS.

Twenty-six years ago come next June, I first saw a box of cut Pink blooms to be taken to an exhibition, where a selection out of that box gained the first prize. Afterwards I was admitted by the nurseryman, near whom I had recently gone to live, into the arcana of his art, and was witness to the "milliner's trickery," as your correspondent Philip Havapek not inaptly calls it, and scrutinised the form and nice adaptation of the instrument employed, and saw the slow and laborious process by which, through its means, a Pink is fitted to shine among its compeers, like a young lady at a ball. And as I pondered over the matter, now marvelling at the skill of the operator, now despairing of attaining to his tact, it struck me, as it has struck your correspondent, that there is something very unnatural in all this, and calculated to mislead the public by establishing a deceptive difference between shown flowers and grown flowers.

But as I have since considerably modified my opinion, and become reconciled to the practice, it is fair to ask whether I can give a sufficient reason for having done so. And this I will try to do.
In the first place, wildness is not a fair representation of nature, any more than license is of liberty, or a savage the genuine type of a man. The same process of reasoning, if pushed to its legitimate limits, would forbid us to graft or to bud. We must not prune a Rose-tree nor train a Fuchsia into shape by the knife. To stop a Pelargonium, and to tie out or peg down its branches, would be tailors' trickery; and in fact the striking from cuttings itself is an unnatural process, and must be abandoned. We broke into the principle when we became cultivators, and the practice must now be tried on far narrower and less sweeping grounds.

Again, no Pink of the present day, and all but no Carnation or Picotee, can bloom without splitting its calyx and becoming utterly unsightly, unless the calyx is supported by a tie. And this is dressing as much as the disposal of the petals after expansion. If this be equally objected to, as it often is, the objection is really against having double flowers (which are unnatural), for no single Dianthus splits its pod. But if we will not be content without having double flowers, and no good reason can be given why we should, we must be content to take the trouble they entail; just as when we choose to have flowers in pots, or exotics in a conservatory, we place them in an unnatural condition, and may no longer leave them to unaided nature.

Moreover, the process of dressing is applicable to but few flowers. Philip Havapek has enumerated nearly all of them; and the objection is really no stronger than you have stated in your note to his communication. At the period I have alluded to, there were a few Pinks (there were no Carnations even then) useless to the amateur who did not exhibit; but which might, by pains, be made to push others, intrinsically better than themselves, from their place at a show. But there are none now. The good may be made to look better, but none unworthy of a place in any selection can now by such means be rendered fit for exhibition. Therefore the public deception caused by the practice is reduced within microscopic limits. Would there were no more glaring causes of deception for the public to complain of! Very few flowers admit of much manipulation. Your correspondent will never be led far astray by the Pelargonium dresser; nor is the practice common with that flower. My friend and floral guide, Mr. Beck, made it an objection in these pages against Crusader, that it required that operation; an objection that proves the practice not to be general, or it would have no meaning. And he was so right, that I have since discarded that variety for the fault. In fact, no other flowers than those of the Pink tribe require more preparation from the "milliner" than Philip Havapek would himself unconsciously perform upon a Rose before he presented it to a young lady,—namely, by depriving it of its thorns, and of whatever is dead or unsightly, or would detract from the beauty of the offering, and by presenting it in its most attractive form; and in the Pink tribe the practice must be judged of simply as a matter of competition before judges, like the modes of preparing cattle for an agricultural meeting, in which we consumers are no further interested than as it is a means
by which the beef and mutton of the country in general is better than it used to be. The system is part, and parcel, though a small one, of that adaptation of means to requirement, by which the old greenhouse, with its straggling, unsightly stems, with here and there a stray blossom, has given place to a well-ordered collection of healthy and shapely trees, which, each in its turn, become masses of bloom in their season.

[The following remarks on this subject are from the pen of our friend Mr. Dodwell of Derby.]

Allow me to offer one word in defence of the poor Florist, and in vindication of his practice of "dressing flowers" impeached by Philip Havapek, at page 14 of your last issue.

Your correspondent denounces this as "one of the most pernicious practices connected with floriculture." He tells us, "if he attends an exhibition, he is struck with admiration at the beauty of the Pinks, or the Picotees, or Carnations; but if he becomes a purchaser, do what he will, they are mere mops." I beg to tell him he is speaking most mistakenly, and wide of the fact. He never has done what he could, or he might have realised beauty equal to that which elicited his admiration.

The evil he charges against the Florist is simply due to his determined disinclination to give time and trouble to the attainment of those objects, from which, when attained, even he cannot withhold his admiration. Your correspondent might grow and display subjects equal to any thing that has been shewn; but he never will, so long as he hopes never to have the inclination. First-rate flowers, combining all possible beauties from nature's hands, are indeed desirable; but I fear they are what your correspondent will never realise on earth; meantime, why does he object to that beauty which he tells us has excited in him so much admiration?

The question lies in a nutshell; it is simply, Shall art be admitted to assist nature? If your correspondent negatives this, he will carry us back at once to the instincts of the savage, where most of us would decline to follow him; if he affirms it, he can shew no reason why art should not be given to the flower, which is not equally applicable to the plant; a condemnation of the one is a condemnation of the other, and if valid, would apply to the splendour of the diamond, and every object of beauty art creates or enhances, and condemn all to remain in obscurity because their beauty was conferred by the adventitious aid of man.

This is the rationale of "dressing flowers;" and the humble Florist as correctly creates a beauty in his flowers, as does the sculptor when he gives to the shapeless stone the ideality of his genius. It may be desirable, in the case of new flowers submitted for opinion, that they be seen with all their faults as well as their perfections. This may be easily enforced—my remarks apply to the art of dressing, and I am sure, so long as art is known, there will be a propriety in its adoption.

E. S. D.
NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The two very powerful and well-read champions (see last Number) for the advancement of floriculture have placed, by their united criticisms, so prominently before the floral public much that I had long cherished, that, with your permission, I seize the earliest opportunity of registering my fullest concurrence in their views. Owing to my connexion with the National Floricultural Society, I shall confine to practical heads much that I may here briefly advance, leaving to other and more able hands a continuation (I hope) of those suggestions termed speculative, but from which all improvement must flow; for to stem the current of men's thoughts and expressions is to close the door against all progression. I take it to be the true province of the heads of departments, whether literary or otherwise, to seek for and engender "science with practice;" and if such be tenable, then must such authors as Mr. W. Paul and "Observer" be strictly fulfilling that injunction; for in Mr. Paul we have a known practical of the highest order, and I should trust that "Observer," whom I will for conciseness call Mr. D., will in no way consider himself lowered by my attributing to him the characteristic of "scientific."

That the idea of Florists seeking to establish a garden of their own is to me no novelty, can be testified by my friends Mr. Andrew Henderson, Mr. R. Stains, Mr. E. Beck, Mr. C. Turner, and many others whose conversation I have happily long enjoyed; and on all hands was the theme warmly taken up, the discussion generally concluding with the expression, that "the time for such a step had scarcely arrived." Objectors there were none; few will hail the advent of that "good time" more fervently than myself, a sentiment which I have more freely given vent to in the pages of my Almanack, and which was penned ere the present argument assumed its mighty weight and strength. As to the matter of instituting a series of prizes for subjects generally in cultivation, and which would serve to make "assurance doubly sure," in relation to the test by which the decision of censors might in some measure be regulated, I can only add, that such would be a step in the right direction; and moreover, I may perhaps be permitted to "tell a tale out of school," which, being simple truth, gives additional weight to the suggestion. At the September meeting, so anxious were some of the Dahlia members, that I was enjoined to hold certain amounts of cash from several growers who had entered into a sweepstakes; and the question being put to a visitor just arrived from Norwich with a box of blooms as to his willingness to join, a most ready response was made, and what was more, the country collection obtained second honours, although staged against others of the London district. I merely relate this to prove that "the spirit" is but slumbering.

Then, again, as to paid censors (although not strictly to be called paid, when such men as my late lamented friend Mr. Woodhouse journeyed from Whitby, in Yorkshire); is it to be presumed that the Society allowed so much enthusiasm as Mr. W.'s to be other than repaid, at least travelling expenses? So with Mr. Wood from
York, Mr. Perry and Mr. Cole from Birmingham, Mr. Barnes of Stowmarket, Mr. Holmes of Norwich, Mr. Holland from Manchester, Mr. Keynes, Salisbury, &c.; and even our nearer friends, who have so praiseworthy attended, if not paid, they have at least been satisfied; and I can but relate, that in the following list will be found, separately or in combination, a large slice of the leading talent of the day.

*List of Censors during 1852, with the times of attendance.*

| a | Mr. Appleby, 2 London. | a | Mr. Long, 2 Watford. |
| b | Ayres, 1 Blackheath. | a | Moore, 2 Chelsea. |
| b | T. Barnes, 1 Stowmarket. | a | Noakes, 1 Hornchurch. |
| a | Black, 1 Clewer. | a | Parsons, 3 Welwyn. |
| b | Bragg, 1 Slough. | b | Paul, 1 Cheshunt. |
| a | Brown, 1 Tulse Hill. | a | Perry, 1 Birmingham. |
| a | Cole, 1 Birmingham. | a | Pope, 1 Chelsea. |
| a | Cook, 3 Notting Hill. | a | Prockter, 1 Bermondsey. |
| b | Dobson, 1 Isleworth. | a | Robinson, 5 Pimlico. |
| b | Epps, 1 Maidstone. | b | Salter, 1 Hammersmith. |
| a | Hamp, 3 Lambeth. | a | Sharp, 1 Bedford. |
| b | Henderson, 1 St. John’s Wood. | b | Smith, 2 Hornsey. |
| a | G. Holmes, 1 Norwich. | b | Spary, 1 Brighton. |
| a | W. Holmes, 3 Hackney. | a | Stains, 2 London. |
| b | Ivery, 1 Peckham. | b | Wilkinson, 1 Ealing. |
| b | Keynes, 1 Salisbury. | a | Wood, 1 York. |
| a | Lidgard, 7 Hammersmith. | a | Wyness, 1 Pimlico. |
| a | Lochner, 5 Paddington. | a | Private Growers . . . . Total, 48 attendances. |
| b | Dealers . . . . . . . . . . 14 . . . . |

It will be impossible by the “selection of eight” to attain for each meeting the amount of practical ability which may be found in the foregoing; still I must admit that, unless the Society earn universal confidence, its functions must cease to exist.

This brings me to another subject—one which I rely upon being enabled to clear up, if not satisfactorily, at least practically. There is “room and verge enough” to hold forth largely; but the limited space, in a varied periodical as the Florist must be, shall prompt me to be brief. “It may be urged that many would hesitate to send new plants, fearing that they might be distributed otherwise than by legal sales.” This comment is given in answer to, “Why not have a National Floricultural Society’s Garden, a Floricultural Museum, where every thing new shall be sent and proved?” Now, I will ask the whole round of seedling-raisers, and with them the dealers, who are but too happy to purchase liberally novelties from time to time as seen, if ever good faith has been broken in the universal custom of getting a few confederates (whom we all possess) “to grow a plant or two of any promising seedling, that its truer character might be learned ere it was offered for sale?” I assert that the practice is universal, taking our earliest spring flowers, Auriculas, Polyanthuses, &c., down to autumn’s king, the Dahlia. I might, further, go statistically into the subject, and largely state the flowers that have been so entrusted, and to whom given; and this has, to my own knowledge, continued season after season for little short of twenty years—
Carnations, Pinks, Cinerarias, Geraniums, Dahlias, Tulips, Pansies, Verbenas, &c. &c., all included. I have ere now unwittingly found myself in the possession of a large proportion of the "seedlings being proved," and have ever found my opinion cheerfully received, and sometimes acted upon; and I may say, that my own seedlings have been (and shall be again) as unsparingly distributed. Nor is my case a solitary one; we are all but too happy "to do unto others as we would they should do unto us," in spite of the few who, from motives of disappointment and jealousy, seek to "say otherwise." The wrongs thus manufactured have ever been more imaginary than real. The man who, from motives of fear, fails to entrust a plant or two into the hands of a first-rate grower, is just the man to first break the bond of confidence whenever so entrusted by others.

Then, as regards the more elaborated "Transactions of the National Floricultural Society," how happy should I be with "Observer" on the Journal Committee!--for although there are those on that committee fully qualified to the duty, the "drudgery" has hitherto fallen on the Honorary Secretary. Hence, I dare not but plead guilty to the charge of poverty; for, how willing soever I ever am to do my best, there is a point beyond which none can go: that point, which is "time," has been the barrier to me. If "Observer" be not a member, let me urge that he become so, for in him I foresee a most valuable acquisition and coadjutor; and at the Anniversary General Meeting on Thursday, March 3d, an introduction and "a place" will most likely be awarded to "Observer" for the interest he has shewn for the well-being of a society whose equal there never was in matters relating to Floriculture.

Should "Observer" seek at any time for information relative to the pecuniary position of the Society, a line to that effect shall be promptly met. It will be found that the books are kept posted to the very day; and further, that from the treasurer's last report, the Society boasts of that which "passeth shew," and none need fear to refer to—a balance.

Holloway. J. Edwards.

ROSES.

NO. I.

In the absence of a more complete review of the most desirable novelties of the last two or three seasons, I venture to present your readers with the following hasty sketch.

Commencing with the new Hybrid Perpetuals, Auguste Mie first claims our notice. Coupe d'Hébé* gives a good idea of this Rose, in colour and shape. It is not quite as large, nor have the petals hardly so much substance. It is, however, a very free autumnal

* The magnificence of this fine old Rose can scarcely be conceived until a plant like one growing at Miss Wood's, The Elms, Hanger Hill, Ealing, is seen, with hundreds of its exquisitely shaped blossoms, crowning a Rose-temple 12 feet high.
bloomer; and bearing so close a resemblance to our old favourite, it is a desirable acquisition. Baronne Hallez being a counterpart of Madame Laffay, but of a deeper and richer crimson, must become, and indeed is, one of the most sterling varieties of recent introduction, being a decided improvement on its prototype; but sufficiently distinct not to supersede its parent.

Of blush varieties, so numerous have been the recent importations that to take them collectively appears the more desirable plan of comparing their "points."

Caroline de Sansal is a fine Rose of a delicate blush or flesh-colour. It is a free bloomer, of strong habit; in shape somewhat like Baronne Prevost, and is one of the best. It was well shewn in most of the leading collections last season. Duchesse de Praslin has a deeper pink centre; is not so large nor of such robust growth, but of better shape, and very pretty.

Of all these delicate tinted varieties, Jeanne d'Arc is my favourite. It is a finely-formed, noble Rose, the outer petals being white, the centre rosy pink. It is a striking flower, and shews well singly. Rosine Margottin is of similar colour; not so large, but perfect in shape and very pretty.

Victoria (Paul's) is a large fine "celestial" bush, in shape much like H. P. La Reine. A warm situation is essential for the maturity of its fine blossoms, which it then produces in clusters freely.

Madame Hilaire (which took the prize at Paris as the best seedling Rose of 1850,) appears to be a beautifully shaped delicate blush, and will without doubt prove an excellent Rose; but another season will enable a more certain opinion to be given of it. Madame Rivers (most happily named) may be termed a pearly flesh colour, and is well compared with that fine old Hybrid China Lady Stewart, which in colour and shape it much resembles. Its habit is hardly as robust as could be desired. Its beautiful blossoms will, however, amply compensate for a share of the best and most sheltered situation.

Blanche Portemer is certainly the nearest approach to a white Hybrid Perpetual that has yet been imported. Being nicely cup-shaped, it is a most desirable acquisition. Laura Ramand, another light blush, will be a favourite with many on account of its curiously imbricated petals; and though not so perfect in shape as most of these new light varieties, it is a good flower. Mere de St. Louis is not so deeply tinted with pink as the last-named variety; but from not having so many petals as the majority of those sorts before enumerated, it opens its large blossoms more freely, and will suit a colder situation.

Ealing.

C. G. Wilkinson.
SPOT ON THE PELARGONIUM.

Having a little time at my disposal, I beg to offer a few remarks on what is generally termed "spot" on the Pelargonium. That such a thing exists more or less every year cannot be denied, and generally from August to January. To many this has been one of the most mysterious things connected with the cultivation of this popular flower, and has been handled both by growers and writers with some timidity, some attributing the cause to one thing and some to another; but as far as my experience has gone, the matter has been settled in my own mind long ago. My belief is that the sole cause of spot is too much wet received by the plants just before and after they are cut down. How often are plants cut down while in a perfectly soddened state! This may be regarded as the first step to spot, and such a practice should always be avoided. A little consideration will prove this system to be perfectly wrong; for when plants are cut down in a wet state they bleed, and in many instances I have known them bleed to death. The Pelargonium cannot be too dry when it is cut down, and as the plants advance in growth the moisture may be increased. Another precursor of spot is, that in many places the plants are allowed to stand out of doors exposed to all weathers, &c. after they are cut down, which is very injurious to their constitution; and when they are watered every plant receives some, whether it requires it or not, and this is often done with a large rosed watering-pot. Such a course I very much disapprove of, and those who follow it can expect nothing less than the spot for their pains; besides, after the plants are watered at night, a storm may perchance "blow up," and still they are unprotected, the plant that has had too much water already still receiving more. I have no doubt that many of your readers, as well as myself, have seen the pots full of water two or three days after rain. Is not this, I would ask, injurious to the constitution of the plant? A dirty, broken frame is equally objectionable, and I believe it helps to bring about spot; but if the frame is clean, the lights washed, and the glass mended, it is very serviceable till September; nevertheless the plants should have abundance of air, the lights only being on during damp weather, and at night air should be given by tilting the lights at the back. The plants should also stand on some hard level bottom, for too much care cannot be bestowed on them for some time after they are cut down. It is very discouraging to a gardener to see his plants in such a state as the spot brings them to, after, as he thinks, he has done all he could to prevent it. The plants require to be constantly gone over and the spotted leaves removed, and other extra trouble taken, which, if commenced well at the proper time, could have been saved. In my opinion, the preparation of the soil is one of the most essential things; but of this I shall treat at length at some future time.

To the above remarks I would add, that my mode of management, as regards cutting down, &c. will, if carried out, I am sure, be
a preventive to this disease. The treatment will answer for any locality. By July, many of the varieties will have done flowering. Give them all the sun and air you possibly can, in order to ripen the wood and prepare them for cutting down, previous to which let them become perfectly dry, then cut them slanting to the eye, leaving three or four eyes to break from. The wound will soon heal over; but if inclined to bleed a little, unslacked lime put on will soon stop it. When healed, they may be placed in a frame prepared as I have directed above, and a little water may be given—just enough to damp the soil. Keep the frame close for a few days, to induce them to break vigorously; but as soon as the eyes are fairly broken, air must be given. When sufficiently broken, they may be shaken out and disrooted, using a sharp knife, and cutting off all straggling roots. Re-pot them into soil previously prepared as follows: One barrowful of turfy loam, four shovelfuls of rotten cow-dung (the older the better), and an 8-inch potful of silver-sand. This compost should be well chopped over with a trowel, not sifted. If the plants were previously in 8-inch pots, put them into 6-inch ones, using an inch or two of drainage, which should be crocks broken into pieces about the size of a small bean. When potted, water with a fine-rosed watering-pot; place them in a frame as before directed, and keep them close till the plants have become established, just damping them overhead two or three times a week. As soon as they have sufficiently recovered from the shift, air must be abundantly given night and day, sheltering from heavy rains, and keeping them clean from green-fly. The plants should be housed by the middle of September. The house should be thoroughly cleaned down, and the glass and stages, floor, &c. well washed. The plants may then be placed the distance apart which is allowed them to bloom in; they will require but little water to keep them in good health; watch for green-fly, and fumigate the moment it is perceived. The above is exactly the kind of treatment my plants have received; and I never remember seeing them finer than they are now.

I cannot close these remarks without saying that those who think the spot is confined to certain varieties are not much acquainted with the disease: it attacks all varieties, more or less, under the same treatment, from Sylph, Matilda, Alba multiflora, &c., which are some of the oldest varieties in cultivation, down to Rosamond, Emily, and many others, both older and newer. If, as I before observed, the plants are exposed to wet, cold winds, &c. after they are cut down, the spot will overtake any variety; but I admit that some sorts are more affected than others. I trust the foregoing remarks may be of service to some of your readers. To those who have the spot, I would recommend the house to be kept dry, and the temperature about 45°, giving air at all favourable opportunities.

Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.

John Dobson.
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

APPLES (continued from p. 17).

   Synonym: Edmonton's Aromatic Pippin.
   This is a dessert Apple of great merit from the county Kerry, whence its name. The fruit is a little below the middle size, mostly of an oval figure, a little flattened at the apex. Skin smooth, pale yellow mingled with orange, stained and streaked with red on the side next the sun. The eye is small, surrounded with a few small plaits, some of which at times extend nearly to the base of the fruit. The stalk is sometimes slender, but often quite short; fleshy, and obliquely inserted under a swollen lip. Flesh yellow, crisp, and juicy, with a rich, sugary, aromatic flavour. In season through September and October. Owing to the moderate growth of the trees, this excellent kind answers well for planting in small gardens, either as low standards or espaliers.

5. King of the Pippins.
   Synonym: Hampshire Yellow.
   Fruit middle size, rather longer than broad, both ends a little flattened, and broadest towards the base. Surface smooth and even. Skin orange yellow, faintly tinged and streaked with red next the sun, dotted all over with brown specks, a few of a lighter colour being embedded. Eye broad and open, deeply sunk, and very little, if any, calyx. Stalk nearly an inch long, slender, and inserted in a deep even cavity. Flesh yellow, firm, crisp, and sweet; not over rich, but of a pleasant flavour. Its great beauty renders it a favourite autumn table fruit. The trees are of upright growth, hardy, and
very prolific. The fruit is liable to become *mealy* in keeping, therefore one tree of this sort is sufficient for a small garden.


Synonym: Irish Pitcher, Irish Codlin.

The fruit is of the middle size, conical, often a good deal swollen on one side, and irregular in shape. Skin pale yellow, tinged with light red on the exposed side, and at times slightly suffused with soft russet. Eye open, deeply sunk in a slightly plaited basin. Calyx short. Stalk about half an inch long, rather slender, and inserted in a deep funnel-shaped cavity. Flesh quite white, tender and juicy, with a pleasant, agreeable flavour. A very useful fruit either for the dessert or culinary purposes during the autumn months. The trees are of low bushy habit, hardy, and very abundant bearers.

7. *Cox's Orange Pippin.*

Synonym: Cox's Pippin.

Fruit medium-sized, broadest at the base, narrowing a little towards the crown. Skin deep orange, mingled with soft russet, and streaks and blotches of red, the exposed side being bright scarlet.

Eye small, set in a narrow plaited basin. Calyx short, erect. Stalk half an inch long, inserted in a small, narrow, uneven cavity. Flesh yellow, tender. Juice saccharine, with a rich aromatic flavour. It is a beautiful dessert apple. In season from October to January. Higher praise cannot well be given it, than to assert that it possesses the flavour of the Ribston pippin. I consider it equal in richness to that variety, with a more tender flesh, and the trees are healthy and good bearers. It was raised in 1830, by R. Cox, Esq., of Colnbrook Lawn, Bucks, and propagated by the late Mr. Small of the Colnbrook Nursery.

*Frogmore.*

J. Powell.
MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

There is no period throughout the year when the out-door department of a garden is more devoid of flowers or less inviting than the present. It is now only within the stove, greenhouse, or conservatory that we can enjoy those charms of Flora which are the natural productions of distant or tropical climes. Owing to the long and continued succession of wet, though unusually mild weather, many of the hardy herbaceous plants are looking as fresh as if it was the commencement of spring. Except the various species of Hellebore, one or two Anemones, and some other plants of minor importance, few, however, are now in flower. One species particularly deserves notice, viz. Tritoma sarmentosa. This has an aspect and habit similar to T. media. A large specimen of it on a south border has now thirteen flower-stems, varying from two to three feet high, flowering copiously, and exhibiting all the freshness of summer. Against a west wall are two large specimens of Acacia affinis, each about twelve feet high; their flowers are beginning to expand, and in a week or two more they will be very gay. Magnolia grandiflora, Jasminum nudiflorum, and Chimonanthus fragrans, are blossoming against the same wall. Of all out-door shrubs at this season the Jasminum is by far the showiest, as it never fails to be covered with its bright yellow flowers. Cotoneaster denticulata, a rather neat-looking evergreen half-hardy Mexican shrub, about three feet high, with smallish leaves and white flowers, is in great beauty against an east wall. This is a shrub that deserves cultivating, being of a good compact habit, and a famous winter-flowering plant.

In the Orchid-house many of the Dendrobies, which have been dormant for a few months past, are just starting into new growth. One species, D. heterocarpum, introduced from Assam, is flowering profusely. It is a very pretty, free-blooming kind, and not very common in collections. The pseudo-bulbs are stout, about six inches long, from the sides of which the flowers are produced, two or three together, each about two and a half inches across; the sepals and petals are of a creamy white, the lip brown and pale yellow streaked with purple; the flowers are very fragrant, having the smell of a Primrose, and they last for a considerable time in perfection. Oncidium cebolletum, a good old species, Ansellia Africana, Phalaenopsis amabilis, Dendrobium densiflorum, D. Pierardi, Cyrtochilum maculatum, Tricopilia tortilis, and a few other kinds are all in flower.

In a small hot-house near the Orchid-house are a few fine specimens of Achimenes picta, from one to two feet high; they are at present in a very healthy free-growing condition, and are beginning to flower freely. An hybrid raised here about two years ago, between A. picta and Gesnena picta, proves a very showy free-blooming useful plant for winter; its flowers are similar in form and colour to those of Achimenes picta; but they are smaller in the limb, while the foliage is that of a Gesnena. Gordonia anomala, an evergreen shrub,
with white flowers three inches in diameter, is in flower here with Ixora Griffithii, which is one of the best of the genus, inasmuch as it is a valuable shrub for winter flowering. Plants of it, about two feet high, have from five to seven large corymbose heads of beautiful reddish orange-coloured flowers. A magnificent specimen of Gloxinia discolor, eighteen inches in diameter, is just beginning to expand its blossoms, and will shortly be very attractive. Aphelandra pulcher-rima is a showy-flowering evergreen stove shrub. Numerous plants of it here are dispersed through the stoves, giving them a gay appearance. Its leaves are of a medium size, from six inches to a foot long, and the flowers are deep red. It is a useful species for winter, though it is not so showy as A. Cristata.

In the Heath-house a few kinds are beginning to expand their flowers. Of these we may notice E. viridescens, Triumphans, Hyemalis, Linnaeoides, Pellucida, and Willmoreana, all of which are at present gay. But the principal feature here is the Epacrises, which are decidedly the most beautiful things in the garden at this season. No collection, however small, should be without them, as they are easily cultivated, and produce flowers very abundantly, which being of various shades of colour, are exceedingly attractive. The following is a list of species (or hybrids) at present in flower here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Epacris grandiflora</th>
<th>Epacris campanulata elegans</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot; impressa.</td>
<td>&quot; splendida.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; alba.</td>
<td>&quot; fulgens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; recurva.</td>
<td>&quot; formosa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; carnea.</td>
<td>&quot; elegantissima.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Willmoreana.</td>
<td>&quot; delicata.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; miniata.</td>
<td>&quot; alba.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; magnifica.</td>
<td>&quot; &quot; penduliflora.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; hyacinthiflora.</td>
<td>&quot; cocinea.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Fairbairni.</td>
<td>&quot; Tauntoniensis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; nivalis.</td>
<td>&quot; densiflora.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; variabilis.</td>
<td>&quot; &quot; incarnata.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; rubra.</td>
<td>&quot; ochroleuca.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; campanulata.</td>
<td>&quot; purpureascent.</td>
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<td>&quot; &quot; carnea.</td>
<td>&quot; &quot; alba.</td>
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The fine collection of Acacias in one of the large greenhouses is as usual shewing well for flowering, and in the course of another month will be in perfection. A plant of Luculia gratissima, about eight feet high, cultivated in a large tub, is now flowering profusely. This very beautiful shrub is one of the best in cultivation; but to bring it to perfection it requires the temperature of an intermediate or warm greenhouse. In the Camellia-house the plants are looking very healthy, thickly set with bloom-buds, and many of the kinds are now in flower.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. Houlston.
INGRAM'S PRINCE OF WALES STRAWBERRY.

When any good and really useful variety of fruit is raised and offered for sale, the more its intrinsic worth is known from authenticated sources the more confidence will the public have in it. It is purely with this idea that I propose offering a few remarks and unexaggerated statements by way of testifying to the merits of the above new variety, as I am quite convinced that, like the black Hamburgh Grape, it will soon be considered the "gardener's friend," and become a general favourite.

It is now pretty well known that this variety was raised by Mr. Ingram, of Frogmore, in 1849. It is the result of a cross between the British Queen and Keen's seedling; and like its first-named parent, the leaf-stalks and under surface of the leaves are hairy, though the habit of the plant is not so robust, resembling more Keen's seedling. The fruit is large, finely shaped, richly coloured, quite firm fleshed, and of exquisite flavour. The fact of this variety having been proved the best, and consequently most extensively cultivated in pots for early forcing at the Royal Gardens, Frogmore, is a sufficient guarantee of its superiority as an early forcer. It is also largely cultivated in the open air, where it ripens at least ten days earlier than the British Queen. Whether forced, grown naturally, or cultivated particularly for autumn use, it is very prolific. For autumnal cultivation it certainly is the best sort extant, and as it becomes generally known, in like proportion will it be appreciated.

While at Frogmore, I had the opportunity of seeing an abundant crop of fine fruit gathered from it in the spring, summer, and autumn of 1852. I saw it forced early, and, after having produced an excellent crop of fine fruit, taken out of the forcing house the last week in March, placed in a convenient exposed situation, and turned out of pots into a south border the last week in May, not disturbing the roots, and planting a foot apart each way. From these plants, although three crops of blooms were taken off in their infant state previous to the remaining one, splendid dessert fruit was gathered, some as large as pigeons' eggs, richly coloured, though, of course, owing to the absence of solar heat and prevalence of rain, it was not so finely flavoured as that gathered during the heat of summer. From this variety alone a good supply of fine dessert fruit might be obtained from the beginning of March to the end of November. By planting *forced plants* at intervals in spring and the early part of summer, and if the border were so measured and planted that a vacant frame could be conveniently placed over them in autumn, it would, by warding off the heavy rains, not only prolong the autumn gathering season, but finer and better flavoured fruit would be the result. Abundance of air on fine favourable days must be admitted; and I should add, if the weather proves dry about the time they are planted, as this variety by the above treatment grows steady and strong, give them a good supply of water, and as they advance in growth, treat them occasionally to a little diluted manure water.

T. Burgess.
WILD FAVOURITES WHICH FLOWERED LAST DECEMBER.

Among plants which afforded delight in the depth of the gloomy season, I observed, while perambulating the roads and drives of this locality, numerous flowering species, which are here enumerated and briefly described under their appropriate natural orders.

Geraniaceae. In the first week of December I remarked Geranium Robertianum, which was sheltering itself beneath a wall, and imparting an ornament to the place scarcely less than we are accustomed to witness in the height of summer. G. molle was also flowering profusely, as was likewise G. dissectum.

Compositae. Crepis virens was not an unfrequent plant, displaying its colour on old walls, cultivated soils, &c. Filago germanica, Lapsana communis, &c. were also in flower. The common Daisy (Bellis perennis) afforded an almost unlimited supply of its lively blossoms during the month about which we are speaking. The Pyrethrum parthenium was observed about the 14th, producing great gaiety in its accustomed region, viz. a dry sequestered hedge-bank near the village of Thorpe. The day above mentioned was bright and clear, and probably there never was experienced during December a warmer sun, which broke forth at quite an early hour, rendering the temperature almost oppressively hot.

Scrophulariaceae. Of this order too, owing to the geniality of the atmosphere, may be mentioned Veronica agrestis, Beccabunga, and Serpyllifolia. Antirrhinum orontium and majus also favoured us with flowers. The former of these is occasionally met with in this neighbourhood.

Ranunculaceae. The Ranunculus ficaria, a well-known intruder in shrubberies, in the same month yielded numerous bright yellow flowers.

Rosaceae. Belonging to this order is a familiar denizen of our woods, viz. Potentilla fragariastra, which at the same dreary season was peculiarly conspicuous.

Labiate. The Ballota nigra was seen in several cherished and retired spots, like those to which it is generally restricted; while the Lamium album, with its pure white blossoms, was equally showy. In the same condition were found L. purpureum and incisum; as also the blue Prunella vulgaris.

Malvaceae. Malva rotundifolia, a plant remarkable as being found in general contiguous to towns and villages, was in good blossom.

Dipsacaceae. A few straggling flowers of that general favourite, the autumnal Scabiosa succisa, were exhibiting themselves in our neighbourhood, lending a charm, which shall not soon be forgot, at an unusual season.

Thymelaceae. On Daphne Laureola being provided with a snug abode, it produced a paucity of those inconspicuous flowers for which it is rather remarkable. This is one of our earliest flowering under-shrubs.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

The cold wet autumn has been very unfavourable both for flowers and seeds; perhaps the Chrysanthemum suffers more from these causes than any other flower, for in our northern latitude it is impossible to reckon upon a sufficient number of fine days in October to bring it to perfection in the open ground, much less to ripen its seed; but despite all these drawbacks, the Chrysanthemum is every season obtaining fresh admirers, and the magnificent blooms and specimen plants exhibited at Stoke Newington, Highgate, and other places, cannot fail to bring it into still greater repute. What is there so gay in the conservatory at this dull season as the Chrysanthemum, or what so useful in bouquets as the charming little Pompons? But after all, the grand thing with Florists will be the show flowers; and those who remember how few there were of that character ten or fifteen years ago, will readily acknowledge that a great advance has been made, and that perseverance has in a degree overcome the obstacles interposed by the elements, for now there is no difficulty in putting up a stand of 24 fine flowers; not, perhaps, all incurved, like "Beauty, Queen of England, Pio Nono, Dupont de l'Eure, or Goliath," but each year's seedlings adds some gem, so that the list will soon be complete.

Hitherto but little seed has been saved in England, and that with extreme difficulty, our variable climate presents an insuperable barrier to its ripening in its natural season in the open air; but is it not possible to obviate this—may it not be made to bloom in August instead of November? It surely is worth the trial, even if it should not be successful. We know that it can be retarded, which perhaps, is still more advantageous. While in France I frequently saw the Chrysanthemum in flower in April and May; and by following the same culture, may not the same result be anticipated in this country? There it was found the cuttings struck in September and October, kept in a close frame during win er, bloomed in the spring; and also that plants topped in August and September, when put into general heat through the winter, flowered in March and April. The experiments were made merely to produce flowers as far as possible out of their natural season, and without any reference to seed. Let us however study to carry the experiment still further; for with the sunshine of spring may we not reasonably expect the seed will come to maturity? It would be advisable to try this plan with semi-double flowers in the first instance: there is an old variety named Casimer Perier very suitable,—a fine red carmine with wide incurved petals; it was from this that Madame Poggi and others of that colour were obtained. But chance has done what years of toil might never have effected; for in 1851 a yellow seedling was accidentally raised, which came into flower in June, and continued until the end of September; having been proved again this season with the same result. A plant of it was sent to me last May, and has been blooming in the open air from July until the middle of October. As a flower it possesses small merit, being nearly single; but for its extraordinary precocity
in blooming during the summer season it will be invaluable for seeding
being one step in advance in the right direction; skill and perse-
verance must complete the rest.

John Salter, F.H.S.

Versailles Nursery, Hammersmith Turnpike.

PLANT CULTURE.

Is not "Observer" in error as regards the assertion that "Messrs.
Veitch and Son sent out Cantua buxifolia and Cantua dependens?"
It strikes me that Dependens was the name originally given when the
plant was shewn (always in cut specimens), and that it was subse-
quently rechristened Buxifolia by Dr. Lindley. I received it from
the Exeter Nurseries at sending-out time, at a cost of 1l. 2s., and
in my little way grew it to a fair-sized bush; yet I regret to say it
has never bloomed: the fault may have been mine, still "Observer"
would lead me to infer that I was not alone; thus, wanting either
patience or knowledge, I cast the plant to the rubbish-heap; which
tends to confirm the argument as set forth by "Observer," that many
instances could be cited where plants, although possessing much
merit, have been by unsuccessful treatment prematurely discarded,
and points to the importance of the remark, that nurserymen, in in-
roducing new plants, should give as much of their history as possible,
pointing out their native habitats, necessary culture, and other in-
formation for the promotion of successful management. One would
think that the knowledge of this or that plant being generally seen
well done was in itself ample reward for the task of undertaking to
teach. As regards a Florist's flower, I know the interest and gratifi-
cation felt on beholding a fresh "let out variety" liberally staged at
an exhibition, especially if it happens to be one of whose early his-
tory one has some knowledge; it may be that our plant millionaires
disdain to seek the bubble reputation of a Florist: the very practice
touched upon in another article this month goes far to shew that
Florists do strive to attain a correct estimate of the qualification of
their seedlings under varied culture: so it should be with all.

Holloway.

J. Edwards.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Two excellent winter-salads were produced on the 18th ult. at
the meeting in Regent Street—one by Mr. Fleming, gr. to the Duke
of Sutherland, at Trentham; and the other by Mr. Burns, gr. to
Earl Stanhope, at Chevening Park, Sevenoaks. Mr. Fleming had
blanched Chicory, Batavian, and other Endive, Water-cresses, white
and red Turnip Radishes, Wood's early frame Mustard and Cress,
American Cress, Normandy Cress (a large-leaved kind, very different
from that usually so named), Corn Salad, a brace of Sion-House
Cucumbers, Malta and Hammersmith Cabbage Lettuces, Beet, Burn-
et, Chervil, and Celery. Mr. Burns sent Beet, Celery, Radishes,
Corn Salad, curled and Batavian Endive, Mustard and Cress, Ameri-
can Cress, blanched Chicory, Water-cresses, Tarragon, winter Onions, Burnet, and Chervil. These two salads were very nearly equal in point of merit; Mr. Fleming beat Mr. Burns in Chicory, Cucumbers, Lettuce and Beet; but then Mr. Burns beat Mr. Fleming in Celery, Corn Salad, curled and Batavian Endive, Radishes, and Mustard and Cress, making seven against four: therefore the first prize (a Bank-sian medal), was awarded to Mr. Burns, and the second, a certificate of merit), to Mr. Fleming. Some good hardy winter flowers (cut) were also shown from the Society’s Garden, and from the Hon. W. F. Strangway’s place in Dorsetshire.

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HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

**Auriculas.** The box containing the plants should now be placed to face the south; water more frequently, as the roots will be at work, and spring-growth will be perceptible in the heart of the plant; therefore protect from frost or frosty winds, or it will damage the coming bloom. Keep them open, however, on all favourable occasions. Mats or some other secure covering should be thrown over the glass on frosty nights. If not already top-dressed, no time should be lost in performing this necessary operation. Many of the smaller young plants that have been wintered in small pots will be benefited by being repotted into a size larger.

**Calceolarias.** These thrive in a moist genial atmosphere. Plants for exhibition should now receive a good shift.

**Cinerarias.** Those intended for exhibition should now receive their final shift, using rich soil: 8-inch pots are the size they are required to be grown in by the Horticultural and Royal Botanic Societies. Keep them near the glass, without crowding.

**Carnations and Picotees.** These will require a general looking over and cleaning, which is more effectually done by taking them out of the pit, and replacing them after thoroughly going through them, trimming off all dead leaves, and freshening up the surface of the soil by gently stirring it. Aphides will most likely appear as the plants begin to grow; keep them down by fumigating; but these pests to the Florist are not often seen to an injurious extent at this season. If the plants are kept clean and well raised to the light, a gentle shower will do no harm towards the end of the month. Keep the soil in a good dry state for potting, and clean the pots intended for blooming, to be in readiness for this important operation.

**Dahlias.** These should now be put to work in pits, or on a tanned in the propagating-house. As a rule, cuttings taken through March make the best plants, as they are of the right age not to become stunted from long keeping, and they are in good time without forcing; therefore roots started now get into a good state to produce a large batch of cuttings during that time. The first cuttings are often too large and may be thrown aside, unless of a scarce variety.

**Hollyhocks.** Continue to increase choice kinds. The old stools will now throw up shoots that make good cuttings. Seedlings in
Pansies should be potted singly for planting out in April; seed may also be sown.

**Fuchsias.** Plants intended for specimens should be grown in a gentle heat, drawing the syringe over them lightly in the afternoon. Give them plenty of pot-room, if large plants are required. Cuttings strike at this season very freely, and therefore it is a good time to make the general stock.

**Pansies.** Repot those to remain in pots immediately, either for cut blooms or to be shown in pots. Many of the varieties are already opening their delightful blooms of the richest velvet. The early flowers are much the best in this respect, shewing the desirableness of having strong plants, which alone blossom at this early season. If the weather is mild, plant out for succession bloom and stock, also seedlings.

**Pelargoniums.** Autumn-potted plants will require to have a good watering, thoroughly soaking the ball; as by giving just enough to moisten the surface, will make the soil look damp without reaching the principal roots. Young stock should now be finally repotted for blooming, as well as large plants that have been stopped. Fancies should be assisted with a little warmth at night, as well as those for May work.

**Pinks.** Break up the surface of the soil the first time it is sufficiently dry. Fill up any vacancy with those wintered in pots for the purpose.

**Polyanthus** should be top-dressed with good rich stiff soil. As these require more moisture than the Auricula, use weak liquid manure occasionally. Slugs are very destructive to the young flower-shoots, and should be kept under.

**Ranunculus.** Plant about the middle of the month, as recommended by Mr. Lightbody in last Number.

**Roses.** Those not previously cut back should be attended to this month. Plants in pots to bloom in April and May will require great care, and should be kept clean from green-fly.

**Tulips.** In this locality an early bloom is more than likely, as they are already very generally above ground. The Florist will therefore have to be watchful if a change to severe weather should take place; but most is to be dreaded from cold frosty winds in March.

It is to be hoped that the dull months of winter have not been allowed to pass by the grower for exhibition without a general examination of his stock of articles that are in-doors at this season. The time is not far distant before shades and glasses will be required; cards for the Carnations, Picotees, and Pinks; sticks for tying Geraniums; boxes of all kinds, from the Pansy to the Dahlia. Much time is saved by having things to your hand when required; and nothing is more essential to success than proper boxes, well painted of the proper shade of colour.
FERNS.

Some may be induced to exclaim, "What a singular subject to begin a Number of the Florist with!" We grant it; but surprise will be diminished when we state that we are continually being asked what sort of plants will best suit this or that moist, shady situation. For most such retreats we unhesitatingly recommend Ferns, which, although generally put in the "back-ground" in a garden, surely deserve a prominent position in our work. Most places, however small, possess a cool shady "nook," where few flowering plants will greet us with even a single blossom, but where Ferns would be quite as much at home as House-leek on a house-top, their charming fronds giving life and beauty to the only part of the garden which was an "eye-sore." But although Ferns will grow in such places without much attention, they are not, however, on that account, to be looked "down upon;" on the contrary, they deserve, and will amply repay, all the skill which can be bestowed on their cultivation.

In the first place, a Fernery must be made for them; and in the construction of this, one has an opportunity of displaying a little taste. In whatever else the Florist may depart from nature, and for which he has been lately censured, here at least he must strictly follow her. No smooth edges or stiff circular outlines must be here, where all should be graceful rusticity. Williams, in his delightful book on Ferns,* says the Fernery "ought to be in the middle of a plantation, or in some spot where there are sloping banks, and old stumps of trees placed in different parts; also some rock-work, which should be made with burnt bricks, commonly called burs: these are bricks run together, which may be had from the brickfields in large masses in some parts of the country; but where stone can be procured, it forms better rock-work than bricks, and its appearance is more natural. Bricks, however, require to be tastefully put together. Mr. James Pulham, of Broxbourne, Herts, is the best hand at building rock-work that I have seen, and he has been employed by many gentlemen in different parts of the country in executing works of that kind. All the rock-work at Hoddesdon is formed with burs and common cement; these burs are put together with the cement, and built according to the size and shape required. After that is done, mix up some common cement with drift-sand;
when it is mixed, spread it over the burs, covering every part: when the cement is set, it looks like stone. We have some done in this way which have been built twelve years or more: it stands well, and is a good imitation of stone. We have rock-work which is put together with cement, without covering the burs; this is not so expensive as the former, but it ought to be made carelessly and rough, in imitation of rocks. Some of the pieces should be so placed as to appear to have been broken off others, which will make them appear as if in their natural state; some crevices should be left for the small species to be planted in; also hollows or caves in different parts, for the purpose of sheltering or otherwise favouring the growth of the more tender varieties, as several of our native Ferns are found in similar situations."

We have seen Ferns introduced into gardens with excellent effect. We could name a place not far from us where there is a delightful little Fernery. In the centre of a lake in the flower-garden is an island in the shape of a little hill, or say exhausted volcano, whose crater, instead of throwing up burning lava from its centre, yields cold spring water, which flows over an elegant tazza into a circular basin below. The rugged sides of this dell are planted with Ferns, and over the top of all is thrown a wire canopy covered by the "queen of flowers," altogether forming a retreat in which one might expect a fairy to start from behind every plant, as did the warriors of old from the shaggy mountain-side, so effectively described in the Lady of the Lake. Be that as it may, however, it is a refreshing place to read a book in, or otherwise spend a leisure hour, after viewing the widely-spread floral beauties beyond the lake, which is crossed at a narrow part by a rustic wooden bridge. In a boggy place in Kent, too, we have seen the Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis) introduced with great effect by the side of a crystal brook which meanders through the open lawn, its lively fronds contrasting admirably with the more sombre evergreens around it. In fact, there is no end of places where our common British Ferns may be cultivated with great advantage; and although with them we cannot make our "odd corners" "blossom like the Rose," yet we think we have said enough to induce our querists to try their growth in the places whose appearance they complain of, promising to return to the subject at a future time. In the meanwhile, however, we would advise them to consult Williams' book just alluded to, which will be found both useful and interesting.
HARDY PEACHES.

Owing to the unfavourable springs of the last three years, Peach-trees in various parts of the country have suffered much; and many cultivators, I fear, will have to clear away the "dead and the dying" from their walls, and replace them with fresh trees. From this disaster, however, we may learn what to plant and what to avoid. Many varieties are better adapted for our variable climate than others. I find those sorts having crenate leaves, with globose or reniform glands, to be the most hardy; and kinds with glandless serrated leaves the reverse.

As the planting season is now at hand, the following list may be found useful, containing as it does a few kinds suitable for out-door culture, only one of which is subject to mildew, viz.:

Admirable (early). | Chancellor.
Admirable (late). | Grosse Mignonnes.
Admirable (Walberton). | Noblesse; the hardiest kind having serrated leaves, but subject to mildew.
Barrington, or Buckingham Mignonnes. | Bellegarde.

I strongly advocate protecting Peaches in spring; it not only ensures a crop of fruit, but guards the trees from the injurious effects of sudden changes in the temperature during the frosty nights and sunny days of that season.

Frogmore.  

J. Powell.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

The Fuchsias King Charming and Incomparable are Birmingham flowers, the property of Mr. H. Mayle, Florist of that town. We have been previously indebted to Mr. Mayle for several fine varieties of this flower. The first sent out by him was Purity, in 1847, and it is still to be found in most collections. The principal varieties since then are Hebe, which, when "well done," is a noble light variety; Champion of England, with several others of less note, but all very good in their day.

King Charming was raised from Champion of England impregnated with Roseola; it is rather small, but free and of the best form. Incomparable is a very pure white of medium size; its chief attraction lies in the corolla being a nearer approach to purple than that of light varieties generally. The latter is a seedling from Purity. Sketches of these flowers were made on the spot by Mr. Samuel Moreton, from which our artist has been enabled to present them to our readers.

Birmingham and its neighbourhood have long been celebrated for Fuchsias. We are indebted to that quarter for Ne-plus-ultra, Splendida, the Rajah, &c. &c. It is not only in raising seedlings, however, that Birmingham has taken such a leading position in connexion with the Fuchsia, in its growth also it has been foremost.
Of all the exhibitions we attend, metropolitan or provincial, we have no hesitation in giving the palm to this locality; for the best bloomed and most graceful specimens of this flower we have witnessed there.

The Dahlia Miss Caroline is also a Birmingham flower, raised by Mr. G. Brittle from Marchioness of Cornwallis; it was drawn from blooms forwarded by the raiser to our artist, and is represented faithfully. It is taller than the Marchioness of Cornwallis, and has stronger footstalks. It produces its blooms of a very even size throughout the season, and fills up in the centre as well late as early, being the opposite of Cornwallis in this respect. It will stand good growth, and should be allowed to carry rather more than the average number of blooms when grown strong. This second plate is given in compliment to the large number of Dahlia-growers who patronise our work. Sir J. Franklin, a buff Dahlia, a drawing of which was made for the purpose, would have occupied the position; but as that variety has been seen by so many growers, it has given way to Miss Caroline.

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THE CLOTH OF GOLD ROSE.

Of all the Rose tribe there is none superior in beauty to the Cloth of Gold Rose, either in the glossy brilliancy of the foliage or in the size and symmetry of the flower; and yet how frequently is this charming variety discarded as worthless! How often do we find it thrust into some out-of-the-way corner and languishing in an ungenial soil! and on inquiring the reason, are informed that it will never bloom, and that it has been thrown aside to make room for some newer though less deserving favourite. Now there must surely be faults on both sides, as from my own experience of this Rose in the north of England, I have found it to be a very free bloomer when treated with proper care and attention. In June 1850, a friend of mine, in the neighbourhood of Durham, budded this Rose on a common Ayrshire, which grew against the south wall of his house. During the summer it made a single shoot about 8 feet in length. It was left all the winter without any protection from frost, and on the arrival of spring it was cut down to 3 feet from the bud. It then put out two very strong shoots, which, in the following July, were each crowned with a superb head of blossom. When I saw it there were between thirty and forty blooms in different stages of expansion, forming, with the fine foliage, an appearance truly beautiful. Last summer the bloom was even more abundant, and the plant now covers a large expanse of wall.

The soil used consisted of well-decomposed cow-dung mixed with an equal amount of the top spit of an old pasture, which had been laid up in a heap for twelve months.

I have made these few remarks in the hope of inducing any who have relinquished the cultivation of this fine Rose to try it once more, being convinced that, with a south aspect and plenty of wall-room,
no Rose will better repay the amateur for his trouble and attention. I should state that the young shoots ought to be nailed securely to the wall as they grow, for they are very delicate, and easily destroyed by any rude gust of wind.

London.

Rose Amateur.

CULTURE OF THE BORONIA.

All the Boronias are very interesting and showy, and form, among other plants, a desirable addition to a greenhouse; the best of the genus is doubtless Boronia serrulata, to which, with your permission, I will first direct attention.

This species may now be obtained from most principal nurseries. In selecting a plant, never be guided by size, or imagine that you are gaining time by making choice of a large one; for, depend upon it, if you select a plant with its foliage brown and unhealthy, you will rarely make it a fine robust specimen. On the contrary, rather choose a nice dwarf bushy plant, however small it may be: let this be your first consideration, and then you will start upon a fair footing to make a good plant. In the next place, especial care is necessary to keep it healthy and vigorous until the time arrives for potting. I would commence that operation in April, first by preparing some nice light fibrous peat mould, beating it well to pieces with a stick generally kept for the purpose on the potting-bench. When well beaten, sift through a coarse sieve, to deprive it of the coarsest roots, and rub every particle of soil from them; then add about half the quantity of silver-sand, and a portion of clean broken potsherds, which will keep the soil open, porous, and healthy. Mix these well together; then prepare a nice clean dry pot, well draining it with potsherds, upon the top of which put some of the coarse roots that were rejected when sifting. Place your plant upon the top, calculating the depth to put the ball, bearing in mind not to sink too low the collar of the plant, but to have it rather elevated above the level of the surface when potted, pressing down the soil somewhat closely. When potting is finished, place the plant in a greenhouse or pit; I prefer the latter, as it affords better means of supplying its little wants, and you have a much better command over the temperature in a pit than in a greenhouse.

When placed in a nice dry comfortable pit, keep it close for a few days; if the sun should be bright, it should be shaded in the heat of the day, but not allowed to remain on too long. After two or three days, begin to give a little air by lifting the light behind, and increase the quantity as the plant advances in growth, bearing in mind never to expose it to draughts or cutting winds, as, rest assured, if you do, your plant will soon become brown and sickly. Pay great attention likewise to watering, which is another important point; never allow it to become dry: when it is perceived that it has begun to feel its shift (which its appearance will readily indicate), give a gentle syringing over-head, in fine bright weather, and close your pit in
good time in the afternoon. In the course of a month or six weeks, your plant will have made vigorous growth; and now is the time to form a fine specimen, and at no other period can it be done so successfully. When it is enjoying the full benefit of its shift, and throwing out strong and vigorous wood, give it a regular topping, and prune it into what shape you may prefer. Take the points off every shoot; some of the strong ones may be topped as much as three inches, others only two, and some even less, always using your own judgment in this matter, and topping according to the strength of the branch; but make a point of topping all, little or large. A small knife is best for the purpose, cutting every shoot to its desired length just above the leaves. When this is done, place the plant again in the pit, syringing it frequently, and in a short time it will break forth regularly all over, and form a splendid specimen. My motive in topping every shoot is to get a good regular bloom all over the plant; and by following this plan, no one will be disappointed; but partial topping, which many growers do, is the sole cause of plants blooming only upon the large leading shoots, and they never succeed in bringing forward their plants in full perfection; whereas, topping every shoot at one time, and this when the plant is in full vigour, disperses the sap regularly, and enables the plant to throw out shoots in all directions, and there is sufficient length of time for it to make fine, strong, short-jointed, well-matured wood before the summer is too far advanced. When it has made growth from three to four inches in length, begin gradually to give more air, and follow this up until autumn.

When the time has arrived to place it in its winter quarters, after you have hardened it and retarded its growth, on a very calm, mild day, you may take the lights entirely off, but never allow them to be taken quite off during cold stormy weather. I have seen many growers expose their Baronias out of doors along with other greenhouse plants; but I cannot agree with them in this practice, as I certainly never saw a plant subjected to this treatment which kept long in health, but would become brown and rusty in foliage. I am certain that its constitution is too delicate to be kept in health long, if exposed to winds or rain. When you place it in its winter quarters, make choice of a nice light situation in the greenhouse, as near the glass as can be conveniently found, but not exposed to draughts. Be very particular in the administration of water during the winter, and never allow it to become too dry. Here it will soon begin to shew its bloom-buds from top to bottom; and by keeping your house moderate in temperature, never allowing the frost to enter, nor, if possible, raising it above 50°, it will come forth there very gradually, and open blooms about the month of April or May of the most beautiful colour and fragrance.

There are several other very lovely species and varieties of this genus, and some of them are indispensable to fine collections of plants, but all the others will thrive well under the same treatment as B. serrulata, until they have made their summer's growth, when they may all be exposed to the open air, which will strengthen and harden
them for their winter’s rest. By no means, however, allow any of them to remain out during drenching rains, although none of them are so tender as serrulata; and in placing them in the greenhouse for the winter, it will not be necessary to be so particular in choosing a place for them as in the former case, as they are not so delicate, so that they have a nice airy light situation, and wintered moderately dry.

Most of the Boronias are very liable to the attacks of mildew, which, if not kept in check, will ultimately destroy the plants. This frequently makes its appearance in autumn after, and sometimes before, they are consigned to their winter quarters. As soon as it is perceived apply sulphur, which entirely destroys it. I always found sulphur to agree with their health, as I made a practice every autumn of dusting the plants all over with it, and allowing it to remain upon them until spring, when a syringe and some clean water will remove it, and the plants then look green and healthy.

The following are some of the best kinds of Boronias in cultivation: Anemonefolia, Fraserii, Pinnata, Tetrandra, Trifoliata.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell. W. Barnes.

DAHLIAS OF 1852.

The following list, comprising the leading varieties sent out last spring, is prepared with the view of assisting those who are not quite conversant with their habits.

Sir R. Whittington (Drummond). Figured in the March Number of the Florist for 1852; ruby crimson, with broad smooth petal; deep and perfect outline. Occasionally requires a few more petals to make a full centre, i.e. not quite double enough; but this is probably when the plant is becoming exhausted, or from over propagation. Some varieties will not stand this; but it improves those that are liable to come with hard green eyes. Requires rich strong soil, with a tolerable share of thinning of the shoots, and disbudding; altogether a noble variety, and will stand a long time: 4 feet high.

Annie Salter (Salter). Pale peach lilac of transparent delicacy; very smooth, fine formed petal, outline, and centre. Certainly the most popular flower of the season. It is a bad keeper; and there being originally but few roots, the supply will not meet the demand: 3 feet high.

George Villiers (Union). Dark purple; stout petal, full and good outline, medium size. Early blooms the best; requires good free growth and plenty of thinning; an acquisition to this class: 3 feet high.

Dr. Frampton (Rawlings). A Princess Radziwill flower; not so large, but an improvement in form. In fact the form is very good, but it will rarely be large enough for exhibition; good in habit, and a very pleasing variety: 5 feet high.

Triumphant (Keynes). Crimson puce, occasionally producing
flowers with a white tip, in which state it is a good fancy flower. Fine bold habit, throwing its blooms well above the foliage, on long stout footstalks; good shape: 3 feet high.

**Scarlet King** (Green). Not well named, as it is any thing but a good scarlet, rather lake; a fair outline, somewhat flat face; must not be thinned, or it will come too open in the petal, or what is termed coarse: 3 feet high.

**Douglas Jerrold** (Keynes). Pale dull yellow, slightly tipped with lake; uncertain, but showy when caught; requires close shading; good habit: 3 feet high.

**Malvina** (Howard). White, mottled, and edged with purple; the colours run too much one into the other, or it would be more esteemed; comes best late in the season; good close centre; requires plenty of moisture: 3 feet high.

**White Standard** (Brittle). Blush, can be produced pure white by close shading; small neat petal, good outline, centre low; should be planted out early: 3 feet high.

**Edmund Foster** (Turner). Crimson; petal broad, stout, and beautifully arranged; average size. The only fault is, that it takes too long to bloom from the centre petals, often being thripced; requires good and quick growth; a good show flower: 3 feet high.

**Absolom** (Cooke). Orange buff, medium size; requires good growth, and average thinning; a useful front row flower: 4 feet high.

**Niobe** (Vaisenon). A continental variety, white tipped with lavender; delicate and very useful show flower; rather large; should be allowed to carry all its blooms: 4 to 5 feet high.

**Queen of Whites** (Drummond). Pure white; full size, and constant; the shoots should be thinned but sparingly, the same with the buds; very dwarf habit: 2 feet high.

**Morning Star** (Turner). Vivid orange scarlet; rather too open in the petal; will do best from pot-roots without propagation; comes much the best late; should be grown in stiff soil: 5 feet high.

**Sir F. Theeiger** (Rawlings). Lilac; rather small, good habit, and constant; but the early blooms have a curly appearance from being ribbed, which the late ones are free from: 4 feet high.

**Alice** (Drummond). Peach lilac tipped with bronze; small and very uncertain, many of the plants producing nothing but semi-double flowers; petals smooth and beautifully formed. Would be caught more often if grown from pot or ground root without "working," in strong heavy soil, planted sufficiently early not to be required to make quick growth to be in bloom in time: 3 feet high.

**Louisa Gleny** (Rawlings). Golden yellow, fine form; very small and uncertain: 2 to 3 feet high.

**Globe** (Turner). Brownish fawn, new in colour, and good in form; uncertain: 4 feet high.

**Jaune de Passy** (Basseville). Yellow, large, very constant; a little ribbed at times; good full flower; not to be thinned: 4 feet high.

**Lizzy** (Perry). Pure white, tipped and mottled with deep purple; broad stout petal and good form. The first blooms good, after which it comes very thin, and is a little undersized: 3 to 4 feet high.
Toison Orange (Cailloux). Orange buff; good petal and outline, centre a little low; should not be disbudded very hard: 3 feet high.

Tom (Drummond). Red; very constant, and good centre; quills too much; should be planted out very early: 3 to 4 feet high.

**FANCY VARIETIES.**

Glorie de Kain (Cailloux). White spotted and flaked with purple; good shape and very constant; by far the best striped variety, and very dissimilar; average growth and disbudding: 3 feet high.

Laura Lavington (Keynes). Dark fawn, tipped with white; rather uncertain, but very good shape: 3 feet high.

Miss Ward (Turner). Canary, tipped with white; very full, deep, and good shape; quills a little; should be planted very early, and allowed to carry all its buds until it is in flower, when a few of the laterals may be taken off: 4 feet high.

Kossuth (Drummond). Bright red tipped with white; very good shape but uncertain, not filling in the centre: 4 feet high.

Nancy (Keynes). Dull red tipped with white; good petal, hard green eye; requires plenty of water and quick growth: 2 feet high.

Spectabilis (Salter). Yellow striped, spotted, and flaked with red; good shape and constant: 3 feet high.

Claude (Gaines). White and purple; constant, flat in the face; should not be grown strong: 3 feet high.

Flora M'Ivor (Keynes). Purple tipped with white; good shape and constant: 3 to 4 feet high.

Lilliput von Beyreuth (Funke). Red and white; rather small; good shape and very constant; good growth: 3 feet high.

Le Paön (Tassart). Orange striped and spotted with red; full size, of average form; not to be grown too strong: 3 feet high.

Many others were sent out with the foregoing, a few of which we have not seen; but perhaps the less said about the majority of them the better.

**PLANT CULTURE.**

From a remark in the last Number of the Florist, I find I have fallen into an involuntary error respecting Cantua dependens and C. buxi-folia, and have to thank Mr. Edwards for (in a measure) correcting the mistake. It should have been Cantua buxifolia (synonym, C. dependens) and Cantua bicolor.

Within a few days past I have again seen the necessity for widely spread information respecting plant culture, and could point my finger to more than one garden in the north of England where many new plants are purchased annually, and scarcely a well-grown specimen is to be found. I have seen greenhouse plants struggling vainly to develop themselves amidst the inhabitants of the hothouse, and plants requiring a high and moist temperature consigned to a cold and dry greenhouse. This is not as it should be. There are many
gardens where plant culture is carried on in the highest state of perfection; but, again, there are thousands of places where little or no attention is bestowed, where plants are left to shift for themselves, to bloom as chance may direct, and where they are truly creatures of circumstances. In proof of this, a tour of inspection amongst provincial gardens and greenhouses will afford numerous examples of the mismanagement I have alluded to. It arises, in many cases, from careless indifference on the part of those in whose care the plants are placed. In other cases the gardeners are inexperienced, and unequal to the task. I will also add, that at times a want of knowing the culture a new plant should receive may be urged as an excuse. But there are many instances where gardeners ought to seek for the necessary information, and try to do better. Such men tend to degrade instead of elevate the profession; for great facilities are now afforded of obtaining all necessary knowledge respecting the culture of nearly every plant with which we have to deal.

Observer.

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NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The papers of "Mr. William Paul" and "Observer" have no doubt given great satisfaction to every well-wisher of the Society, evincing as they do such warm interest in its success and progress, and testifying so pleasingly to its usefulness hitherto. There is no room to fear retrogression so long as such men will freely give the Society their talented and valuable aid; they can do much to promote its great object; and, indeed, if Florists will but do their part (their duty) towards the Society, it must succeed in promoting the extension and general good of floriculture. The proposal to deliver lectures or essays is a good one; they might be made productive of much benefit, and greatly extend the love and practice of floriculture.

The "codification (?)" of colours, well executed, would be also a very excellent work; but it will be one, I fear, of great difficulty. What should be the medium on which to portray the various tints? Whoever has been in the habit of having portraits painted of his favourite flowers well knows how great the difficulty is of matching upon paper nature's colours by those of art. There is, however, one suggestion of Mr. Paul's to which I must beg leave to demur, viz. the proposition to establish a garden, in connexion with this Society, where "all seedlings are to be tested, and also for the purpose of raising seedlings:" to this I cannot assent. I doubt its practically working well or beneficially. I am a raiser of seedlings, and I certainly should hesitate to delegate to others the growing of such as I wish to prove; for though they might be better done, I should not feel half the pleasure in them that I should if grown by myself; besides, it would incur a year's delay. The anticipated advantage of proximity to London would be very little, unless the meetings and judgment should take place in the gardens; for it is as difficult to
carry a seedling Fuchsia six miles as sixty, and the garden must be out of the London smoke. As to the Society raising seedlings, I think such a step a dereliction from the object of the Society, which is to judge the merits of seedlings, not to produce and judge them too. This proceeding would, I fear, be attended with such difficulties, as I think our kind friend, when he penned his suggestion No. 1, little dreamed of. It is with some little hesitation that I make these remarks; but I should be sorry to see an impracticable or unwise step attempted; and I am the more induced to state my dissent, seeing the favour with which the suggestion is held by our worthy and laborious honorary Secretary.

A Member.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

APPLES (continued from p. 40).

8. Oslin.

Synonyms: White Oslin, Arbroath Pippin.

The fruit is below the middle size, roundish in form, slightly flattened. Skin pale green, dotted all over with green and grey specks, changing to a clear lemon colour when fully ripe. Stalk short, thick, and inserted in a narrow cavity. Eye small, set in a small, shallow, slightly plaited basin, with prominent segment. Flesh yellowish white, crisp, juicy, and possessing a rich aromatic flavour. An excellent dessert fruit, ripening about the end of August.

The Oslin is a favourite Scotch Apple, said to have originated at Arbroath in Forfarshire. It is well suited for espaliers, or other modes of dwarf training.


Synonyms: Ferris Pippin, Clifton Nonsuch.

Fruit roundish, oblate in form, and even in outline. Skin smooth and glossy, of a deep red when fully exposed to the sun, with a little yellowish green near the stalk; the whole surface sprinkled with
grey dots. Eye open, not deeply set. Calyx quite short. Stalk about a fourth of an inch long, and inserted in a small cavity. Flesh white, crisp, fine-grained, juicy, and rich. It is a neat dessert apple, in use from November to February.

The trees make strong upright shoots, thickly set with prominent fruit-buds; foliage dark-green and glossy; a great bearer.

10. *Flower of Kent.*

A large Apple from that county, and chiefly valued for baking and culinary purposes. The fruit is of a roundish irregular figure, somewhat flattened and broadest at the base. Skin yellowish green, tinged and striped with dull red on the exposed side. Eye rather small, set in a broad uneven basin. Calyx short, and much contracted. Stalk nearly an inch long, and not very deeply inserted. Flesh yellowish green, and abounding with sub-acid juice. It is an excellent cooking Apple, in use through November and December.

The trees are healthy and good bearers; but its habit is by far too strong for dwarfing, therefore its proper place is the orchard, planted as a standard.

11. *Gravenstein.*

*Synonyms:* Grave Slie, Sabine (of some).

An excellent German Apple, originally from Gravenstein, in Holstein. It is held in high repute in its native country. It fully sustains its character here, although perhaps not quite equal in size and colour. The fruit is of the first size, roundish, flattened a little at the ends, and angular about the crown. Skin greenish yellow, tinged and striped with orange red, and mottled with a deeper colour, intermixed at times with soft cinnamon russet. Stalk short, thick, and
inserted in a deep cavity. Calyx large, a little reflexed at the points. Eye broad, open, set in a wide plaited basin. Flesh pale greenish yellow, very tender, crisp, and possesses a high aromatic flavour. It is a good dessert fruit, and is also esteemed for baking, tarts, &c. In use from November to February.

The trees are healthy and good bearers, particularly when young. It is a strong grower, and when planted as a standard forms a fine head.

_Frogmore._

(To be continued.)

J. Powell.

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**BRITISH PLANTS.**

*Nepeta cataria.* This cannot be considered a common species in this neighbourhood, it being found only in one situation, and even there but scantily. The locality referred to is adjacent to Christ Church, Virginia Water, and is so remarkable for its seclusiveness, that this sweet-scented favourite doubtless escapes quite unnoticed by the majority of those who weekly flock in numbers to the sacred edifice in question. Preferring as it does a chalky soil is a sufficient evidence to account for its almost entire absence from this neighbourhood. The strong scent of this plant has a peculiarly powerful effect on cats. Ray says that cats never meddled with this plant when raised from seed; but when transplanted into his garden, it was invariably destroyed by them. Of the truth of this, sufficient proof has been afforded me. The flower is white, prettily spotted with rose, which combination is increased even to admiration when viewed through a microscope.

_Ajuga chamaepitys.* This didynamous plant may now, I believe, be considered rare, many situations in which it was formerly found being now ranked among "things that were." The question was asked in a popular periodical only a short time ago, "where this plant may now be found?" After noticing this, I had the gratification of inspecting a complete Herbarium belonging to a lady, and among the many rare specimens which it contained was the plant now referred to, labelled "Ajuga chamaepitys, Reigate;" and only the other day, while reading the _Phytologist_ for 1849, I observed that some spot near Boxhill was given as another station for it. I have in my possession a specimen gathered at Longwood Warren, Winchester, a place described as almost entirely destitute of all ligneous vegetation. I have, however, seen other specimens which were gathered in the same barren tract of land; but whether that district affords this British plant at the present time or not, I am quite unable to say. It is also stated to be found in Kent and Cambridgeshire. Though seemingly fitted for rather a barren soil, this favourite rewards us with conspicuous little flowers, the colour being yellow, slightly spotted with red. Indeed altogether this may be pronounced to be an attractive little plant.
Ajuga reptans is a commonly-distributed plant, being found in moist meadows, ditches, &c. The flower of this species is blue; and the general dispersion of the plant effects its rejection by the garden cultivator. It may occasionally be found with pink flowers, and sometimes white. I imagine, however, that the latter state is seldom met with, while the former is very frequent. The change, it may be remarked, can scarcely be considered an improvement on the general colour. An old herbalist, who published a work a century and a half ago, extols this plant on account of its medicinal qualities. "Many times (he adds) such as give themselves much to drink are troubled with strange fancies, strange sights in the night-time, &c.; those persons I have known to be cured by taking the syrup of this herb."

Scabiosa succisa, or Devil's bite Scabious has an obtuse or blunt root, similar to our Polyanthus, which, agreeably with a vulgar error, was bitten off by his Satanic majesty when in wrath, he having envied mankind its medicinal use. On this ancient and absurd supposition, however, I intend to say nothing, preferring rather to allude to the usefulness of the plant, both for culture and general display. Last season more especially I remarked the beauty exhibited by this plant near the renowned resort of the poet Denham, called "Cooper's Hill," where a considerable space is covered by this favourite, than which, when in its prime of autumnal attire, I may venture the opinion that few plants can prove more conspicuous or pleasing. It is found plentifully in the fertile soil of Egham Race-course, near Sunning Hill, Thorpe, and Chertsey.

Englefield Green. W. Whale.

Culture of Cacti.

Some of your lady readers who have requested a few hints on the cultivation of the Cactus, will, I hope, find in the following remarks something to meet their wishes. The varieties of this tribe of plants are very numerous, and inhabit very different climates, some of them enduring uninjured a temperature little short of freezing, whilst others, inhabitants of the hottest and dryest parts of the globe, will not bear the same degree of cold; there is also great difference in the moisture congenial to different varieties, some of the Epiphyllums and Cereuses thriving with an amount of moisture both in the soil and in the air, for the greater part of the year, that would be certain death to others; so that it is needful to know something of the native climate of the different varieties to be cultivated, particularly in an extensive collection. The attractions of the Cactus are great, whether we regard the beauty of the plants in some varieties, their peculiarity in all, or the magnificence of the flowers in others, which certainly are amongst the grandest of Flora's beauties. Nothing that I know of can vie with Cereus grandiflorus (Night-blowing Cereus), and few plants are easier of cultivation. No doubt the reason why it (and the tribe generally) is not more cultivated is the fugitive cha-
racter of the flowers, few of them lasting more than two or three days, and some not so long; but they are still well worth growing. Some of the Echinocacti are night-blooming, and others day-bloomers, and of these some only expand their flowers in the sunshine, shutting up as soon as his beams are intercepted, whilst others are better in the shade. But to proceed to the subject of inquiry, viz. their cultivation: this is of the simplest and easiest character; a few points attended to are sufficient to insure success.

The soil for Cereus and Epiphyllum and the quick-growing kinds should be a well-enriched loam, with sufficient gritty matter to allow the surplus water to pass freely. The globe and dwarf growing kinds require a still more porous soil, but it may still be rich. It is true they may be kept alive for years in "rubbish;" but this term would properly describe the plants as well as the soil: they will well repay generous treatment, if judiciously administered. They should be potted after blooming annually, if they are wished to grow large; but bi-annually will do for established plants. If it is desired to keep them smaller, at all times avoid overpotting; the free-growing kinds require the most room. Potting large specimens requires two persons, for they are any thing but easy or pleasant (or safe) to handle. A thick, soft hay-band rolled in a piece of thin canvas wrapped round the plant assists greatly to hold it, and preserves the spines from injury. Such as require it should be well supported by stakes and tied up; and particularly so when the buds are swelling, as they frequently get too heavy for the stem to support, and either break or hang down in an unsightly manner; whilst growing, all sorts require plenty of water and heat, and also (and I had almost said above all) plenty of light of the direct rays of the sun.

The best structure for their growth is a pit heated by hot water, so that they can be placed near the glass, which should not be steeper than just sufficient to shoot off the rain; in such a structure they are seen to the best advantage, and are easily attended to. Where this is wanting they may be successfully grown in summer on a mild hot-bed, either of bark or stable litter covered with a frame of appropriate depth. Propagation of the Cactus is very simple: cuttings of any size, as soon as the cut is dry, may be inserted in slightly moist porous soil and placed in heat; they will soon make roots. Many of the varieties produce seed in abundance, and they cross very readily; and no doubt much may yet be done in this way to gain improved varieties. Some of the pendulous kinds may be suspended from the rafters of the stove or greenhouse, in which position the flowers are seen to great advantage.

Omicron.

STEPHANOTIS FLORIBUNDA.

This is a well-known favourite evergreen stove-climber, and, when "well done," what a glorious object it is! But, alas, how rarely do we find this! The majority of plants one sees are coiled and twisted
over some balloon or globe-shaped trellis, until they remind one of a
crow's nest rather than a representation of high culture. Indeed, I
have never yet seen a plant at our great metropolitan meetings that
came within a mile of my ideas of what a good, neat, well-grown
well-flowered specimen ought to be.

The following observations on its culture are offered more with a
view of being improved on than with the idea that they constitute
the summit of perfection.

Take a nice healthy plant in a 3-inch pot, and prepare a compost
of one half turfy loam, the other half equal parts of leaf-mould, rotten
cow-dung, and good peat, with silver-sand and small crocks or char-
coal, to insure sufficient porosity; give a liberal shift, and plunge in
a mild bottom-heat. Tie it to an upright rod. When it has well
filled the pot with roots, give it a final shift into a 15-inch pot, and
place it at one end of the house. Do not by any means leave more
than one shoot; train this horizontally along the roof, and if it does
well, you may calculate on having from 12 to 15 feet of well-
ripened wood by autumn; the plant may then be removed, and coiled
round any rough trellis for the winter. During its season of rest it
should receive no more water than is barely sufficient to keep the
leaves from shrivelling, nor should the temperature be above 55°, or
below 45°.

About the latter part of January, or beginning of February, it
should be knocked out of its pot, carefully removing the greater part
of the soil; and with the same kind, and the same sized pot, repot.
A good strong and neat barrel-shaped trellis should be prepared, on
which coil the plant in a spiral form, the coils being about six inches
apart. If you have more than sufficient to cover the trellis in this
way, cut the remainder off. A good bottom-heat, and the common
routine of stove-plant culture, will soon induce the plant to push from
the axis of every leaf a strong robust shoot, which should all follow
the direction of the stem, thereby covering the whole of the trellis
without crowding, and totally preventing the possibility of tying one
shoot over another.

In due time you may expect to see it literally, covered with its
delightful bundles of fragrant snow-white flowers. The autumn finds
it again well ripened; prune each lateral to one eye, and leave again
a single rod; pursue the same winter and spring treatment, and you
may calculate on similar results; after which its next shift should be
to the rubbish-heap. Of course, young plants should have been duly
attended to, to fill the "vacant places."

Timothy Verbose.

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ONE WORD MORE ON "DRESSING" FLOWERS.

It was with no inconsiderable amount of gratification that I recog-
nised your old and valued correspondent "Iota" again in your pages;
while it is always a pleasant pastime to run through the flowing
periods of Mr. Dodwell. But both gratification on the one hand and
pleasure on the other were checked when I discovered the purport of their communications; and as the subject under discussion is, in my opinion, a very important one, perhaps "one word" may be pardoned "on the other side."

I must premise that I have nothing to do with the description of flower "dressed," or the extent to which the dressing obtains; for that it does so obtain your correspondents both admit, as they not only apologise and excuse, but boldly defend the practice; and whether such a system is allowable, or whether it is a species of trickery which is reprehensible, is the real question to be settled.

Iota's first paragraph only causes subsequent wonder; but as I fully agree with it, I shall say no more on that.

Now let us begin at the beginning, and try to get at the real facts of the case.

We take a flower as it wildly grows, and the skilful in such matters say: "The attributes of this flower, to form our idea of perfection, should be of such and such a character: it can be so perfected by patient and careful cultivation; let us do it." Henceforth the plant is cherished, nurtured, and at last comes forth—not quite perfect; something else is needed; more delay, fresh study, more assiduous attention to this or that particular is necessary to acquire certain desired qualifications. All this the true Florist does, and never flags till he has produced the flower by cultivation with all the required attributes. Well, he stages his plant; it rests beside another of the same description, equally beautiful, equally perfect—to the eye. An amateur buys the two; and one he finds has been by cultivation brought to this perfection, the other has been—"dressed." Now, gentlemen, you do not deny the existence of this fact; and is it honest? Yet you pronounce it innocent. Is this "art" assisting nature? Has this any thing to do with "wildness" and "nature" or "license" and "liberty"?—all truisms in their way, and forcible enough in argument when properly applied;—or is it not a trickery and a gross deceit? Is it not making the plant appear what it is not? For if the petal of a flower be not in that shape and position which it is the cultivator's aim to achieve, and has to be "dressed," then has the Florist failed to reach the goal for which he strove, and must try again, by legitimate cultivation, to correct that fault in the garden which dressing has to amend upon the "stage."

But Iota, as was to be expected, has still some faint remains of his early horror left: he proceeds to apologise as well as to defend. The "good may be made to look better," &c., he says, and continues, "therefore the public deception caused by the practice is reduced within microscopic limits." This I deny; but suppose it is really so; are we to have a sliding-scale in floricultural trickery? Are we to exonerate the thief because the theft is brought within the range of "microscopic limits," or shall we at once admit the principle to be the same, whether the deception be great or small?

There are several other points in Iota's article which I should have liked to remark upon, but space forbids; and with a word or two in reply to Mr. Dodwell, I will conclude.

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His first sentence contains a request for permission to say a word in defence of the "poor Florist;" yet I seek in vain in the subsequent remarks to the end of the third paragraph any thing like a fulfilment of the promise to be inferred from the first; but what is said simply amounts to a good-natured lecture to Philip Havapek, and a very glaring perversion of his meaning, but having nothing whatever to do with the defence of dressing flowers. Then we break up new ground. Shall art be admitted to assist nature? And here your correspondent is clearly confounding skill in handicraft, or even science, with art in its true sense. And without wishing to be hypercritical, I must be allowed to say, that the word "art," as such, is altogether a misapplication of terms, as is also his confounding the relations of the plant and the flower. Let him study for awhile the philosophy of cause and effect, and he will then perceive that his "rationale" is irrational, and his logic as unsound as his argument.

In conclusion I may remark, Floriculture needs no such assistance as your correspondents advocate (though I am bound to say, I feel assured from no unworthy motive), and some Florists practise. It is its purity which endears it to our minds, let us cast no stain upon it; it is ennobling in its character, let us not degrade it by our mistaken zeal, and bring into contempt the Almighty's sweetest works; it is elevating in its tendencies, for it must of necessity lead men's thoughts from the created to the Creator, so never let us, by any act of ours, rob it of its characteristics; nor, while we blindly think to serve the interests of man, unwittingly cast a slur upon Nature and her fairest beauties.

Kingsland.

J. St. Clement.

"Roland" makes the following additional remarks on this subject:

The replies of Iota and Mr. Dodwell to the remarks of Philip Havapek dispose of the rationale of dressing Florists' flowers, and I need not add to them on that point; but it strikes me there is one point of view in which Phil may see the subject practically at home: he mentions the Pelargonium as being lately brought into the number of dressed flowers. I take it for granted he cultivates this floral gem, perhaps he is an exhibitor; well, if so, does he not dress his plants much and often whilst they are growing, and put the branches into position, with stakes to keep them so? then does he not tie down the trusses as, to his eye, shall make the best show, and arrange any individual pip that requires it, removing supernumerary petals, or even imperfect pips, and brush away fallen and stale anthers, &c. &c.? Now what is all this but dressing? and all this, and more too, has long been done by every exhibitor of the Pelargonium: whether it be "milliner's trickery" or no, the "trickery" is the same, whether with the aid of a pair of ivory tweezers or with the thumb and finger.

The originator of the discussion thus concludes the matter.

I am content when I find opposed to my opinion such men as Iota and Mr. Dodwell. I am led to doubt the accuracy of my own judg-
ment, and though somewhat in the position of "a man convinced against his will," what I intend doing is carefully to examine the exhibitions of Florists' flowers next season, and well weighing what my opponents have advanced. I am not sorry that I mentioned the subject, since it has promoted a useful discussion, which need not be carried further; although I feel that if art is to be allowed to assist Nature without limit, we may yet live to see the arts of Covent Garden exercised upon the objects of our exhibitions. I dare say few of the purchasers of nosegays at the best shop in that celebrated market are aware of the skill exercised upon the flowers to prevent their losing their beauties, through the fag of the ball-room or evening party. But I repeat, I am content; and the subject may be fairly allowed to rest upon its own merits, according to the different tastes of your readers. One word at parting: has it occurred to them to consider how much they received for their shilling in the last Number?

PHILIP HAVAPEK.

ROSES.

NO. II.

The lightest of the new Hybrid Perpetuals most worthy of cultivation having been enumerated, the pink varieties now claim attention. Angelina Granger is a light rose-colour, or pink of medium size and well shaped. Châteaubriand is an exceedingly bright clear pink, not very double; but the colour causes it to have numerous admirers. Madame Lamoriciere is not so clear, yet a glossy pink, and of the right model. Noëmi is a light rose-colour of excellent shape. Madame Guillot's form and habit are unexceptionable, colour rosy pink, and one of the very best for pot-culture. Theocrite, being also a seedling from La Reine, has the depth of petal and cupped form of its parent; a clear rosy pink. General Negrier is a sweet peach-tinted rose-colour, of compact habit and perfect shape.

Following with the rose-coloured varieties, Beranger is of the style and colour of the much-admired William Jesse; and having a better habit, is a formidable rival to that old favourite. Comte de Bourmont is a pale rose-colour, of good shape, and will prove one of the finest. Colonel Foissy is nearly allied to the Bourbon family, and a plentiful late bloomer, but not so large as is now generally looked for. Comte Odart is of a better shape, but of a similar colour (a bright deep red) and habit to that good old favourite Rivers. Desgaches is one of the most vivid carmine, and is well compared with the Duc d'Alençon; although not very double, its colour and freedom of blooming make it very desirable. Dr. Julliard will be welcomed by most Rose admirers, having, like Duc d'Aumale, a delightful fragrance to its numerous rosy blossoms, for which it may be relied on late in autumn. In Eugene Sue we anticipate another season to find one of the best, if not the very finest, of the recent additions to this family; from a parent as beautiful as the Duchess of Sutherland great superiority is anticipated, and in this instance no disappoint-
ment will, we think, be experienced, being larger, but of a similar figure, and apparently brighter in colour, than its elegant progenitor. Among the many French generals who have recently invaded us, General Bedeau will dim if not eclipse the fame of Louis Bonaparte, being of a more vivid carmine, and of first-rate form and habit. General Cavaignac is of rather a lighter colour, and another dangerous competitor, besides being excellent for forcing; while General Castellaine's uniform is of the brightest crimson, and, displayed by a perfect shape, will be one of the most admired. Isocrates, rose-colour with a salmon tint, is novel, approximating to the size and form of La Reine, from which this variety was also raised. Joseph Decaisne is a perfect flower, rather above the medium size, bright rose-colour; L'Enfant du Mont Carmel is still larger, with much of the old Provence colour and scent. Louise Peronny* partakes of the styles of Comte de Montalivet's incurved petals, and La Reine for size, and not being so full of petals, is not subject to paste† in wet seasons; its colour is brilliant rose, and it is a most beautiful acquisition. Madame Frenion is a pretty bright carmine, of compact habit, and a nice bouquet Rose. Souvenir de la Reine des Belges, being of the Prince Albert family, will be expected to be good, which it really is, with improved shape and brighter colour. William Griffith is a fine rosy-tinted lilac, petals of good substance, and a shape all that could be wished. Robert Burns (Paul), bright crimson, having a climbing habit, is a desirable addition to that very limited class, perpetual climbers. In La Seduisante we have a small carmine; which amateurs fond of neat, perfect flowers will appreciate. Pauline Bonaparte is a white of the same character. We have also added to the Dwarf Hybrid Perpetuals Comte Brobinsky, a dazzling carmine, more robust than Comte d'Eu; rather loose, but an improved acquisition. Charles Bosierre is of the same character, but not so brilliant.

In drawing this list of the new Hybrid Perpetuals to a close, while admitting the omission of several varieties, it is hoped the approaching season may be so much more favourable as to permit the absentees being more fairly described, which I hope to be enabled hereafter to accomplish, together with the particulars of many coming novelties.

I purpose completing the subject in the next Number with the new Bourbon, tea-scented, and summer Roses.

A novelty has also been introduced in the Damask Perpetuals. Celina Dubos, which may be termed a French white, is very interesting, having arisen from a sport. Our hope of varieties from this family (being bad seeders) is very remote; a white Rose, Du Roi, is not therefore less unexpected than welcome.

* Faithful illustrations of this Rose, Jeanne d'Arc, General Negrier, Caroline de Sansal, and General Cavaignac are given, with about thirty others, in Curtis's Beauties of the Rose.

† To those not aware of the import of this term, it may be explained as consequent on the outer petals decaying from excessive moisture, and adhering tightly round the half-blown bud, prevents its expanding.

Western Rose Nursery, Ealing. C. G. Wilkinson.
ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY.

The Schedule for the coming season has just been issued, and I am bound to admit that, for extent, variety, liberality, and arrangement, perhaps its equal was never before seen. To me this is a circumstance of the greatest delight; for I was foremost in the complaints of last and previous years, thoroughly condemning the ill-advised stubbornness and determined injustice so painfully apparent on the censors in general, and of Florists' flowers in particular. To such a pitch had this arrived, that at least an effort to check it was needed, otherwise the glories of the Park had set. The miscellaneous exhibitors were early in the field, and by a series of well-timed temperate meetings and discussions, resolved to offer a model schedule for the consideration of the Council; this, accompanied by positive yet respectful requests, met, as it fully deserved, not only the consideration, but, I may say, general adoption by the Management; and further, to meet the requirements as regards the chosen censors, the exhibitors themselves were directed to agree to two, the Society reserving to itself the right of confirming such recommendation, and of adding thereto a third; thus also was the subject treated relative to the judges of Florists' flowers. So far let us hope all will work well; evidently there is a desire on both sides that it should do so, and I do not fear the result. As regards regulations, they are to be strictly enforced, and not before circumstances needed it. One of the evils I will briefly refer to, viz. the crowd of lookers-on, idlers, trespassers, surrounding the collections during the short time allowed for the difficult duty of judging, why, a complete multitude seemed to have laid themselves out to overrun, or overhear, or threaten the censors from their duty.

Now men while judging must of necessity interchange opinions freely, nor can fair awards be arrived at other than by such means; and it needs that in a performance onerous at the best, all interruption be avoided and observation checked; for we may truly say the world is full of tattlers, and that the very walls have ears; and for a censor to be challenged at every turn for what he said and did when judging, in no way adds to the comfort and agreeableness that should obtain at floral exhibitions after the cares of the morning are past. A second regulation is to be enforced: in this exhibitors themselves are largely interested, viz. that notice of intention to exhibit is to secure, so far as practicable, a place for every thing and every thing in it.

Of the division of collections, that private growers and dealers exhibit independently of each other, being a means to the great end of general satisfaction, I have long since endeavoured to enforce; it is by the schedule now before me largely so restricted; and wisely too, I think, as well as regards miscellaneous collections, as it pertains to Florists' flowers both in pots and in a cut state. For 20 stove and greenhouse plants, to amateurs only, are offered, 20l., 15l., 10l., and 5l. For 16 ditto, to dealers only, 10l., 7l., 5l., 3l. Then, again, is
offered to amateurs only, for 12 stove and greenhouse plants, six prizes, viz. 10l., 7l., 5l., 3l., 2l., and 1l. 5s.; following which is a class for 6 stove and greenhouse plants: thus is there room and verge enough for all. Ericas are similarly divided, and so with greenhouse, Azaleas, and Orchids, the prizes varying from 20l. to 25s. In Florists' flowers we find less improvement; and we consider 11-inch pots to be a size too large for Cinerarias and Calceolarias; these, with Fuchsias, need a separate class for amateurs: the ill effects of shewing together I could amply exemplify. I am glad to perceive a continuation of the new flower-class for Pelargoniums; but I should hope dealers will abstain from shewing for those prizes legitimately belonging to their customers. Following the good example set by the Horticultural Society, Pansies are here invited in pots. There is evidently a sad want of floral knowledge as regards Pinks, Picotees, and Carnations—they are invited on days on which it is impossible to obtain them; and, as regards Pinks, omitted on the day. June 29, when they will most likely be in their greatest perfection. The prizes offered for Carnations and Picotees on the 29th June (!) might have been better bestowed on Tulips in May, and on Ranunculuses the last show-day, both subjects having numerous and liberal cultivators.

I have ever considered 100 distinct varieties of Roses to be monstrous. I would have dealers produce, say 50, and even that number is more than ample; and private growers, say 25—I would rather 24. The 12 single blooms is a class I have often and most perseveringly recommended, both in these pages and in my National Garden Almanack for 1853; and thanks to the liberality of our principal growers, we have issued a list of varieties eminently qualified for such a system of exhibition.

Seedlings, I regret to observe, are not generally invited; yet as there are other sources for their exhibition, and through the National Floricultural Society ample means and time for their close examination, there is but little cause to complain at their omission on these monstrous occasions. Nevertheless, requiring Seedling Pelargoniums blooming for the second season, combining brilliant scarlet flowers, with the habit, foliage, and character of the Florists' varieties, is maintaining a ground from which some day a goodly crop may be taken. The omission of Pelargoniums in 11-inch pots will, I think, even find favour from those who may have hitherto grown them, their only recommendation being size, and in this I have often observed plants in 8-inch pots of equal merit.

J. Edwards.
HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. These will require very close attention, both in regard to watering and covering on frosty nights; as they are now throwing up their trusses, more moisture will be necessary as the season advances. The truss may be carefully examined towards the end of the month, in order to remove any superfluous pips. Keep them open during fine weather, and give plenty of air on all other occasions, when frosty winds do not prevail.

Calceolarias. As they begin to grow they will require to be carefully examined, removing all dead foliage and keeping them clean of insects. Late seedlings will require their last shift.

Carnations and Picotees. It is usual to give these a good fumigating before they are removed from the pit they have been wintered in, in order to destroy any green-fly with which they may be infested. As potting should be proceeded with for blooming, if the weather will admit, when in the large pots it is a work of no slight labour to remove them to a pit or house for the purpose of giving them a good smoking. Aphides are generally brushed off after they are out of doors; but they remain clear of these pests a much longer time if planted out in a clean, healthy condition. The past month has been a capital time to get the soil frosted, and in a good state for potting. Commence with the strongest plants of the early kinds, or those that are beginning to grow. Put three plants into a 11-inch pot, or a pair into an 8-inch; potting them firm, and setting them in a sheltered situation for a time. If there are sufficient small hand-glasses at command for the purpose, place them over the plants during bad weather. For the choicer kinds, room might be found in the pit or frame they have been wintered in; the cold will not injure them if it is dry. Those remaining in small pots will require frequent looking over with the watering-pot.

Cinerarias. Mildew and green-fly are the two principal things for the Cineraria grower to guard against, and should be studiously kept under. Cleanliness and sulphur cure the former, the latter is best destroyed by fumigating. The forward plants will require a little liquid manure at intervals during the month. Late stock may be repotted into blooming-pots.

Dahlias. Strike plenty of cuttings the latter part of the month; these will make fine plants of the right age. Border-varieties may be started on a little bottom-heat, or on the floor of a vinery, in order that the root may be divided with a shoot to each division. Those that have plenty of room may sow their seed the end of the month.

Fuchsias. Continue the treatment recommended last month. The Fuchsia luxuriates in warmth and moisture, if the heat is not too great.

Hollyhock. The lights should be drawn quite off the plants, except in very bad weather, or the strongest will be liable to push up their blooming-spikes. Plant out as soon as the severity of the
weather appears to be past; for the sooner they get hold of the ground the better. Put in cuttings from old stools.

*Pelargoniums.* These will now require the greatest attention, for with the brighter weather they will make corresponding progress towards blooming. Attend to their training, using sticks in place of strings, and dispose the shoots to the best advantage for ultimate effect; if any dust has accumulated on the foliage, let it be cleansed by a copious shower from a syringe, or pot with a fine rose, and ascertain that the waterings reach the whole of the soil. It often occurs that they become so dry at this season, that the water does not penetrate to the bottom. Look if the bottom of the pot appears dry; if so, dip it in a bucket of water up to the rim for a few seconds. Where the pots are well filled with roots, and the lower leaves begin to turn yellow, use weak manure-water, as often as water is needed. Give the plants plenty of room, plenty of air, and all possible light; avoid any thing like forcing; but do not permit them to be checked by too low a temperature, which should not be below 45° at night, as a general rule for the month. Any small plants that require potting should be attended to.

*Pansies.* Tie the shoots into shape for exhibition as they lengthen, keep them open, and grow them hardy. Put in side-shoots for cuttings as they appear, plant out without delay beds for bloom, and also for stock any that may be remaining in small pots, or seedlings wintered in pots.

*Pinks.* As soon as the soil is dry on the surface after being stirred over, top dress with rich mould, if half manure so much the better.

*Polyanthuses.* Keep them open as much as possible, and before they expand, warm showers will benefit them and strengthen the bloom. They require plenty of moisture during this month, and should be looked over frequently with the watering-pot; weak liquid manure occasionally will assist them.

*Roses.* The tender kinds may be pruned and cut back this month. Give plenty of air in mild weather to the early plants in pots.

*Ranunculuses.* Should any be still out of the ground, plant immediately.

*Tulips.* These are now fairly above ground, and should be covered on frosty nights, also during hail or snow-storms, and during frosty winds; but otherwise keep them open as much as possible. Too close covering makes them weak and tender; grow them as hardy as possible, without running too much risk. The first stands the Florist will require will be for Pansies, in April and May, therefore see that they are in good order. A coat or two of paint and varnish will freshen them up, and will be found not to be thrown away when the exhibitions arrive. The shade of colour that shews these flowers to the greatest advantage is a pale yellow green, highly varnished.
HEATHS.

These are every body's favourites; and though "plentiful as blackberries," they are all in reality very dissimilar; although, when viewed en masse in our great Exhibition tents, a considerable degree of sameness would seem to pervade them. Be that as it may, however, a few well-selected varieties skillfully arranged in an amateur's greenhouse contribute an inexpressible charm to his collection; and therefore we have ventured to introduce one more candidate to the notice of our readers, in the shape of a delightful species, which we think all must admire. It is called Erica Burnettii, and is, we understand, a hybrid raised between Hiemalis and Hartnell's Heath. The colour of the flowers is similar to Elegantissima (one sent out last year, and figured in the Magazine of Botany); but it is quite distinct from that variety in habit, &c., this having small fine foliage and free growth. In general aspect it resembles Hiemalis, but it is more close and compact. The colour of the foliage is deeper green, and the shoots are stiffer. It has the great value of flowering very early in the autumn, commencing about September, and continuing to January. The culture that suits Hiemalis and Ventricosa will also answer for this. It will flower freely in 48-pots, all the side-shoots producing from three to five flowers in the style of Hiemalis. The colour is deep rose, with white tips; the surface of the tubes is glossy, and they are stouter than those of Hiemalis.

Our drawing of this fine variety was made from a plant in the collection of Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son, of the Wellington Nursery, St. John's Wood, by whom the entire stock, we believe, has been purchased.

As regards cultivation, Cape Heaths are not difficult to manage, although an old existing prejudice has decided them to be so. The treatment of some of the more delicate varieties may be a little peculiar, but it is by no means difficult; and after all that has been written and said on the subject, what does this peculiarity amount to? merely a little attention; and what plants in the greenhouse will thrive without it? But as regards the cultivation of the Erica, it is not necessary to keep many of the free-growing sorts in the greenhouse, as they will thrive admirably in a cool frame, and where there are only two or three houses, this is a very great consideration, as the plants can be cultivated in the frames, and when coming into blossom be removed to the greenhouse; afterwards they can be exchanged, and others brought forward to supply their...
place; so that with a few varieties well selected, this splendid tribe may be had in bloom all the year round.

The two leading features of successful Heath-growing mainly depend on attention to watering and a free circulation of air; indeed we are fully persuaded that, of plants potted in peat, more are lost and damaged annually from inattention to watering than all other causes put together. No plant of this character should be allowed to get too dry; for if such is the case, from the nature of the soil, it is extremely difficult to again wet the ball of earth; and although a copious supply of water may be given, and the purpose appear effected, it frequently happens that the water has not penetrated more than an inch; thus the plant stands, until perchance it gets more water; but the mischief is done, for it may have been standing six or twelve hours, and even more, literally dying; yet the plant, from its hardy nature, at the time evinces no outward or immediate signs of decay; but internally the work of devastation is going on. Who can wonder then at Ericas going off suddenly, as is frequently the case, especially towards the autumn?

To keep plants moist, a little water should never be given, but the plants be allowed to get moderately dry, and then sufficient administered to completely wet the whole; for if properly drained all superfluous moisture will be readily carried off.

Air cannot be too freely admitted to Heaths when the weather is at all favourable, and indeed to all similar plants; therefore, whether in the greenhouse or frame, it is a great desideratum to have a thorough and free ventilation, and the plant, in all instances, should be placed as near the glass as possible.

We have heard many remark, that Ericas must have a house, as they require heat; but such is obviously a mistake, as no tribe of plants can possibly suffer more from a dry artificial heat than Heaths. Although air is so very essential to their well-being, and it is advisable to remove the lights from frames and houses when practicable, and when the weather is mild and genial, still it would be extremely injudicious to fully expose them during the prevalence of dry easterly winds, or to the scorching rays in summer, at which season they should be shaded or protected from the midsummer sun, notwithstanding the foliage of the Heath tribe would sustain without injury the greatest degree of sun-heat we ever have in these latitudes; but it is the roots that we wish to protect by partial shading, for when the sun acts fully on the pots they become heated to a great degree; and as the roots of all
healthy Heaths, and similar plants, are in close contact with 
the pots, they are rapidly dried up, or heated beyond the 
degree they are capable of bearing; and in many instances 
this is the cause of the plants turning what is technically 
termed "rusty." It proceeds immediately from drought pro-
duced by the sun acting so strongly on the exposed pots when 
placed in the open air, as is a common practice with many of 
our greenhouse plants. This rusty and naked appearance is 
also caused by the plants being placed too closely together, 
thus preventing the free circulation of air, to which we have 
already alluded. A little attention to these and other points 
we have adverted to cannot fail to secure success in the art 
of Heath-culture.

ROSES.

NO. III.

The new Bourbon Roses are comparatively few; some of them are, 
however, first-rate additions to that family. Appoline is one of the 
prettiest, clear pink, a seedling from Pierre de St. Cyr, on which it 
is a most decided improvement, being more compact, better-formed, 
one of the freest late bloomers, and of robust habit; and as a bou-
quet flower it has the approbation of the most distingué marchand 
in London. Aurora du Guide is violet-tinted crimson, and a good 
dark flower. Duchesse de Thuringe is, for a small cupped Rose, a 
perfect model; its colour is light flesh, its habit dwarf, and it is quite 
a gem in the autumn. Furie is a very free-blooming bright crimson; 
but hardly distinct enough from some of a similar colour in this 
family. Louise Odier is a finely-formed strong-growing variety, a 
bright rose-colour, and an excellent addition to the pillar varieties. In 
Menoux we have one of the most brilliant recent additions; it is truly 
described as "glowing carmine," of dwarf habit, and strikingly beau-
tiful. Prince Albert (Paul) is a decided improvement in habit and 
increased size on Comice de Seine et Marne; in colour they are 
very similar, the Prince being somewhat more brilliant. Scipion 
is a crimson-tinted scarlet, very vivid pleasing colour. Vorace is, how-
ever, in my estimation, the gem of the dark novelties of this section; 
it is of the most beautiful shape, of large size, and a rich deep vel-
vety crimson, and may be described as a perfect flower; it has also a 
depth and substance of petal that induces me to believe that it will 
prove the first fine dark cupped show-flower (as a single) that has 
yet been introduced among the perpetuals.

The most recent additions to the Noisettes are, Caroline Mar-
nisse, a counterpart of Félicité Perpétue, now really a perpetual; 
Narcisse, a delicate pale yellow, not large, but beautifully formed; and 
Octavie, a novel bright red, of medium size, and an acquisition to 
this group.
To the Chinas no very desirable additions have been made lately that I am aware of; but to the tea-scented we have a few which may be said to be valuable. Madame Willermorz is a large fine variety, very distinct and beautiful, being white with a nankeen or pale buff centre; its form is of a deep cup, the petals stout, and for one of this family it appears quite hardy. Souvenir d’un Ami is one of the largest, much of the same shape, size, and quality; its colour is a clear pale flesh, and may be termed of robust habit. Madame de Sombreuil is a fine large blush with a yellowish tint, of the right form; but of its constitution I will not this season venture an opinion.

Having brought the list of perpetuals to a close, I proceed with such of the more recently introduced summer varieties as may yet be considered desirable to cultivate, although the perpetuals are fast superseding them.

A curious addition has been made to the Provence section in Narcisse de Salvandy (Van Houtte), being a bright crimson with a white margin; it is not very double, nor can its peculiar marking be always relied on, but as a picturesque Rose in a group it is unique; the new Striped Provence, white with pink stripes, has, however, the character of constancy, which makes it very desirable.

To that charming tribe the Mosses, we have recently added Nuits de Young, a rich velvety deep crimson, not very large or double, but the colour makes it attractive; and Jenny Lind, crimson, the buds of which are so thoroughly mossed as to obtain for it the flattering title of the Queen of the Mosses.

Added to the Hybrid Bourbons we have a fine flower in Paul Ricaut, vivid crimson, of good shape; one of the best adapted for exhibiting singly.

In Hybrid Chinas the most recent introductions are the four French Generals, Allard, Changarnier, Lamoricière, and Jacqueminot: the first is reddish rose-colour, of good shape, and a good pillar Rose; the second, a fine large deep crimson; the third, a bright pink, well formed; and the last, a dark red and a model in shape; the first and third frequently giving autumnal blooms, particularly if some of the longest shoots are reduced to half their length during the summer.

In drawing my attempt to give your readers some idea of the more recent novelties to a conclusion, some indulgence for its imperfections may be claimed from the unpremeditated manner in which it was commenced, consequent on none of the many more worthy chroniclers having proffered to portray the newly-presented beauties to the court of this Queen of Flowers. Should another season prove equally barren of a more capable but not more zealous champion for Flora’s prize, I hope to be enabled to give your readers a more perfect résumé, and sufficiently early to enable them to make such selections as their several tastes may dictate, with a more certain prospect of their not being disappointed by the too frequent reply of “our stock of the best novelties is quite exhausted.”

Western Rose Nursery, Ealing.  C. G. Wilkinson.
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

APPLES (continued from p. 61).

12. Alfriston.

Synonyms: Oldaker's new, Lord Gwydyr's Newtown Pippin, Baltimore (of some), Newtown Pippin (of many English gardens).

The Alfriston is one of our largest Apples in cultivation, frequently measuring five inches in diameter. It is of a roundish irregular figure, broadest at the base, and usually much swollen on one side. The outline is very uneven, having numerous protuberances on its surface. Eye pretty large, set in a deep wide uneven basin, and almost closed by the calyx. Colour yellowish green, intermixed with a rough russet; orange-russet next the sun. Flesh yellowish, coarse-grained, soft and juicy, with a pleasant brisk flavour. It is an excellent cooking Apple, and much esteemed for baking. In use from November to January.

The habit of the tree is too strong to admit of dwarf training; but it will bear well when planted as a standard in a situation where it can have plenty of head-room.

13. Cox's Pomona.

This large handsome Apple originated with Mr. Cox of Colnbrook Lawn, and from its exquisite beauty it truly merits its name. The fruit is somewhat angular in form, broadest at the base, and narrowing towards the crown, having five distinct ribs extending nearly from the crown to the base. Skin pale yellowish green on the shaded side,
marbled and streaked with red; but when fully exposed, the surface is nearly covered with crimson and beautifully polished. Eye open, sunk in a deep uneven plaited basin. Stalk three-fourths of an inch long, slender at the junction with the fruit; the other portion stout, and inserted in a very deep cavity. Flesh white, soft, and juicy, having a sweet agreeable flavour. It is a good autumn Apple for kitchen use, and its beautiful colour and fine appearance render it fit for the dessert.

The trees are of healthy habit, hardy, and excellent bearers.


Fruit about two and a half inches in diameter, oblate, and even in outline. Skin yellowish, dotted with small specks, and overspread a good deal with orange-russet. Eye small, set in a deep wide hollow. Calyx small, open. Stalk about half an inch long, rather slender, and inserted at times obliquely without much depression. Flesh greenish white, firm and crisp, with a rich sharp flavour. It is a very neat dessert Apple; in season from December to March.

The trees are of slender growth and dwarf spreading habit, hardy, and fruitful: a good sort for a small garden. It is one of the best of the late Mr. Knight's seedlings produced by artificial fertilisation.

15. Court of Wick.


Fruit rather small, roundish oblate in form, regular in outline. Eye large, open, and set in a broad shallow even depression. Calyx quite short, reflexed. Stalk half an inch long, slender, and inserted in a moderately deep even cavity, having no traces of plaits either at the eye or base. Skin yellow, with a deep orange cheek, intermixed with blotches and streaks of red; when fully exposed to the sun, at times slightly suffused with usset near the stalk. Flesh yellow
(growing deeper as it approaches maturity), firm, crisp, juicy, exceedingly rich and saccharine. In use from November to March.

This beautiful little dessert Apple was raised at Court of Wick, in Somersetshire. It ought to be in every garden where a dozen trees are grown.

_Frogmore._

J. Powell.

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**CULTURE OF THE PIMELEA.**

Many of the Pimeleas are very interesting and showy, and most of them are of easy culture. In a list which I have subjoined will be found all the kinds now in cultivation that are really worth growing in a select collection. There are also many more that are not therein named, and may be favourites of some; but I think every one who requires every plant they grow to perform its part, either at the exhibition or in their show-house, will find in my selection all that are worthy of that claim.

Suppose I were now about to purchase plants of the kinds I have enumerated, I should select nice, bushy, healthy plants, (not large,) as they will all thrive admirably under the same treatment. There will be no danger in going wrong by giving them all the first start together. About the latter end of March or beginning of April examine them minutely. Any that are found healthy and vigorous at their roots may be shifted into larger pots, while others if found weak and unhealthy, and the soil become soddened and unkind, the ball may be carefully reduced by taking away some portion of the earth, and placing them back again into the same-size pots they were taken from. The compost that will be found to suit them best is, three parts light fibrous peat, with one of light friable loam (not stiff, heavy loam). To this add a liberal supply of sharp sand and some rubbly pieces of charcoal, if that can be procured; if not, add a portion of clean potsherds, broken to the size of hazel-nuts. Mix this well together, and pot your plants in it, observing that your pots which are to receive them are well drained; and in potting bear in mind not to sink your plant deep, but keep the crown or collar (as it is generally called) rather elevated; and when finished potting be sure to leave your new soil quite solid by pressing it down firm as you proceed, as this is a very essential point; for it often happens that by leaving the new soil too light, the water finds its way through it, and leaves the old ball of earth a dry mass; the plant ultimately becomes sickly and often dies; but by pressing the new soil as closely down as the old ball, the water finds its way to the roots in a regular course.

When the plants have all received their shift, place them in a close pit, the same as I have recommended before, in company with the Boronias or Acrophyllum venosum, where they will soon begin to make rapid and vigorous growth, often syringing them overhead, and closing the pit early in the afternoon. When they begin to make rapid growth, top all the young wood; this will cause them to push forth more shoots, and with greater vigour.
As there are few plants with which I am acquainted that are more liable to the attacks of the red spider than the Pimelea, it is necessary to take some steps to prevent them injuring the plants: for this purpose I always found one pound of yellow sulphur put into a tub or vessel of any description, adding to it six gallons of clean soft water, and stirring all well together, a good remedy. As soon as you discover them attacking your plants, take some of the mixture, lay the plants down on their sides, and syringe them well with it. This will always be found to answer admirably in keeping this pest in check on any plant as well as the Pimelea, and no plant-grower who knew the value of it would ever be without it; and if there is a large number of plants to superintend, a greater quantity may be made by the same proportions, to supply any wants that may be required.

As the plants advance in growth keep them frequently topped, which will make them dwarf and bushy; and about the middle or end of July, if they have gone on satisfactorily, they will require another shift into larger pots, using the same compost as before, as it will be found the loam intermixed with the peat will add amazingly to the health and vigour of the plant, which requires something of more substance than peat. When the plants are well established after this time of shifting, they succeed much better by being placed out of doors, in a sheltered and partially shaded situation; but always attend to topping them. Follow this up until late in the season, especially such as Hendersonii, which in my estimation is by far the best of the family; and I would advise those who grow for exhibition to procure two or three plants of this variety. By attending to topping them you may easily prepare a plant, and keep them in high perfection for three months. If a plant is required to be in bloom in the early part of May, keep it constantly topped until the end of November. The next, to succeed it for June, keep topped until the end of December; and the next, to succeed that for July, top till the latter end of January; by following this up you may always depend upon their blooming fine at the time you require them. Spectabilis may also be treated precisely in the same way, where a succession is required; while Decussata must be dealt with rather differently, by discontinuing the topping at an earlier period, otherwise there is no certainty as to its blooming; to give satisfaction, I should not top this kind after the middle of August. Spectabilis is also an especial favourite, when grown healthy and clean. Many growers contend, that to have this kind in perfection, it must be grafted upon some other variety, generally making choice of Decussata as proper for that purpose. Upon this point I must beg to differ, as my opinion is, that Spectabilis is the freest and most robust grower, when properly treated, of all the family; and it would answer admirably for stocks to work some of the more delicate and slow-growing kinds upon. It is both free in rooting and growth; and when kept in a healthy state, none of the others are so full of sap. My ground for holding this opinion is, that I believe I was the first who brought this to any public exhibition. My plant was raised from imported seed, and of course it was upon its own bottom. The late Mr. Hunt of Hayes, Kent, procured a
plant the following season. This was also raised from imported seed, and I doubt not but there are plenty of exhibitors and others who remember seeing that splendid plant at our great metropolitan exhibitions for several successive years in the highest perfection. This plant I always considered the second best of the sort I ever saw, as I certainly must give Mrs. Lawrence of Ealing Park the credit for producing the very best plant; but this was some years after,—the specimen I am now alluding to had disappeared. In those days every exhibitor who was desirous of becoming the possessor of so fine a plant did not consider himself safe except he could procure a plant that had been grafted upon Decussata. At that time several of the principal nurserymen imported plants in great numbers from the continent. These were all grafted; but what was the result? After two years the greater part of them were dead; and most of them died apparently in the finest health, without the least warning, being fine and healthy in the morning and dead at night. This has established firmly upon my mind that grafting does not prolong its life, as I can bear witness to plants living and keeping longer in perfection on their own roots than those that had been grafted.

When the season arrives for housing greenhouse plants, place your Pimeleas in a light airy situation in your greenhouse, and water them moderately through the winter. In spring you may safely apply some stimulant to them in the shape of weak manure-water prepared from cow-dung, and diluted with clean water. When applied, this may be given them once every fortnight; it will add to their strength and vigour amazingly, and cause them to throw forth their blooms much stronger and of better colour. When the plants have finished blooming, cut them back nearly close to where they made their blooming wood the summer previous, and place them in their growing pit, treating them precisely the same way as already recommended. They will soon break freely all over, which will be the most successful time to give them another shift into larger pots.

The following are the finest kinds in cultivation, viz. Decussata, Hendersonii, Spectabilis, Rosea, Hispida, Macrocephala, Linifolia, Mirabilis, Neispergiana, Verschaffeltii.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell.

W. Barnes.

ON RAISING CARNATIONS FROM SEED.

BY AN AMATEUR.

New varieties of the Carnation and Picotee can only be obtained from seed; and as I happen to have leisure, without any decided inclination to laziness, the cultivation of these beautiful flowers has for several years formed a portion of my pursuit, and raising them from seed a favourite amusement. For the advantage of those of a similar taste, with perhaps less experience than myself, I will now narrate my practice.
For a beginner to be successful in this floriferous enterprise, it is indispensable to have a few plants each of the very best varieties of Bizarre, flakes, and Picotees; and for this purpose I select strong healthy plants of the finest colours, the most distinctly marked, and that are not overcrowded with petals. With these perfections the earliest blooms are exceedingly desirable; which having procured, I carefully plant them out, if the weather be mild, not later than the last week in March or the first in April, about a foot apart, upon a nice border prepared for the purpose, and in the most open part of my garden, that has a tolerable shelter on the west, though not too near them; and in case of any boisterous weather, I place two or three short twigs about them, or tie each plant carefully to one, to prevent them being injured or stunted in their growth by the wind beating them about; and in planting them I always take care to place each of the different classes together in the rows for the convenience of inoculation; or if a large roomy garden be the lot of the cultivator, I recommend that each class shall be placed a considerable distance from the others, say at least ten or fifteen yards, for the greater certainty to have the seed of each distinctly entire.

As they begin to push, I remove the small twigs, and place one of my painted sticks for the support of each plant, which I make secure by a band of soft matting. I examine them frequently to see that the bandages are not too tight, and that they will rise with the plants as they advance in their growth; for I have occasionally had one or two, when the bandage would not slip, bent, and the stems broken at a joint, by the force of their growth in one night, which has of course deprived me of one year's produce of seed. I look them over daily to see that all is going right, and take care to dislodge all the aphides (with a small brush of a score bristles tied together,) and other insects from among them till they are coming into full bloom, which I consider the most anxious time in their progression.

I then watch them hourly; for I have frequently observed numerous small insects, apparently of the beetle tribe, upon them, eating away the farina the very instant the anthers are opened; therefore I find it necessary to be as cautiously expeditious as possible in despatching my business of fertilisation, which is effected by carefully removing one or two stamens at a time with a very neat pair of slender pliers from one bloom; and lodging all the farina they contain lightly upon the styles of another bloom of the same class, but of another family: this is called 'crossing,' for the purpose of improvement. A very little will be effective, if properly applied.

I also extract all the stamens from the blooms intended for inoculation before the anthers burst, to prevent the possibility of mixture. The styles are those that rise from the seed-vessel, and appear like horns above the centre of each flower.

The stamens rise from among the petals like short threads, and at the top of each is a small pod containing the farina or fertilising powder, and these pods are called the anthers. The whole of these are generally existent in every bloom. In some seasons I have found
the troublesome little animals before named in such immense numbers as to make it necessary for me to provide small muslin caps to tie over each inoculated bloom after expelling them, to preserve the farina upon the styles till it has taken effect. I also find it necessary to cover the blooms in like manner containing the anthers not already burst, lest in a short absence in hot weather they may have opened, and on my return I find the farina eaten entirely away, and every anther as clean as an oyster-shell. I sometimes cut a bloom or two, with a few inches of the stem, and place it in a phial of water in a sunny window till the anthers are opened; and by this means preserve the whole of the farina, which, with care, I find sufficient to fertilise several of my favourite sorts.

If wet weather should occur at this time, I protect the blooms with a covering of glass or paper for a few days, that my object may not be defeated by having the farina washed away, in which case perfect seed can very seldom be produced; a wet season is, generally speaking, fatal to my purpose, unless the blooms are protected by an awning or glass covering. About the second warm day after inoculation, if it has taken effect, the petals invariably collapse and fade, much in the way of a Major Convolvulus. I then consider my intention completed. I like to commence the business of fertilisation as early as I can, in order to give the seed the fairest chance to ripen, which a wet and cold season often makes so difficult, and I find the leading blooms will generally produce the finest seed. The laterals I disbud early; and I exercise my utmost care to inoculate the different classes of my favourites unerringly correct; that is to say, Scarlet Bizarres with Scarlet Bizarres, Crimson with Crimson; the same also with the various colours of Flakes and Picotees; for by special carefulness in this matter, I can depend upon the class and colour of the flowers my seed will produce with as much certainty as the agriculturist can depend upon his different breeds of cattle and varieties of grain. When it happens that the anthers of a favourite are opened, and there is not another that I wish to cross with it in a proper state for fertilisation, that is, if the styles do not appear above the blooms and are slightly sticky, I fertilise it with its own farina, and am never disappointed in the produce of the seed.

When the seed-vessel appears ripe, and the seeds brown or approaching to black, I gather the pods with a few inches of branch, tie each sort together, and label them. I keep them in a cool dry room safely on a shelf, or in shallow boxes, or paper bags, till the time of sowing, which is about the third week in April, and sow them in earthen pans, with as much regularity as I can, and not too thickly. I also lightly riddle over them about a quarter of an inch of mould, which I keep moderately moist and under glass, to bring them all up together as nearly as possible. I then take off the glasses, if the weather is mild, and keep them free from weeds, and in a growing state, till the first showery weather in the early part of July, which I find the best time for planting where they are to remain for blooming; and I take particular care to keep
them as strong and healthy as I can, for if water be neglected in dry weather at this time, many of the weakest plants will not bloom the following summer. I plant them in beds of four rows each, about five or six inches apart, and about the same distance in the rows, with a roomy alley betwixt the beds, say 20 inches or 2 feet wide, to afford means of examining them when in bloom; and I dig or pull up all from among them that are not worth preservation, also to make room for layering my new and beautiful varieties; and I make it a strict rule never to preserve a new variety that has a single stain, however small, on any one petal; for I have always found that such will some time be quite sure to produce run flowers. I also consider it folly to preserve any that are too full of petals, commonly called 'bursters;' for having been strictly careful in my inoculation, I never feel doubtful, amongst four or five hundred, of having plenty of good ones to choose from. There are great differences in the constitution of plants, as to their fertility in producing seed; and I consider that those I should call good flowers, that produce a full pod of seed, are almost invaluable. Seedlings are generally speaking hardly as cabbage-plants; they do not require a winter protection, except from being broken by the wind.

I pursue the same system precisely with new varieties of Pinks; and I have no doubt it would produce the same effect with Tulips. I always sow a profusion of Nemophila and Mignonette; and with plenty of these in bloom, bees seldom visit my Carnations.

CANTUA BICOLOR.

This very pretty flowering hard-wooded shrub is of a neat and much-branching habit, and grows about two or three feet high; the branches are slender, very graceful, and hang down so as to cover the pot. From the end of each are two or three rather large pendulous flowers, which are of a bright rose-colour, with a yellowish orange tube. A plant of it is flowering here in one of the stoves; but it appears to be rather a shy bloomer, as only two or three flowers are expanded at one time.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.  

J. HOULSTON.

THE POOR MAN AND HIS GARDEN.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay:  
Princes and lords may flourish or may fade—  
A breath can make them as a breath has made—  
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,  
When once destroyed, can never be supplied."  

GOLDSMITH.

The social condition of the labouring classes is a subject which the calm and philosophic observer in every age has invested with a
very high significance. The question is one to which the minds of all thinking men are beginning to turn with an earnestness fully justified by its importance, and which the incessant tide of emigration now rolling from our shores will ere long endow with increasing gravity. The days are well nigh numbered when the interest of the employer in the employed will be considered to end with the termination of the allotted task. That interest should not cease at this point. It should be extended to the home and the hearth of the employed, there to be enshrined amidst his household gods; it should warn him in the time of temptation, encourage him in difficulty, comfort and support him in affliction; nor should it disdain to be with him even in his hour of amusement and relaxation.

The expediency, nay more, the necessity of increased sympathy between the different grades of society may be taken as an established fact, the object in view being to expand the faculties, to enlighten the understanding, and to improve the social condition of the poor. To this end the means are many and various, and fully worthy the serious consideration, severally, of the divine, the philosopher, the philanthropist, and the political economist. It would be foreign to the purpose of your Miscellany to discuss herein the more important phases of this interesting subject; but among its many bearings, there is one which, as it comes strictly within the scope of these pages, may fairly challenge a few brief comments. I allude to gardening in relation to the working classes.

I should premise that I reside in a rural and purely agricultural neighbourhood; that my avocations render me thoroughly conversant with the habits and dispositions of the farm-labourers, who comprise the whole of the poor of the district; and that it is to this class exclusively my observations refer.

It is a remarkable fact, and one to which I scarcely know an exception, that the state of the cottage-garden is a tolerably correct index to the internal condition of the tenement and its inhabitants. Whenever I find outside the door a neat and well-cropped garden, and more especially if I observe one cherished spot, radiant with the brightest of flowers (can any one tell me why cottage-flowers are always so very, very bright?), I am certain to find cleanliness, order, and comfort within. The cottager who takes a delight in his garden is essentially a domestic man. It is there, at home, surrounded by his family, he finds relaxation and amusement after the fatigues of the day. And when he seeks his humble couch (sweet and invigorating be his slumber!), will any one dare to affirm that the bosom of this wearied son of the soil does not glow with a feeling of honest pride, a sense of the dignity of the man within him, that the mightiest noble of the land might envy? I regret that so many of our cottages are without gardens. I fear there exists a prejudice in the minds of the large occupiers of land, which fixes too narrow a limit to the cottage-garden; and although this evil has been somewhat remedied of late years, there is still considerable room for improvement in this respect. I am at a loss to account for this prejudice, as it would be no diffi-
cult matter to prove that the good gardener is almost invariably a first-rate labourer. How, indeed, should it be otherwise?

The establishment of Horticultural Societies in various parts of the country, with liberal prizes to cottagers, has been productive of the greatest good; but these societies are, "like angels' visits, few and far between." I would multiply them; I would have one in every parish of considerable extent: smaller parishes might unite in twos and threes for the purpose. I would give prizes for every description of vegetable useful to the cottager; and one main feature of my society should be as many premiums, graduated in amount, for the best-managed cottage-garden, as the funds would allow. Would I exclude flowers? By no means. I would invite their production, by bidding highly for the best nosegay; but the word bouquet should not appear in my schedule: it seems sadly out of place in a "cottagers' prize list," though I have often seen it inserted there, for the purpose, I presume, of "astonishing the natives." But there is the pet Fuchsia or Geranium, which the good wife so assiduously cultivates as an ornament for her window. We must have that; and so, Mr. Secretary, put down "the best-blooming plant in a pot, 2s. 6d." I would have one exhibition in each year, and no more; but that should be a general holiday, and I would take especial care that the children should have their annual treat on that day, which should be in every respect worthy to be marked with a white stone in our calendar.

Worthy farmer, my very good friend, I am going to ask a favour of you. "Is it to give up Protection?" No, indeed! that were a preposterous request. Give up Protection? Never! It is a good word. You have faith in it; you love it; so do I. Therefore I say, Do not give up Protection. Cling to it, my dear sir; cherish it in your heart of hearts; only do endeavour to alter its object, just the least in the world. Believe me, protection to the producer will be the best security for the produce. Nay, nay, they are not radical notions; they are conservative in the highest sense of the word. But we will not discuss that matter at present. I want you to subscribe to our "Cottagers' Horticultural Society," and moreover to give your men half a day's holiday once in every year, on our day of exhibition. My Lord and Sir John and the Squire have promised to come down handsomely, provided the farmers will do their part; and our good vicar is in this, as in every other "labour of love," ready to aid us not only with his purse, but with his active co-operation. He has already consented to undertake the organisation of the society, with the assistance of a committee, of which he feels assured you will not refuse to be a member. Thank you, my dear sir, thank you; we may consider the affair established. Time alone can test its utility; to that ordeal we will hopefully submit it.

A. S. H.
FLORICULTURE PAST AND PRESENT.

As in your Number with which you commence the present year you request contributions from those who wish well to the success of the Florist, I, though only an amateur, needing information rather than qualified to impart it, send you a communication which may afford amusement to some of your readers as a variety. I ought, indeed, to be an experienced instructor, for my father was a devoted admirer and successful cultivator of "Florists' flowers;" and I am old enough to remember the first introduction of the Camellia, the Fuchsia, and the Blush China, or, as it was then called, the Linnaean Rose. The two last, which now adorn every cottage-garden, were then treated as greenhouse plants, and sold at half a guinea each; while the Camellia was not to be obtained under several guineas. Few, indeed, were the exotics which at that time adorned our gardens, brought over accidentally by the captains of vessels to please a friend or proprietor, as in the instance of the Camellia, named after Captain Camel, and the scarlet Lychnis, which adorns the button-hole of old Parkinson's portrait prefixed to his Paradisus Terrestris, still remained almost the only scarlet flower known.

But if the innumerable beauties, both hardy and tender, which now grace our gardens and greenhouses, were then for the most part unknown, Florists' flowers, as they are called, were cultivated with great ardour; and the numerous societies now establishing, and to whose transactions your Periodical is more especially devoted, are, in fact, only the revival of a spirit which prevailed (in the midland counties at least), with even greater fervour, in former times.

My father's fine collections of Auriculas, Hyacinths, Tulips, Anemones, Ranunculuses, Pinks, and Carnations, are among the most pleasing of my early recollections; and I well remember the delight with which I accompanied him on the fine spring mornings to draw up the canvass screen, which was let down at night before a stand of 500 pots of the choicest Auriculas, and enjoyed the delicious fragrance which they exhailed. The Florists' feasts of the town in which my father resided were an object of attraction to the neighbouring gentry, in a humble degree resembling that of the celebrated Chiswick exhibitions; and on one occasion a spirited landlord knocked down the end of his banqueting-room, and extended a canvass awning far into the public street for the greater accommodation of the company. My father had an assistant, who was very clever in managing Carnations, and particularly so in the art of "dressing" their flowers, which has lately been the subject of controversy in your pages; he was club-footed, deeply scarred with the small-pox, with a complexion which exposure and strong ale had dyed the colour of mahoganny, and was altogether as "grim" a subject as can well be imagined. With these special personal qualifications, he was generally required, after the social and convivial "feast" which followed the exhibition, to mount the table attired in the landlady's cap, gown, and petticoat, and sing a song in the character of Fair Flora. Such were the rural gaieties
of those days, which, perhaps from their being the days of my early youth, I cannot but fancy were days of lighter heart, and freer from the feverish agitations of politics and business, than those in which we now live.

Of the floral merits of the favourites of that time, as compared with the varieties most esteemed at present, I am not competent to give an opinion. I have never cultivated them myself to any extent, and can only remember the general admiration with which they inspired me. Though I have always inherited my father's love of flowers, I have had less opportunity of indulging it, for the increase of the town in which I have passed the greater part of my life has been very unfavourable to horticultural pursuits, and it is only in the last few years, since my removal into the country, that I have been able, in the evening of life, to indulge with much success in pursuits of which I have always been very fond.

My favourite plants are the Camellia, the Rhododendron, and the Azalea, both hardy and tender. These were not known, indeed they did not exist in any variety, in my father's time; for the endless and beautiful varieties now in cultivation have been created by horticultural skill since. I do not, of course, exclude other things; but the three genera I have mentioned are the principal objects of my attention and interest. I have about one hundred varieties of the Azalea Indica, and the same number of the hardy species, as also of the Camellia and Rhododendron, though of the last-named genus many of my plants of the most recently-raised novelties are yet but small.

My greenhouse is about 200 feet long, and not more than 10 feet wide. It is warmed by a common smoke flue, which is carried below the surface of the ground in a straight line from one end to the other, and the slabs which cover it form the walk, and the only floored part. On the side of the flue nearest the back wall is a border about five feet wide, in which are planted the trees and shrubs that cover the wall. On the other side of the flue, to the front, is a border about two feet wide, in which are planted the shrubs and climbers, which are trained along the rafters of the roof. About every third one of these has a handsome variety of Fuchsia planted against it, the pendent flowers of which, in this position, display the beautiful contrast between the corolla and sepals much better than in any other. I first observed the effect in one of the greenhouses at Chatsworth,—that princely seat of horticulture in all its branches, where the entire roof of one of the smaller greenhouses was at that time covered with these elegant shrubs. They have moreover the advantage of not obstructing the light in winter, for they are nearly destitute of leaves at that season, and will bear, nay require, the freest pruning. They are in their greatest beauty at the end of autumn, and fall very conveniently into my system of rendering the greenhouse most attractive for the six months of the year when the garden is least so.

When the fading leaves and falling rains announce that the reign of summer is at an end, I rejoice to see a prolongation of it in the canopy of Fuchsias which overspreads my greenhouse. Before these
have dropped their flowers, the Chrysanthemums come in, and are ranged in pots in a gay and gaudy line through the house, and removed when out of flower. When the time arrives for the general taking-in of the inhabitants of the greenhouse, which I always delay as long as severe frost or heavy and continued rain will permit, the back border is covered with rough slabs of wood placed a few inches apart, and on these are placed all the larger plants, till the whole is covered and concealed from the eye by a cheerful range of bright verdure, the smaller border on the other side having a neat painted trellis, and raised to a level with the glass on light iron supporters, and on this the smaller plants are placed.

The Camellias begin to flower at Christmas, and continue for a long time, interspersed with the early-flowering Rhododendrons, of which two or three specimens of Nobleanum and Cooper's elegans are now (January) in full flower. These, with Acacias and Epacris, keep up a gay appearance till the Azaleas (Indica) come out, at which time my greenhouse is in its chief splendour; and by the time they are over, the garden is in full vernal beauty, and the inmates of the greenhouse are left to complete and mature their growth till the time of their removal out of doors. I have given you these domestic details, as they may be called, not that there is any thing extraordinary or particularly instructive in them; but there is to me something pleasant in comparing fancies and pursuits, and I have a great deal to say in recommendation of mine, if you think it would amuse your readers to hear it.

Mediterraneus.

[All will be delighted, we are sure.—Ed.]

MR. M'GLASHAN'S TREE-LIFTER.

A trial of this ingenious contrivance, both on a large and small scale, was very successfully made in the garden of the Horticultural Society, a short time ago, in presence of H.R.H. Prince Albert, many gentlemen, and practical gardeners.

The object of the inventor of the apparatus (says the Gardener's Chronicle, from which the annexed woodcut is borrowed) was to lift plants from three to sixty feet high, without disturbing their roots, or throwing them out of the perpendicular, and to carry them when lifted to any other place, still retaining their earth and their original position. The principle of the contrivance will be understood from the accompanying figure of a small apparatus. Conceive the plant in this case to be surrounded by a stout rectangular iron frame a, which is placed upon the ground. Then let the spades b b b be pressed nearly perpendicularly into the soil within the iron frame. Next suppose an extension-rod, c c, to be so applied to the handles of the opposite spades as to drive them outwards by the leverage at c acting upon the fulcrum, a; the result will be that the ball of earth
enclosed between their blades will be converted from a cube into a wedge with the point downwards, by which means the earth becomes secured within the four spade-blades. After this a collar is fixed to the stem of the plant, and to the two opposite sides of the iron frame a, grasping the plant firmly, and preventing it slipping. The next point is to attach to the four corners of the iron frame as many hooks d, through which is passed a pair of handles, such as are used for a sedan-chair, e; and then the plant is ready to be lifted, which is done by two or more men raising the plant by its handles. Thus raised, it can be removed to any other place without disturbance, and a hole having been previously prepared, left there by unfastening the collar, withdrawing the spades, and uncoupling the iron frame.

The time consumed in this operation need not exceed ten minutes for an apparatus worked by four men.

In the case just described, the lift is taken by two or four men; but when large trees, with great balls of soil attached to their roots, have to be removed, then mechanical power is applied in the following manner:—The ball is first effectively secured something in the way of that represented above; after which a pair of strong timber trucks are backed up to the two ends of the frame, each having above its axle a powerful wooden upright; upon this is constructed a frame of timber, through which pass vertical screws attached to a powerful iron coupling, and working in collars secured to the platform. The screws are finally connected with the lower apparatus which secures the roots of the tree by chains passed through the couplings. The lift is taken by means of the screws which are worked by men standing upon the upper platform. When the mass is raised out of the ground, the trucks are chained together, and may be moved in any direction required.
This mode of lifting trees was acknowledged by Mr. Barron of Elvaston, and other good judges present, to be very ingenious; but as the plan has not yet come much into operation, of course its economy and general applicability have yet to be proved.

MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

There are but few gardens, whether public or private, that do not possess some varieties of the interesting and extensive genus Begonia. All the varieties are herbs of a succulent nature, and are remarkable for the great singularity and uniformity of their leaves, which are in most instances one-sided, resembling an ear. Some of them are very pretty, and many of them are exceedingly handsome, both in foliage as well as flower; and when well-cultivated they form a most important feature in hot-house decoration, during the latter part of the winter, and throughout the spring and summer. They are for the most part stove-plants of free growth, in a moderately warm temperature; they are easily propagated, and are not difficult to manage. To have them in perfection, they should be grown in a light compost composed of a little loam, good turfy peat, leaf-mould, and silver-sand, intermixed with potsherds broken to about the size of a nut, ensuring good drainage, which is particularly essential to this class of plants. Water should be given cautiously at all times to the roots; never allow them to become at all saturated, or they are liable to die off. Syringing overhead in autumn and winter is injurious to them, and it should be done but very sparingly during summer, except when their leaves can soon become dry: a few of them succeed well in a greenhouse.

As all the kinds of Begonia are not alike pretty, I have given a list of such as are at present growing at Kew, where they are mostly all in flower, and embrace nearly the whole that are known in cultivation; the few remaining are but of little importance, except B. pres-toniensis, which is a hybrid with large flowers of an orange-scarlet, rendering it an acquisition to any collection. Being of free growth, when kept in a clean healthy condition, they soon arrive at maturity; therefore it is obvious that a succession of young plants is necessary, as they always flower best, and are ready to replace the older ones as they dwindle away.

In constructing the annexed list, the letter d in the third column signifies decumbent, indicating that those species have decumbent creeping stems, consequently they are best adapted for cultivating in shallow pots or pans, as they require surface-room only. Those marked e have erect-growing stems, requiring chiefly head-room; and those marked t are tuberous-rooted, and their stems die down annually. The height is given in feet as corresponding with ordinary good culture; and the colour of the flower is added, which is a valuable auxiliary to those who wish to form a selection only.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.  

J. Houston.
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THE AURICULA.

The following is my method of cultivating the Auricula, which for years has obtained my greatest regard.

As it is of the utmost importance in the cultivation of this beautiful and delicate flower that it be provided with an appropriate and secure habitation, I will first describe the frames I use in its cultivation: these frames are built of inch and a quarter deal; they are five feet long and three feet six inches from back to front; the height of the back is three feet, and of the front one foot six inches, the front being formed of two nine-inch boards, the bottom one being a fixture, and the top one letting down on hinges. This plan admits of a free circulation of air in rainy weather without any injury to the bloom, which frequently happens when the sash is tilted.

The sash should extend over the frame a few inches in front, to carry off drippings to a distance; it is hung on hinges at the back, and when lifted up, supported by an upright fixed on each end of the frame, through which holes are bored, and pegs passed at any required distance; in the inside of the frame there is a stage of strong slabs, supported by bearers fixed on each side of the frame, at some distance from the bottom, on which my pots stand; this keeps them free from worms, and allows all superfluous moisture to drain from them after watering.

I would here state, that I prefer a shutter to each frame for keeping out frost, as it is not liable to be blown off by winds, or become rotten with snow and rain.

These frames, which I hope I have intelligibly described, answer the purpose very well; but the aim of the true amateur of this lovely flower should be a small house, constructed upon a principle suited to its nature, and which the amateur can enter to view and attend his favourites, securing at the same time himself and progeny from the frequent inconveniences of wind and rain.

The next point to be considered is the pot; and as this plant requires a good drainage, it should be of sufficient depth to allow for this; therefore I use for my strong-blooming plants that kind of pot in which Hyacinths are grown.

The soil which I have found the Auricula to thrive and colour well in is about one half old hotbed manure and one half sound fibrous loam, well turned over and frozen through before being used. I have found it much preferable to employ charcoal or wood-ashes in the compost instead of sand; they keep the soil open equally, and therefore sweet, and they also help to fertilise it.

Situation and aspect are likewise of great importance; for if these are not attended to, disappointment is sure to follow. East, or east by south, is best for them, placing the frames on bricks in a situation that is dry. August is the time I begin to repot my plants, putting in a good drainage of broken bones, which are preferable to
crock, serving, like the charcoal, the double purpose of drainage and nutrition.

After potting, they receive a good watering, shading them from the sun for a few days; at this time they will require a supply of soft water about once a day; but as the season declines it must be gradually decreased. They are top-dressed the beginning of February with the same kind of compost in which they are potted, increasing the supply of water, with occasionally a stimulant of liquid manure.

Give all the light and air you can in mild weather, and put on the shutters when it is frosty. The plants should never be watered over-head from the time you decrease the water in autumn until after the bloom is over, when they may have an occasional light shower.

While the plants are in bloom, select from your best varieties the most perfect pips for hybridisation, taking care that the blooms from which you take the pollen have favourite properties which the sorts to be fertilised have not. When the seed is ripe, it is best to sow it immediately, in pots of the same soil as you grow the plants in; fill them to within an inch of the top, press down even, and scatter the seed regularly; then put just sufficient soil on the top to cover it. After this is done, water as lightly as possible; cover with a hand-glass, and keep moderately moist; some of the seeds may make their appearance in a few weeks, and the rest will come up early and strong in the spring.

When the young plants have made three or four leaves, they should be planted out at once into pots about four inches in diameter, where they are to remain to bloom. In these comparatively large pots they are not so subject to drought, and are supported without stint until they have shewn the first bloom, which is very important; for I have no doubt many a gem has been cast away as worthless, that, under propitious treatment, would have become the pride and glory of its raiser.

*Kill Field, Coventry.*

*Samuel Cooke.*

[A good description and plan of an Auricula-box was given by Dr. Horner, in the volume for 1850, p. 11, which we have found to answer admirably; but we recommend that the board for giving air be hung on hinges instead of being made to slide, as represented.—Ed.]

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**NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

March 24.—Some Cinerarias, Hyacinths, Cyclamens, Epacris, and other plants of an interesting character, were contributed on this occasion. Mr. Ivery, of Peckham, sent a Cineraria named Frances Arabella, to which a label of commendation was awarded for its brilliancy of colour. It was vigorous in habit, with a large compact truss of purplish-crimson flowers, having light disks. Mr. Keynes
sent Cineraria Mrs. Edwards, a dwarf medium-size sort, not first-rate in form; it was awarded a certificate for its colour, which is "pale peachy lilac," with a grey disk. Some nice seedling Cyclamens were furnished by Mr. E. G. Henderson, and one of them was awarded a certificate for its size, form, and well-defined colours. Messrs. Frazer produced a Camellia, named Refulgens, which was highly commended for its colour, which is bright cherry. Mr. Wilmore's Epacris pallida had a certificate for its good shape, being considered to be an improvement on Hyacinthiflora. Messrs. Henderson contributed a small collection of Hyacinths, one or two of which were awarded labels of commendation.

**HINTS FOR THE MONTH.**

_Auriculas._ These, our charming spring flowers, are very backward this season. The height of the bloom will not be much before the end of the month. As regards the culture of this flower, we have nothing to add to Mr. Cooke's excellent instructions given above.

_Bedding Plants._ Cuttings of Verbenas, Petunias, Heliotropes, Ageratum, Salvias, Cupheas, &c., may still be put in; but the earlier in the month such work is brought to a close the better, so as to be enabled to get good strong plants by planting-out time; they may be potted off singly as soon as struck; a little heat would be advisable for a week or two after potting-off, to enable the roots to get hold of the fresh soil; they may then be gradually hardened off to stand in a cold frame until planting-out time. Scarlet Geraniums and Calceolarias may now be potted off singly from the store pots or boxes that they have been standing in all the winter; keep their tops pinched out, and give plenty of air after they are established, to prevent their being drawn.

_Calceolarias._ Plants not in their blooming-pots should receive their final shift. Fumigate for green-fly; this should be done with care, as the foliage is easily scorched.

_Carnations and Picotees._ The weather has been such that little progress has been made in potting for blooming; all expedition should now be used to get them into their blooming quarters, whether in pots or beds; secure any long plants as they are put out with short sticks. Many varieties are easily damaged by wind. Sow seed in pans in gentle heat.

_Cinerarias._ These are now becoming gay, and will require careful and rather copious watering. Shading with thin canvass during the day will prolong their beauty. Seedlings should be examined carefully, in order that the best may be saved for another trial.

_Dahlias._ Those who have pot-roots should start them in gentle heat; and as soon as eyes are prominent pot them into three-inch pots. Pot-off cuttings, and continue to propagate choice varieties.
Sow seed in a strong moist heat. The early-struck plants should be hardened off.

_Fuchsias_ must be kept growing, and should now receive their final repotting; like the _Pelargonium_, as long as they are kept growing you defer the time of blooming. As regards training, some like pyramidal plants, others like dwarf bushes; under proper treatment the _Fuchsia_ is elegant in either state, just as may suit the taste of the cultivator.

_Hollyhocks._ Plant out for early blooms as soon as the soil is in good condition. For succession, plants now striking planted out in May will bloom in September. Seedlings wintered in small pots may now also be planted into quarters. Those in pans or store-pots should be potted singly for a time before planting out.

_Pelargoniums._ Continue tying the branches as needed, and the trusses also as they approach blooming; the increase in the size of the plants will be very rapid this month; let them have ample room, as they are soon spoiled by crowding. Keep the foliage clean, and remove all yellow leaves. Just before the bloom begins to open fumigate two nights in succession, to destroy green-fly, whether any are seen or not, as this cannot be done whilst they are in bloom without destroying the open flowers. Water often with _weak_ clear manure-water, and give enough to moisten all the soil. As a general rule, no shading will be needed until they come into bloom; it may however happen that a _very_ bright sun after dull weather may render it as well to shade for an hour or two in the middle of the day, but not more; and it is best to do without if the foliage will bear the full sun. A slight dewing with the syringe on shutting up after a bright day will be serviceable.

_Pansies._ Cut away any small side-shoots, and put the same in for cuttings. Seedlings wintered in pans should be planted into beds for blooming.

_Pinks._ If not already top-dressed, do so without delay.

_Polyanthuses._ These will be just opening their flowers, and should be either shaded during the bright part of the day or removed to a shaded aspect.

_Tulips._ Stirring the soil carefully, and protecting them from frost, hail, or snow-storms, is all that is necessary this month; but this should be perseveringly attended to; mild showers will assist them. Keep them open as much as possible, as soon as they appear above ground; the bloom itself will not be earlier than an average season.
Orchis Longicornu.
ORCHIS LONGICORNUI.

Though certainly not a Florist's flower, we think our readers will not be displeased with us for furnishing them this month with a faithful representation of this delightful plant, more especially as we have given a coloured plate of a Dahlia in addition. Every one, whether Florist or not, must have admired the beautiful Orchises of our meadows. They are, indeed, as much associated with our boyhood's days as the Wild Pansy, the Primrose, or the Cowslip. Our hearts are imbued with a love of Orchises from early youth, and therefore we shall be the more ready to receive with favour this charming addition to our gardens. It is not a new plant, for we find that it was cultivated with success by the late Mr. Anderson, in the Botanic Garden, Chelsea, nearly forty years ago; but it has been lost sight of for many years, and we are certainly indebted to Mr. Barnes of the Camden Nursery, Camberwell, for re-introducing it, as it were, to public favour. It is said to be a native of the coast of Barbary, and probably of Sicily, where many other beautiful varieties are to be found.

As regards its cultivation, Mr. Barnes (at whose Nursery we had an opportunity of figuring the plant, and who has many fine young ones now on sale,) speaks as follows:

"In growing it, the grand secret is to pay it the greatest attention when in a dormant state; keep it then quite dry and cold; for it is one of the southern species and subjected to the hot rays of the sun at the time when it is in full growth, and it receives little or no moisture when at rest. My first bulb came from Algiers, and I treated it as follows: I broke a quantity of light fibrous peat up roughly, adding half the quantity of well-decomposed leaf-mould, and a fourth part of good sharp sand with a few clean and broken potsherds intermixed with it. Having my compost mixed in this manner, I then prepared some nice clean dry pots; the size entirely depends upon the taste of the cultivator; but what I have generally used are five-inch pots (or 48's) for single bulbs, or I put three bulbs into six-inch pots (or 32's), four bulbs into a seven-inch pot (or 24's), and five bulbs into an eight-inch pot (or 16's), always placing the largest bulb in the centre, in order that its strength might induce it to throw its spike of bloom above the others. Great care must be taken to drain the pots well by placing in the bottom about two inches in depth of broken potsherds and rough charcoal. Upon the top of that I place some of the most fibrous peat from the mixture, and then the soil, planting the bulb about an inch deep, and not pressing it down too hard, as it delights in a porous soil. When potted, I place them in a cold frame or pit, never allowing frost to
touch them, I keep them quite dry until they begin to shew symptoms of growth, when they receive a little water, and as vegetation advances, a more liberal supply is given. Abundance of air is admitted, but I never allow the lights to be off in rainy weather, as I have seen the plants severely injured by their hearts becoming filled with water. I always use the greatest caution in watering, never to allow it, if possible, to touch their foliage.

The proper time for potting is in September, and Orchis longicornu blooms from November until May. There is no plant with which I am acquainted that remains in bloom the length of time which this does. I have had one pot in perfection six months. I find that, by having several bulbs, some can be started so as to come into bloom earlier than others, while the rest may be kept in a dormant condition for another month. By thus potting them in succession, blooming plants may be had for a very long time. I have grown them from fifteen to twenty inches in height, with flower-spikes from six to nine inches in length, the lip of the blossoms being striped with lilac, and the upper part jet black, like most beautiful silk velvet. The contrast thus produced in the flowers is so striking, and the beautiful black so uncommon, that they form objects of the greatest beauty in the greenhouse or conservatory, vastly superior to all their associates."

A CHAPTER ON CAMELIAS.

The courteous reception you have given to my former communication induces me to send you another; although, as it will relate chiefly to my own recent experience, it may not, I fear, be equally amusing with the other.

My last was written in January, and we are now in April, after a more unremitting course of vernal severity than falls within my recollection. For though in our climate winter generally "long lingers on the verge of spring," and we are liable to visitations of sharp frost even in May, it is seldom indeed that, after having reached the month of February without the thermometer scarcely ever descending to the point of congelation, we have seen it exhibiting 10° to 15° of frost nearly every night for two months together.

This unusual and long-continued inclemency of the weather has required an unusual degree of artificial heat to resist it; so that what with the strong fires at night, and the powerful radiance of the sun in the day, the season within is, with me at least, as much in advance as it is in arrear of doors. The Daffodil is not yet out, and the Snowdrops are not yet over; but in the greenhouse the Camellias are nearly out of flower, and the Azaleas generally in such fine bloom, as to excite the surprise and admiration of all my friends who visit them. I see that the first Chiswick Exhibition, at which these beautiful plants are always a principal subject of attraction, is
fixed for the 14th of May: but I am always earlier, for whereas it
is an object with cultivators in the neighbourhood of London to
keep back their chief display till the fine weather is more confirmed,
and the full tide of metropolitan fashion is set in, I like to be at
liberty to go and look at it, and to enjoy a second time beauties that
with me have passed away.

The only Rhododendron that has yet flowered with me, besides
the two named in my last, is Caucasicum superbum, a stately pure
white variety, which I had from Mr. Cunningham of Liverpool, who
has lately sent out another fine and hardy white, under the name of
Cinnamomeum Cunningharni. Others are fast coming forwards;
among them the splendid R. Broughtonianum, one of the largest both
in flower and truss; and the graceful R. Gibsonianum is just open-
ing its lily-like fragrant blossoms. As far as can be judged of from
the seedlings, the fine variety found by Dr. Hooker in the Himalaya
mountains, and named by him R. Dalhousianum, will closely re-
semble R. Gibsonianum.

The elegant and odoriferous Acacia pubescens, with its bright
sulphur-yellow flowers, and Acacia linearis, with its golden ones, of
both which species my trees are now large, have also been great or-
naments during the month of February; and Wistaria sinensis has
been loaded from end to end with its luxuriant pendent branches,
filling the house with its delightful perfume. You see that I deal
with plants which are early, certain, and abundant in their flowering;
for my object is principally to shorten the winter, and improve our
natural spring, by securing a bright display for the four unsettled,
uncertain months which commence the year; and certainly the
luxury of an in-doors garden can never have been more thoroughly
felt than during the present cold and ungenial season. But it is
time to pass from this local, domestic report to something a little
more systematic.

I have said that the principal objects of cultivation with me are
the Camellia, Azalea, and Rhododendron. I will take them in the
order in which I have named them, being that in which they flower,
and begin with the Camellia. So many beautiful varieties of this, as
of almost every other favourite flower, have been raised by horticul-
tural art, that some classification of them as to colours, &c. is become
quite necessary; and I am glad to see that "descriptive catalogues" are
becoming general, and that in some of the best, the varieties
bearing the closest resemblance are arranged as "synonyms." I
will endeavour to give some account, in this way, of the varieties
that have bloomed with me since Christmas.

I. White.

1. Alba, old double white.
2. Candidissima.
3. Alba fimbriata.
4. Humei.
5. Low's Imbricata.
7. Alba imbricata.
8. Magnifica.
10. Delicatissima.
12. Rollissoni.
II. WHITE GROUNDS.


III. RED.

25. Daviesii. 34. Monarch.
27. Florida. 36. Imbricata rubra.

IV. PINK.

42. Reticulata. 52. Woodii.
44. Marchioness of Exeter. 54. Miniata (Low).
45. Chandleri elegans. 55. Exquisita ,
46. Lefevriana. 56. Henri Favre.
47. Landrethi. 57. Carswelliana.
49. Fordii.

V. SINGLE.

59. Tricolor. 60. Doncklaeri.

I have selected the above varieties, as being all, except two or three, well worth cultivating. Your readers who have collections of this beautiful family are probably well acquainted with most of them; but as it is pleasant, and sometimes useful, to “compare notes,” I will make a few remarks upon them. Notwithstanding the great variety of attractive novelties that are continually being added, the Old Double White still retains its supremacy, and there are probably few who, if they were compelled to be content with one sort only, would not fix on this as the object of their choice. Candidissima comes nearest to it, but differs from it in having smaller and smoother leaves, and in the petals being of a less opaque white. The flowers of Fimbriata are generally smaller than the Old White, and charm every body by the delicate serrature of their edges. Humei, though tinged with “the softest blush that nature knows,” may yet be considered as a white, and is remarkable for the acute regularity of its petals. Low’s Imbricata (No. 5) is a new and most elegant variety; the flower is thin and flat, but the petals are so perfectly rounded, so regularly distributed, and have such a delicate, transparent appearance, like fine shavings of pure ivory, that it cannot fail to become a general favourite. It is altogether different from its namesake “Alba imbricata,” and should have received another appellation. The last named (No. 7) is a fine, vigorous, free-blooming variety, but will
probably be superseded by No. 6, Sovereign, also raised by Mr. Low, which much resembles it, but surpasses it in roundness of petal, clearness of colour, and greater freedom from streaks of colour, to which both are liable. Magnifica owes its name to its fine large deep-green glossy foliage, which sets off its flowers to great advantage. They are very beautiful, but not regular in form; as is also the case with those of Delicatissima, which is one of the earliest flowering, opening its pure white blossoms, with me, at Christmas, when a bouquet is more than usually acceptable, and for which its habit peculiarly qualifies it, the shoots being thin, straight, and long between the joints: 11 and 12 are fine large flowers, with round Anemone-formed centres.

**Sect. II.**

Of the striped varieties, on white grounds, the first place must be assigned to Low's Jubilee, a fine, large, beautifully-formed flower, regularly and delicately streaked, and surpassing in size and symmetry of form all the striped varieties with which I am acquainted. Alexina, another of Mr. Low's raising, is nearly allied to Marguerite Gouillon, and the Duchess of Orleans, two beautiful foreign varieties. All these are finely-formed, and striped, but flatter, and not so rich and full as Jubilee, which, however, they excel in purity of colour. Colvilii, Picturata, and Wellsii, are three fine varieties, closely allied together, the last (Wellsii) being decidedly the finest in vigour of habit, and size and purity of colour in the flower. All partake of the peniform character, as more fully exhibited in the old Pomponne. Eclipse and Pulcherrima striata (Nos. 20 and 21), though handsome, are too much stained with colour to appear to advantage by the side of the others of this class.

**Sect. III.**

Mathotiana is said to be the finest of the reds; but my plant has not yet flowered, nor have I seen it elsewhere, so that I can express no opinion about it. The brightest in colour that I am acquainted with is Caroline (33). This is a true scarlet; all others that I know have more or less of crimson in their tint; the deepest of them is Althaeaflora, an old and very fine species, with an irregular Anemone centre, and a profuse bloomer. Of this form the Waratah is the most perfect example, and of striking beauty; but the singular mechanical effect of the hard brown calyx, in causing the flower to fall almost as soon as expanded, has almost excluded it from collections generally. Low's Centifolia, though differing in foliage from the old Speciosa, appears to have the same stinted and churlish habit; the flowers of both are very rich, bursting, as it were, with exuberance of petals. Caroline I have already referred to; the foliage is very large, deep-green, and glossy; the flower large, brilliant, and very shewy, but irregular in form, the centre petals confused, with the stamens appearing among them. Monarch (34) is another fine species, with rich foliage and flowers, resembling those of Chandleri, but larger and more expanded. Chandleri is well known, and very
fine, as is also Corallina; the colour of both these is splendid. (31) I never could understand why this variety was called Dahliaflora. It is of much the same colour with the two last named, but smaller, and has not the most remote resemblance to a Dahlia. Eximia is rich in colour, and finely imbricated; but with me is a very shy bloomer. Imbricata on the contrary is loaded with noble flowers, continuing long in beauty. Bruceana and Bealii are two most beautiful varieties, distinguished by the cupped form of their flowers, resembling a large expanding Rose; Bruceana is the deepest in colour. Palmer's Perfection is finely-formed, and veined; but the colour, a dull crimson, is deficient in brightness. With me it is often streaked with regular rays, in the way of Carswelliana (57), which, though of lighter colour, ought perhaps to have been placed under this section rather than

Sect. IV.

Queen Victoria (58) is another beautifully radiated variety. But of this pink section, the chief pride and ornament is Low's Miniata (54), which should have, in my opinion, borne the name of Exquisita rather than the other, though that also is very beautiful. But the term Miniata has the double disadvantage of being previously anticipated by an inferior variety, and of not accurately describing the colour. Minium means red lead, vermilion, and might with propriety have been employed to designate the hue of (33) Caroline. But that of Low's Miniata is a glowing pink, as beautiful as can be imagined.

"Such orient colour smiles through heaven,
When May's sweet mornings break."

In form this charming flower resembles Humei, but far more delicately arranged; and take it all in all, I hold it to be the most perfect Camellia extant; the figure in Paxton's Magazine bears no resemblance to it. Messrs. Low have indeed been fortunate in raising five such varieties as their Alba imbricata, Sovereign, Jubilee, Exquisita, and Miniata.

The fragrance which distinguishes Myrtifolia will always secure it a place in every collection, and, when well-grown, the flowers are finely-formed and beautifully shaded. 47, 48, 49, 52, are beautiful rose-colours of different shades, and of fine form when well expanded; but with me, flowering early in the season, the centre petals are apt to remain rolled up in a hard cone, and to fall off unopened. 46, Lefevriana, is more free in this respect. 45, Chandleri elegans, 44, Marchioness of Exeter, and 43, Invincible, are nearly as large in the diameter of the flower as Reticulata, and more double; they are all three very similar in the colour, size, and structure of the flower, and are very showy. 59 and 60, Sect. V., form beautiful contrasts to each other, the one a white, striped and spotted with different shades of crimson; the other, a rich red, spotted all over with clear white. Nothing can be more striking than a pair of these bloomed at the same time, and placed side by side.

I shall now conclude my remarks on the Camellia, which, con-
sidering their value, may probably be thought more than enough. But in the multitude of names which now fill the catalogues, some guide is assuredly desirable, and the testimony of a private amateur, however warped by fancy, may at any rate be presumed to be disinterested. As respects management, I grow them in pure loam, without peat, or any kind of compost, removing them after flowering to a higher temperature in the vinery, where they remain till the young wood is matured, and are then taken out of doors and left there as long as heavy cold rains keep off, the only attention paid to them being, to give them a regular but moderate supply of water, and to leave no more than one flower-bud on a shoot.

I would observe before concluding, that I have taken the names of the different sorts as sent me, and am not sure they are always correct. My next communication will be on the Azalea indica, of all plants the most varied and splendid in colour.

**FLORICULTURE AND OUR VILLAGE POOR.**

Neither in head nor heart will any of the readers of the *Florist* find fault with your correspondent A. S. H. If Floriculture is capable, as I think it is, of being made an auxiliary means of ameliorating the social and improving the mental condition of our village poor, how blameworthy must all true lovers of Floriculture be who do not help the good work forward with all their might! And with this view, I beg leave to offer one or two ideas that appear to suggest themselves on the subject.

And first, we must bear in mind, that as the foundation laid is firm, so will the superstructure be either permanent or temporary; hence we must take the broadest and soundest views in our power before we make any attempt to carry out our plans. We must base our *modus operandi* on something less capricious, however generous, than the liberality of “My Lord, Sir John, and the Squire.” We must have an independent principle to work upon, which shall be carried out by independent means, and so bear independent fruit, thereby establishing one great step in our scheme of improvement. In short, I would have the beginning and the end emanate and finish with the poor themselves. Not that I would exclude any help or kindness offered *in addition* by the magnates of a locality; neither would I lose sight of one of our greatest aims,—the raising the character of the labourer, and so diminishing that slavish rooted prejudice which separates our class from class. But who can hope to succeed in this, while the poor know far too well, and are in many ways made to feel far too keenly, that while they may bring their flowers to the show, My Lord, Sir John, and the Squire have condescended to bestow the prizes? But once succeed in eradicating the gnawing and debasing feeling of dependence, and you will replace it
with an elevated sense of their character; you will teach them that they *have* a status and position to maintain, and while the cringing prejudice to rank will disappear, a better feeling near akin to love will take its place.

Now supposing, only for the sake of argument, that all are agreed on this general view, one great objection will be raised, viz. How will you get over the expense? And this I am prepared to find urged as an insuperable barrier; yet, when fairly examined, it becomes a promoter of the very end we seek to gain; for if the improvement of the village poor be the object sought, the less money spent wastefully, in drink or otherwise, the more likely are we to arrive at the end desired. And put it thus: if, instead of a farm-labourer spending his money in superfluous "barley-water," he be induced to alter the channel, and dispose of it in adding beauty and comfort to his village home, who can deny but that, with the proceeds, his garden might be kept "a-growing all a-blowing" from one year's end to the other? Yet bear in mind, that the end is not achieved when the eye alone is pleased and gratified; his mind, his intellect, his whole moral being cannot but be improved by the sermons preached by those sweet silent floral lips. But to gain the real and full benefit of this, he must previously be taught to know how this and that is done; *why* the habit and nature of this or that particular flower require a different treatment from its fellow. If he be not taught this, he will be too apt to look upon success or failure as the result of chance, the most fatal of all doctrines for the poor to hold. And when taught this distinctive difference in flowers, may he not perhaps turn his thoughts in-doors, and apply the same principle to his children as to his plants, and while he metes out an equal amount of love, kindness, and attention to them all, yet learns to distinguish their several characteristics of disposition, and bring them up accordingly? And when, in after life, he reaps his reward, who shall deny the influence attributable to Floriculture and the little village-garden, with the happy home they helped to make?

But let us for a moment analyse the matter, to see how affairs will stand; and it must have been observed that instruction and expense form the subject-matter of the above remarks.

Now, in this case as in so many others, theory must precede and become auxiliary to practice; the instruction *must* be given as a means to the result; for unless an interest be excited, and the mind be brought to confirm the pleasure of the eye, the basis will be weak, and the ephemeral character which has hitherto marked the many well-intentioned efforts in this direction, will be again the cause of disappointment.

How, then, shall we sow this all-important seed? Who is there in a rural parish ready, in a kind, familiar way, to give this general knowledge to the poor? And *here*, let me remark, is the point where the Vicar, my Lord, Sir John, and the Squire, may work far more effectively, and with the assurance of arousing far more grateful feelings, than any mere amount of "so much money" can produce. The poor instinctively pay homage and respect to superiority of intellect;
they feel that it is a something beyond the general reach, and look upon its exercise on their behalf with a very different glance to that which is bestowed upon the money-gift. Now, is it so very difficult a matter in a parish to find a man who will give, one evening per week or fortnight during the summer months, some general instruction on Floriculture in the village schoolroom, or elsewhere, to a few of his brother-men? The vicar—and there are few who would refuse—perhaps might do it, and find therein a wondrous help to his more spiritual teaching; or the gardener of some neighbouring gentleman might be induced to undertake it, in the absence of My Lord, Sir John, or the Squire, neither of whom, if in earnest, and possessed of the requisite knowledge, should refuse the task. They would find an ample recompense in the estimation in which they would be held; and instead of detracting from their dignity, it would assuredly add to their respect.

Now let us glance at the expense part of the question.

Village labourers are no more ubiquitous than their fellows; and if once, as I have before suggested, a sufficiently strong interest be aroused to keep a man to his home and garden, and also with his presence gladden the floricultural lecture alluded to above, we may fairly presume that half the fight is won. For of a certainty, if he be thus engaged, instead of discussing the matérié of the "King's Head," or the inspiring qualities of the "Queen's Arms," he will be enabled, poor though at best he is, to subscribe on the average a half-penny, or even a penny a week, to form a sufficient fund to provide the prizes; for it is not the amount of money to be gained that should form the ground of emulation, but something far higher and more elevating. (In fact, I may observe, en passant, that I doubt the propriety of having money prizes at all: would not a flower of a superior sort, not likely to be attainable by the candidate for floricultural honours, or a selection of first-rate seeds, garden-tools, or a small frame, be much more appropriate and less objectionable? However, this by way of digression.) This money having been collected weekly, say from twelve to twenty, or as many more as could be got, of the village poor, and a committee formed, in which they should take a share, with, maybe, the clergyman, or a friendly surgeon, for the president, what is to prevent the carrying out of the independent principle I propose?

And here, again, will the fixed stars of the neighbourhood efficiently lend their aid? Let the hall-lawn be the point of meeting, and the hospitality of the Squire gladden the winners, and cheer on the losers to try again. Let the ladies of the several "families," too, join the happy throng, that, while adding to the other beauties of the scene, they may likewise spread the ennobling sentiment of sympathy in the minds and hearts of their poorer sisters. Let the vicar be there with his cheering words and approving smiles, but by no means to the exclusion of any who may "differ" in theology, but agree in striving to work out the true principles of charity, each in his own way. Let the little children be there too, that they may learn their early lessons in a school where love and harmony and goodwill to
all men shall predominate, and treasure up on memory’s tablets the good, nay holy works that simple flowers have wrought.

In conclusion, I wish it to be distinctly understood that these remarks are merely suggestive. I leave it to those far more capable than I am to enlarge, improve, and perfect. But the principle suggested I hold to be the true one; and if, in working it out, one gem shall be added to fair Flora’s crown, none will be more pleased and gratified than

Kingsland.  

J. St. Clement.

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**VERBENA TRELLIS.**

A trellis for the purpose of growing the Verbena upon ought to be so constructed that the health and vigour of the plant be in no wise impaired, that the bloom be shewn to the best advantage, and to combine also convenience for the tying or arrangement of the shoots.

To obtain the above ends, I have found the annexed circular trellis, flat on the surface (made of galvanised-iron wire), but raised four inches from the pot at the back and two inches in front, the most convenient.

A mushroom-shaped trellis has been recommended by many, made so as partly to hide the pot, but the constant attacks of mildew, from the want of proper circulation of air, the difficulty, I may say almost impossibility, of tying and arranging the shoots without damaging the foliage, made me directly abandon it; besides, the flower-stalks growing on the edge of the trellis farthest from the light (even if the pots be turned every day,) would become elongated, and thus not only weaken the trees and bloom, but be unable to support it, and thus the general appearance would be greatly deteriorated.

Having so lately as June 1852 given a treatise on my method of growing the Verbena on a trellis, and which I see no reason at present to wish to alter, I will not encroach further than to express a wish that the Verbena may soon be grown and exhibited at the principal shows on a trellis, having had some pains bestowed on its cultivation, and not left to take its chance there, as is too often the case by pretended cultivators in pots, and as it is made to do in the border, and that merely because it cannot help but be admired even under
the worst of treatment, and under the most disadvantageous circumstances.

A A—diameter 16 inches.
B B—places for wire-worker to fix leg D.
C C—ditto ditto E.
F F—distance between the circular wires to be three inches.
G —ditto ditto to the centre two inches.
H —place where the leg will rest on the edge of an 8-inch pot, and to be fastened by tying, either to wire or bast, round and under the rim of the pot.

Warwick House, Paddington. C. P. L.

A BRACE OF HINTS.

PERMIT me to offer one word of advice—in season—to the buyers, and another—somewhat out of season—to the sellers, of Dahlias.

Gentlemen purchasers, you are now looking forward with no little impatience to the day when you will receive your new varieties. Are you prepared to give them the reception they deserve, and to afford them such gentle treatment as their previous delicate nurture renders necessary? Doubtless you are; and so far any advice from me would be superfluous—not to say impertinent. Nevertheless I am desirous to warn the uninitiated among you against an error I once committed, and of which I repented, as usual, when too late. Thus it happened: I was over-covetous; and wanted to obtain two plants at the price of one. No sooner therefore had I obtained my supply from the nursery, than I set to work; deliberately cut off the head of each individual, and proceeded to strike the severed tops in
heat. By this operation I certainly doubled the number of my new plants, but at the same time I so weakened them in constitution, that they became incapable of producing either early or perfect blooms. If you try the scheme, you will obtain the same results in nine out of every ten instances. The reason is obvious.

Refer to the leading article of the Florist for February, and you will find that the distributors of Dahlias are in the habit of paying very large sums of money for seedling flowers of a high character. Bear in mind that the roots composing the "stock" of a seedling are limited in amount; and that from these roots an immense number of plants must be produced within a short time; since it is by the first year's sale alone the adventurous nurseryman can compensate himself for his outlay and trouble. Remuneration is, and ought to be, the main object he has in view; although a laudable desire to gratify the tastes of you and me may fairly be allowed some share in the transaction. It follows, then, that excessive propagation becomes, as it were, a necessary evil. You may lay it down as a rule, that before the plant comes into your possession, it will have been divided and sub-divided to its utmost limit of endurance. Any further attempt in that direction must inevitably be followed by disappointment.

To dealers I would say—Good sirs, you all differ from me concerning the signification of a word. I might, possibly, doubt my own interpretation: but I can produce an unimpeachable witness on my side. Dr. Johnson, stand forth! What is the meaning of the word "medium"? Answer—"mean or middle state." Good. Now, gentlemen, when you are about to prepare your catalogues for another year, I pray you remember the proof I have adduced, that medium is not quite the correct expletive whereby to designate the size of a flower more or less below the average. As most growers make a difference in the treatment of a small and middle-sized variety, your attention to this hint for the future may possibly be the means of preserving one or more of us from some small "trials of temper."

To buyer and seller I tender my best wishes for the ensuing season, with an earnest hope that the forthcoming novelties may prove a source, no less of gratification to the one, than of profit to the other.

A. S. H.

TULIPS.

There can be no question as to the limited interest which pertains to the cultivation of Tulips in the south, as compared with the warm, even energetic enthusiasm bestowed upon them throughout our midland and northern counties. Not only are we out-numbered, but thoroughly out-paced from the very outset. As seedling raisers, of late years the new flowers of the south have been truly few and far between; and where to point at the present time for an illustration of how to prosecute so praiseworthy an object as that of raising seedlings, I know not; while the far-famed Chellastons must for ages
place the Midlanders at the very head of the profession, and in judi-
cicious hands they would doubtless have benefited the fortunate
raiser to an extent little short of absolute independence.

My principal object at present, however, is to raise the spirit of
observation and comparison to the discomfort of that everlasting
seclusion, as reprehensible as distasteful to all liberal minds. I would
direct the attention of yourself, Mr. Proprietor, and other growers
if they will, to a simple step, which of itself is easy of attainment,
and will tend to the promotion of friendly discussions during the
coming year, viz. "a few morning calls," or friendly visits to the
growing beds of our neighbours and contemporaries, whenever op-
portunity should offer, for few will deny that an interest is attached
to a stock in its growing state, little short of that universally felt
when it is seen in flower. It dare not be denied that London growers
cannot vie with our country friends for the colour and vigour of the
foliage, nevertheless the extent of the difference is somewhat erro-
neously estimated, and in no case more so than on an occasion to
which further allusion is here unnecessary, when a gentleman said
that "I could never obtain such colour and growth in Islington as
has been represented to have been grown in Holloway." Such an
opinion, emanating from one so eminent in a knowledge of Tulips,
could but be taken as an indisputable circumstantial fact, "which
nobody could deny." I have no further motive in making reference
to the subject than to solicit a few calls at the present time from
those who may have gained an impression that "draughts of Slough
air" are being continually wafted to the scene of my floral triumphs:
not that I in any way presume to rival the unmatched and unmatch-
able Slough, Hampton, and Staines growth. I desire only a com-
parison between what is, and may at any time be seen at Holloway,
and those of my brother Islingtonians, Brixtonians, Claphamites,
Kenningtonians, and similarly circumstanced collections; and I would
further claim that you, Mr. Editor, and other unbiassed authorities,
seek by personal inspection, and report the actual state of our beds
around the metropolis.

I would observe, that by the time this will be seen in your peri-
odical, I shall have had an opportunity of running my eye through
some of the beds of Derby, Nottingham, Sheffield, and their neigh-
bourhoods; and by charging myself to the brim, hope to satisfy myself
as to appearances, by ocular comparison, of my own Devonshires,
Princes Royal, Royal Sovereigns, Bions, Heroines, &c., with those
of the Midlanders; and, by your permission, I may at some future
time report the result; remembering the motto, "nothing extenu-
ate, or set down aught in malice."

John Edwards.
ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE APHELEXIS.

This beautiful and justly much admired genus has for many years formed one of the greatest ornaments in the splendid collections of plants that have annually graced the tents of our great metropolitan exhibitions; a few practical hints, therefore, respecting its cultivation, which I have conducted successfully for many years, may not be uninteresting.

I will commence with its propagation, which is considered by many rather a difficult task, but having raised some hundreds of them by the following process, I venture to assert, that by strictly pursuing my plan, no one will be disappointed in the attempt. I would choose the month of June for the purpose: in selecting cuttings, make choice of good strong ripe wood, three or four inches long, if such can be obtained; and if there are three or four side-shoots to the cuttings all the better, as in that way nice dwarf bushy plants will be formed at once. In taking off cuttings, instead of removing them with a knife, break them out down to the joint, with a shoulder or heel to them, and just pruning off the loose bark with a knife, is all that is required. Prepare some 5-inch pots by well draining them, and filling them nearly full with light peat and sharp sand in equal proportion; on this place half-an-inch of clean sharp sand, press all down close, and place your cuttings round the edge of the pot, pressing them in tightly. When finished, select a shady place out of doors under a north wall for them. Take out a trench about nine inches deep; place in the bottom of it three inches of coal-ashes, for the purpose of keeping down worms, and on this plunge your pots to their rims, filling up between them with ashes. When this is done, put a sound hand-glass over them, pressing it down firmly on the ashes to exclude all air from entering. They may then be left three or four days, when they may receive a slight sprinkling of water. Put the glass carefully on them again, when there will be but little to attend to until they are rooted, except looking to them occasionally, in order to see that they do not get dry, or that damp does not accumulate.

In August they will be ready for potting, which should be done as soon as they are rooted, in order to get well-established, nice, bushy plants before winter. When potting, use the same compost as is recommended for the bottom of the cutting pots, and pot them into 3-inch pots. Set them in a close cold frame, and shade them from the hot sun. In a fortnight they will be sufficiently established to permit of the operation of topping being performed, which should be done to every shoot; this will ensure your getting them short and bushy, and a proper foundation will be laid for a fine specimen.

When the season arrives for placing them in their winter quarters, make choice of a nice dry airy shelf in the greenhouse for them, as close to the glass as can be obtained, where they may remain until the following April; they will then require shifting into larger pots, using the compost rather coarser and with less sand in it than before,
and mixing some small pieces of charcoal or broken potsherds with it, which prevent the soil from becoming soddened and unhealthy. Keep them either in a cold pit or frame, and see that they are constantly topped, which will be found to give them more strength and vigour; they will require another fresh potting about the middle of June, which should be their final one for that season. When properly established, after this time of shifting, begin to expose them to more sun and air, until they may eventually be placed out in the open ground, making choice of a partially shaded situation for them, free from all drip of trees, and where they may remain until housing time arrives, when they should be replaced in the greenhouse as before recommended, paying great attention not to give them an over supply of water during the winter. As spring advances attend to potting them as they may require it; and should the plants not be wanted to bloom in a small state, they may again be regularly topped as before directed. By following the practice I have just described, and attending to shifting them as they increase in growth, in two years you will be in possession of some nice bushy plants. Should this, however, be too long to wait, young plants may always be purchased at the principal nurseries, taking care to choose nice dwarf bushy ones in preference to those having long weak wood, and by following up the principle of potting and topping, you will ensure a specimen in much less time than you could from cuttings.

My object in giving the full particulars of the most successful mode of propagating them, is to shew that there is not that difficulty in the operation that many suppose there is. It may here be observed that as the plant advances in growth, the soil should be used in a coarser or rougher state, always employing sharp sand rather liberally with it, and increasing the size of the pieces of charcoal or potsherd, mixed with the compost, and when they receive their final shift, say into 15-inch pots, pieces as large as hens' eggs may be introduced, pressing them firmly into the soil as you pot. This will be found of the greatest possible advantage; it will promote in many ways the well-doing of the plant, as, for instance, in keeping the soil open and porous, kind and healthy, and in giving the roots full scope for extending themselves through the ball of earth, without coming in contact with soil that has become, by constant watering, soddened and unhealthy.

As the above mode of treatment may be applied to all the varieties of this genus, I will here add the names of those that are the best and most beautiful, viz. Macrantha purpurea, Macrantha rosea, Humilis, and Sesamoides.

*Camden Nursery, Camberwell.*

William Barnes.
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

APPLES (continued from p. 79).

16. Court Pendu Plat.

Synonyms: Court Pendu, Court Pendu Rose, Princesse Noble Zæte, Russian, Corianda Rose, Pomme de Berlin, Garnon's Apple, Wollaton Pippin, with several others, mostly French.

Fruit middle-sized, oblate, and remarkable for its irregular form and even outline. Skin dark red, intermixed with numerous brown russety specks, and flakes of russet near the base; but when fully exposed to the sun, the surface is nearly covered with dark crimson. Stalk not more than a quarter of an inch long, inserted in a wide moderately deep cavity. Eye open, set in a broad even basin, often divested of its segments, otherwise quite short and reflexed. Flesh yellowish white, firm, fine grained, juicy, and highly flavoured. It is one of the best winter and spring Apples used at the dessert.

The trees are of dwarf habit, and are very abundant bearers. A crop from this kind is perhaps more certain than all others, owing to the blossoms expanding very late in spring (even after most other sorts are in leaf); therefore they escape the spring frost.

17. Lucombe's Seedling.

The fruit is rather above the middle size, roundish, slightly angular. Eye quite small, seated without much depression, and closed by the calyx; the surrounding parts being much contracted. Skin pale greenish yellow, blotched and striped with bright red on one side; the whole surface sprinkled with dark brown and green specks, with flakes of dingy russet near the crown. Stalk short, stout, and set in a deep narrow cavity. Flesh white, with a tinge of green near the core; crisp and juicy, with an agreeable flavour. It is an excellent culinary Apple, in use from November to the beginning of March.
The tree is of strong habit, hardy and fruitful, and if planted as a standard, it forms a fine head. This useful Apple originated with Mr. Lucombe of the Exeter Nursery.

18. *Barcelona Pearmain.*


Fruit a little below the middle size, varying in shape from roundish to oval. Skin rough, of a bright red on the sunny side, fading to a yellowish brown on the other side, with numerous large russety dots strewed over its surface. Eye small, and set in a rather deep even basin. Calyx pointed and erect. Stalk three-fourths of an inch long, slender, and inserted in a small cavity. Flesh yellowish, quite firm, exceedingly rich, juicy, and highly flavoured. An excellent dessert Apple; in use from December till March. When the fruit is stored, it should occupy a cool place in the fruit-store, otherwise it is very liable to shrivel, and consequently to become tough, which is its only fault.

The trees are of low, spreading growth, perfectly hardy, and bear enormous crops; a sort well adapted for dwarf training.


Synonyms: Glory of York, Formosa Pippin, Traver’s.

This old favourite is too well known to need any description. It is, however, to be regretted that such an excellent variety will not thrive in all soils; indeed, in some localities, a healthy tree is rarely to be met with; and in others, where the soils and situations are congenial to its growth, trees may be seen in vigorous health and fruitfulness. Therefore in gardens, where the soil is light and dry, and the situation good, the Ribston Pippin may be successfully grown, otherwise it is not advisable to plant it. The same may be said of

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the Old Nonpareil, which is an old variety, but one of our best winter Apples, when in perfection.

_Frogmore._

J. Powell.

DAHLIA, SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

A number of correspondents having expressed a wish that we should figure this variety, it is given in the present Number as a second plate. It is a seedling from Mr. Palmer, an old salmon-coloured Dahlia, which possessed a high centre and was very constant, but the petals of which were too long and open. Sir John, on the contrary, has a beautiful petal, as will be seen from the drawing; it was the most constant Dahlia we had in our garden last season. It comes early into bloom, throws its flowers well out of the foliage on long footstalks, of medium size. It should be grown in good rich soil, and disbudded freely, but few of the shoots should be cut off the plant.

At present, all is excitement and bustle in the Dahlia trade; dealers are packing them off by the thousand, and they are as eagerly unpacked at their destination by the anxious cultivator, in order to ascertain what kind of plants he has received of his favourites.

We may here be allowed to state, that it is not necessary to have large plants, but short young growing ones; such a plant, whether received from the nursery or propagated by the private grower, will, if not received before the middle of the month, make a fine plant, by proper management, to turn out the 1st of June, which is the best time for planting. The proper treatment alluded to, is to re-pot them into a four-inch pot, and place them in a cold pit or frame near the glass, giving them plenty of air. If any part of the stock is stunted, place such into a brisk moist heat until they have made sufficient growth, when they may be hardened by degrees. By this management we get the month of May to prepare the ground, as well as to make fine plants. Cuttings put in the first week in May will flower very well in September. The Dahlia is capable of flowering all August as well as September. We have exhibited twenty-four fine blooms on the 4th of the former month; but if it is intended to exhibit early as well as late, there should be two plantings, one a fortnight before the other.

BEDDING-PLANTS.

Allow me to offer a selection of plants suited for this purpose. It is generally regretted that when Phœbus becomes dim in autumn Flora quits the scene, leaving our masses a barren of cheerless dirty spots; but this may in a great measure be remedied by judicious management in choosing early flowers; and who can deny the truth of one of Nature's children, who sings,

"No summer flowers are half so sweet as those of early spring?"
What feelings stir the soul as we behold the first sweet Daisy, the little star of the earth!

Crocuses, well arranged as to colour, as edgings, and Snowdrops in bunches, have a showy effect at that season, as have also our early Scillas, and even the Dog’s-tooth Violet. But unrivalled stands the Wallflower, half-joyously, half-plaintively described by one of Flora’s warm admirers as follows:

“The Wallflower, the Wallflower, how beautiful it blooms!
It gleams above the ruin’d tower like sunlight over tombs;
It sheds a halo of repose around the wrecks of time—
To beauty give the flaunting Rose—the Wallflower is sublime.

In the season of the Tulip-cup, when blossoms clothe the trees,
How sweet to lift the lattice up and scent thee on the breeze!
The butterfly is then abroad, the bee is on the wing,
And on the hawthorns all around the linnets sit and sing.

Sweet Wallflower, sweet Wallflower, thou conjurest up to me
Full many a soft and sunny hour of boyhood’s thoughtless glee;
When joy from out the Daisies grew in woodlands pastures green,
And summer skies were far more blue than since they e’er have been.

Now autumn’s pensive voice is heard amid the yellow bowers—
The robin is the regal bird, and thou the queen of flowers—
He sings on the laburnum-trees amid the twilight dim,
And Araby ne’er gave the breeze such scents as thou to him.

Rich is the Pink, the Lily gay, the Rose is summer’s guest—
Bland are thy charms when these decay, of flowers first, last, and best.
There may be gaudier on the bower, and statelier on the tree;
But Wallflower—loved Wallflower, thou art the flower for me.”

This with Honesty should be sown now in the reserve-garden, the first to be transplanted, about six inches apart; but the second does not do so well with this treatment, therefore it should be thin: thus managed, they will form nice bushy plants by autumn. Early cuttings of yellow Alyssum and white Candytuft will be also indispensable. For a blue bed nothing can surpass the lovely Scilla amena, a small bulb, which should be planted very early; autumn-sown Nemophila insignis, pricked in between them, keeps up a similar display, and allows the foliage to ripen, a very essential point in connexion with all bulbs. Collinsia bicolor, Pansy (Duke of Perth, Adela, and Malvern), double light and yellow Primulas, and Hyacinths of last year’s forcing, all form fine individual beds; and when well arranged are a source of pleasure little dreamt of, beginning with March and ending with May. Another advantage is, that these things give much time to get all the more hardy kinds of bedding stuff, as Calceolarias and Scarlet Geraniums, planted out in narrow trenches, similar to those used for Celery, to be protected in case of frost with boards, and giving pots and room for the more tender things to get fully established in due time.

And now for a selection to fill our little garden. From the long list of Verbenas, say forty, select ten, viz. Boule de Neige (white), Robinson’s Defiance (scarlet), Mrs. Mills (blue), Brilliant (cerise, bright yellow eye), Chauvière (crimson scarlet, black eye), Duchess
of Kent (white, rosy centre), Gloire de Paris (crimson, dark centre), Madame Legras (purple and white striped), Uranus (blue and white eye), and a dark crimson variety raised here some time ago; it has a small truss, dwarf, compact, and is an immense bloomer; it is well suited for beds near trees or shrubs, being the very opposite of Defiance in habit. I have no objection to new kinds; but before they are introduced to the flower-beds their adaptability should be proved in the kitchen-garden. Of Petunias I would have only two kinds; Shrubland Rose, being very compact and lively, a white under any name, as they are all coarse growers, and ought only to be used in mixed mass beds, with Salvia patens, Calceolaria amplexicaulis, and Tom Thumb Geranium.

Scarlet Geraniums may consist of either Tom Thumb, Dwarf Shrubland, or Trentham scarlet; these are all dwarf and good. For coarse growers and large trusses, flowering more abundantly towards autumn, take Compactum and Globe. Others may consist of Purple Nosegay, White Ivy-leaved, Pink Ivy-leaved, and Manglesii; the last is a beautiful variegated sort, the flowers are scanty and poor, but planted as an edging to a bed of scarlets, or mixed with an equal quantity of Robinson’s Defiance Verbena, the vivid scarlet of the one resting on the foliage of the other, produces a charming effect. Another excellent kind is a sport from the cup-leaved Scarlet, a very profuse bloomer of glowing crimson colour, green horse-shoe foliage, with coral-coloured stalks; we call it “Coral-stalked.” I have been thus minute with this as it originated here, and, I believe, is little known. It forms a beautiful distinct bed.

Calceolarias may consist of Kayii (yellow), Sulphurea elegans (yellow), amplexicaulis (pale lemon), flowering profusely towards autumn; superba (dark brown), of excellent habit; Shankleyana (yellow and red), or Kentish Hero, of similar colour. Sultan and Kentish Hero, I think, should be grown in pots, their flowers being large, and often being full of water, are apt to break down. Heliotropium corymbosum, Lantana Selowii, a very beautiful free-blooming shrubby plant, with rosy colour and white eye, are suitable for very small beds. Portulacca Thellusonii is a delightful annual for edgings or narrow strip beds; Lobelia procumbens, and Erinus occulata. Many other things might be added, but the foregoing, when arranged with good taste, will prove all that is desirable for the amateur to grow, being a selection rather than a collection.

Timothy Verbose.

Pelargoniums.

There has been no mention made of what are early-blooming varieties, or the reverse, since 1849 (Vol. II. p. 306), and from the number of varieties sent out since that time, some information under this head may be acceptable.

The sorts which are good in May, and not so fine later in the
season, are Basilisk, Rosamond, Chieftain, Colonel of the Buffs, and Pulchrum, four of which we expect to form a part of our lot for the first May exhibition.

Those we find good early, as well as in June, are Constance, Magnet, Magnificent, Gulielma, Rowena, Alonzo, Ariadne, Mochanna, Rachel, Pride of the Isles, Rosa, Eleanor, Shylock, Leonora, Prince Arthur, Queen of May, Galatea.

Another class, those that are in their finest condition and greatest beauty throughout June, are Enchantress, Purple Standard, Optimum, Leader, Lablache, Flying Dutchman, Loveliness, Lagoma, Portia, Alibi, Exactum, Elise, Novelty, Arethusa, Star, Electra, Emily, Ganemede, National, Ajax, and Astrea.

Many of the last division, Optimum and Alibi for instance, flower in good character in July as well as in June.

We now come to another class of flowers, which are better late than at any other time, and should not be grown for an early exhibition, viz. Cassandra, Belle of the Village, Rosalind, Cordelia, and Monteith. The latter will be good also in June. Constance is one of the few that can be bloomed in character the three months, May, June, and July. Rosamond, Magnet, and Basilisk are perhaps the earliest of any, and may be had good in April.

The plants grown for exhibition about London are exceedingly fine this season, and we hope, for the sake of those that have to get their plants in bloom for the early shows, that the weather will be more genial than it was last spring, when we experienced six weeks of cold easterly winds.

It is also a long time since we have had any discussion on the merits of existing varieties of the Pelargonium, either by lists, descriptions, or returns of winning flowers at our exhibitions. Knowing how well qualified many of the readers of the Florist are for this task, we hope they will come forward and give us the results of their experience; and we recommend their taking notes at the coming exhibitions for this purpose.

Another point worth referring to is, how far have we approached the excellent standard of what a Pelargonium should be, as laid down by Mr. Beck in the first volume (1848) of the Florist? Have we been progressing during the last four years? and if so, to what extent? We are of opinion there has been considerable progress: yet if asked which is the best Pelargonium out, we should hesitate in replying, and feel assured if the question were put to the six best growers, there would be some diversity of opinion.

Some would be looking for habit of plant and freeness of bloom; others for shape, purity, richness, and density of colour, with smoothness of edge and surface; some have a partiality for certain colours, and consider a flower deficient, whatever its other properties may be, if it is of a colour not so attractive and pleasing as their favourite. We shall not attempt to answer the question we have put, but have given a sketch of Leonora, from a drawing taken by Mr. Andrews, in June last, which we think, for a single flower, is not surpassed; Enchantress is the only variety that is equal to it. We freely admit,
however, that it has its faults; many of the petals have a tendency to curl or crumple; being so broad and round, it appears difficult for them to be flat in every instance; in other respects it is a good variety, possessing great substance. There is no flower in which some fault might not be found: the question is, Which possesses the least, or approaches nearest perfection? In addition to that of Leonora, we reproduce a good likeness of Refulgent, a flower now nearly out of cultivation, but which could, and did produce individual blooms equal, if not better, than any thing of its day; but being very uncertain and of bad habit, it has been discarded.

We want, as the late Superintendent of the Florist has often said, to see all the points of excellence combined in one flower, till then
we are short of perfection, although a great deal has been done towards it. Years since, it was despaired of that we should ever produce a Pelargonium with an outline equal to a good Pansy; in Leonora, it will be seen, there has been something done in that direction, and we believe that there is yet abundant capabilities in the Pelargonium for further improvement, both in colour and general excellence; and we confidently anticipate new beauties annually for some years to come.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. Continue to keep the plants in a cool situation after they have flowered. If placed on a good layer of coal-ashes, on a north border, so arranged as to admit of lights being put over them, in case of too much wet, they will make good growth, and keep healthy. Some prefer spring; others autumn potting; we adopt the latter. Cheetham’s "Lancashire Hero" is the finest variety we have flowered this season. Some particulars of the bloom, with list of varieties, &c., shall be given in our next.

Bedding-Plants. As these become crowded in pits and frames, many will be getting them out; but there is some risk of certain things being injured yet. See that the whole stock is clear of green-fly before planting, and harden all as much as possible. Commence with Verbenas and Calceolarias, leaving Heliotropes and Lantanas, &c., for a time.

Calceolarias. If for exhibition, give the plants plenty of room, and keep them clean. Tie the blooming shoots securely as they progress.

Carnations and Picotees. This is the latest season for potting these plants; we remember many having but recently completed this operation; setting the pots on strips of wood, watering, and keeping the long ones secured against rough weather, are all that is required this month, except keeping a vigilant eye after aphides, which must be encountered on their first appearance, and kept under.

Cinerarias will now generally be in the height of their beauty, which will be prolonged by a little shading. Select and set apart from the general stock a few of the finest and most distinct varieties, to seed from.

Dahlias. Repot, and harden plants preparatory to planting in the end of the month, or early in June.

Fuchsias. Many will now be in fine bloom, but if large plants and late flowers are required, the plants should receive another shift, removing the first buds that appear.

Hollyhocks. All will now be planted out for the general bloom; but a few spring-struck plants may be put out for September. Topdress the early plants with rotten manure, and keep them clear of slugs; stakes will be required in the end of the month for the most forward sorts. It is not generally known that tall stakes are not
needed, strong ones firmly placed in the ground, and the spike well secured, are all that is required. It is at the bottom the spike gives way if it gets loose.

*Pansies* in pots are in full flower, and beautiful objects they are, if in good health and vigorous. The frames containing these should now face the north, in a cool quiet spot, free from dust. The lights should be quite off on all favourable occasions. Put in cuttings, especially of any promising seedlings. Top-dress beds with rotten manure, mixed with a little loam.

*Pinks.* Thin out blooming shoots to two, three, or four, according to the known habit of the flower. Criterion should not be allowed to carry more than a few blooms, while such as Great Britain, Narboro' Buck, &c., must be disbudded but sparingly.

*Pelargoniums.* The May specimens are now getting very gay. The early plants, if not so good in quality as some we see in June, are always more interesting. The canvass will now be regularly used for shading the May house. Look over with the water-pot often on a drying, harsh day. Give June and July plants all the room that can be spared, to prevent their drawing, now they are growing so rapidly.

*Roses.* The increasing warmth of the month will cause the Rose-maggot (see p. 61, Vol. I.) to pursue its destructive operations; the earliest perceptible indications on buds where the leaves are not expanded, are a small quantity of dark snuff-like powder at the points of the shoots. Where this is perceived, a family of three or four are in the immediate neighbourhood, and must be perseveringly destroyed by pinching each bud, as if kept down in their young state much less injury will be done to the early bloom; a continuous search must, however, be followed. Assistance may, however, be looked for from some of the migratory birds, such as white-throats, willow wrens, &c., which be careful not to disturb. Green-fly will also commence their attack; a strong decoction of tobacco-water made with hot soap-suds (to be used when cold,) well syringed over them, followed by clean water, will have the effect of keeping them down. Newly planted trees should be mulched and watered, and if tall or tree Roses, a coat of moss tied round the stems, with matting or a neatly twisted hay-band kept moistened, will tend much to their success after removal, which is often very precarious. Disbudding is also a desirable operation to perform this month; all shoots having a tendency to grow in the centre of the head, or where too close, should be rubbed off; this will materially reduce the labour of pruning in the spring, which, to amateurs, is generally the most difficult process connected with Rose-culture.
Begonia Prestoniana
BEGONIA PRESTONIENSIS.

In the whole assemblage of stove vegetation, what have we to compare in point of usefulness or general display with the genus Begonia,—all of whose species, with very few exceptions, flower profusely, and their multitudes of delicate pink or scarlet blossoms come in at a time when flowers are a real acquisition, viz. during the dark dull months of winter and spring? But although all the species of Begonia are ornamental, as a matter of course some are more so than others, and therefore advantage has been taken by the skilful hybridist to cross certain sorts having many good qualities, but which have yet some bad ones, with other kinds, with a view to unite all the good properties of the two parents without any of their imperfections. That this practice has been carried on successfully during the past few years, the many fine hybrids which we now possess are a sufficient guarantee, and of these we think few will deny that the plant we now figure is one of the very finest. It was raised in the garden of E. L. Betts, Esq., of Preston Hall near Aylesford; and Mr. T. Frost, Mr. Betts' gardener, states, that it was obtained by crossing B. cinnabarina with B. nitida, the former being the female parent. It will be seen that it resembles Cinnabarina in foliage and flowers, but that it differs from both parents somewhat in habit, which is of a neat branching character. The flowers are brighter than those of Cinnabarina, and they are produced freely all along the branches in axillary trichotomous cymes, elevated on long red foot-stalks above the beautiful dark green obliquely-ovate acuminate foliage. The male flowers are four-petalled, the female ones varying from five to seven. Like its parent, B. cinnabarina, this Begonia luxuriates better in an intermediate house than in the stove, and it is exceedingly impatient of syringing or drip: this is, however, the case with all Begonias; they enjoy a humid atmosphere, but by no means wet them over the head. The drainage, too, is a very essential point, for no plants are sooner injured by stagnation than Begonias, especially the tuberous-rooted kinds, and it is found that the varieties raised from the tuberous-rooted kinds are equally delicate in constitution.

Mr. Frost states, that although he has raised many seedlings from B. nitida crossed with Cinnabarina, there has been no variety amongst them, they have always retained the character of Nitida; but he is of opinion that the cross is to be effected. It will be found that B. prestoniensis seeds freer
than any other kind, therefore there is a good opening for those who take an interest in hybridisation; it also flowers nine months in the year, and doubtless therefore a hybrid between this and Fuchsioiodes might be kept in blossom the whole year round; and should this desideratum be obtained, it would certainly be a step in the right direction; for what class of plants could then equal the Begonia, especially those with cinnabar-coloured flowers and dark-green glaucous foliage? With them the conservatory might be made gay in the dark months of winter. B. prestoniensis is a most desirable plant where cut flowers are in request, because the blossoms are carried on long peduncles, and there can be any quantity gathered without injuring the growth of the plant; and combined with its brilliancy of colour, it is said to have a scent almost equal to that of the Tea Rose. Messrs. Lucombe and Pince, in whose hands the stock is, speak in the highest terms of it.

The following compost has been found the most suitable for the growth of the Begonia:—one-sixth cow or horse-dung, turfy loam, peat in equal proportions, and a moderate proportion of sand, and say one-sixth of well-decomposed or charred moss.

The following Begonias ought to be in every good collection:—Albo-coccinea, cinnabarina, coccinea, fuchsioides, hydrocotylæfolia, hydrocotylæfolia manicata, Ingrami insignis, manicata, nitida, odorata, parvisflora, and prestoniensis.

The Tritomas are certainly neglected plants. They are seldom seen in gardens, except in botanical establishments; which is the more surprising, since they possess all the properties of a popular flower, namely, striking beauty both of habit and inflorescence, perfect facility of cultivation, and ready means of propagation. Let me recommend this highly-deserving family to the kind consideration of those who can take them by the hand and bring them favourably under public notice.

If any one is at a loss to form a notion of what a Tritoma is, let him imagine some very broad-leaved sedge, forming a spreading tuft with its recurved foliage, from the centre of which arises upright a flower-stem, bearing at the top a multitude of pendent blossoms, tube-shaped, shining like sealing-wax, and, when sufficiently exposed to air and light, of almost as intense a vermilion; these collected into a roundish or elongated head, and he will then have a tolerable picture of Tritomas in general.
Four or five kinds are known in cultivation. There is, first, Tritoma uvaria, a hardy perennial, producing a flower-scape about a foot and a half, or, when vigorous, two feet in height, and bearing its orange-red flower-tubes in the autumnal months. This has herbaceous pale-green channelled foliage, and produces abundance of suckers close around the stem, so that it rapidly forms a considerable mass. This, as well as all the rest, comes from the Cape of Good Hope.

Then there is T. Burchelli, which is no doubt half-hardy, but is generally kept in a greenhouse. This is larger and more rigid than the last, its leaves being stiff and rough-edged, and its flowering stem, which is produced in summer, growing two feet high at least. It does not increase readily by suckers, but perfects plenty of seeds.

T. Rooperi is another, recently introduced by Captain Rooper of the Royal Artillery, from Caffaria. It has much the aspect of T. Burchelli; but is larger, with the leaves much longer, less rigid in texture, and recurved towards the points, forming a graceful curve; and it is further distinguished, botanically, by its flowers having their anthers included within the tube, or scarcely exerted beyond it, and by the bracts at the apex of the spike forming a kind of crown or tuft above the developed flowers. It blossoms in winter and spring.

These are the best known Tritomas; but there are two other hardy sorts, as T. pumila and T. media, which somewhat resemble T. uvaria, but are smaller than it, and the first smaller than the second. They are also from the Cape; flowering in the latter part of summer and in the autumn with orange-coloured blossoms, pendent at the top of a stem, varying from nine to eighteen inches high.

As to their culture, which is very simple, they all thrive in rich sandy loam, and propagate readily either by seeds or suckers. Being rather fleshy at the root, and not capable of bearing excessive cold, they should be planted where the soil is tolerably drained and moderately sheltered in winter: they seem to like such situations as a sand-bank of rockwork in a snug warm nook, or near the foot of a wall; and under such circumstances grow very vigorously, producing fine, strong, richly-coloured flower-spires. T. Rooperi and T. Burchelli would probably succeed under similar treatment; but I am not aware if they have been grown fully exposed; the former is, however, certainly half-hardy. They are both worth growing well in a pot; and when this is attempted, the airiest situation in a cool greenhouse should be given to them. The colour of the flowers, which is orange-red of different shades in all, is much improved and heightened by their being developed under any other condition than that of close confinement.

T. M.
THE AZALEA INDICA.

Agreeably to my promise, I now offer you some remarks on the Azalea indica,—of all the inmates of the greenhouse the most luxuriant in their flowers, and the most varied and splendid in their colours. So profuse are they of their lovely blossoms, that the shrubs which produce them are for the most part rendered nearly invisible by them, while the endless gradations, and shades of every hue, which they exhibit, seem to defy the most skilful art to portray them. As I have done before with respect to the Camellia, I shall now put down some of the principal varieties, arranged under their colours, premising only that I take the names as I have received them. In other respects, your readers may rely on the correctness of the description, which is not always the case with those published in the catalogues; and of this inaccuracy there are two notable instances in the list sent you by Messrs. Ivery (July 1852, No. 19), wherein the varieties called Rubens and the Duke of Devonshire are described as crimsons, both being scarlets. In order to prevent misunderstanding on this point, it may be as well to define, by some clear and familiar illustration, the distinction between these two colours. By scarlet, then, I mean, the colour of old Parkinson's Lychnis, such as is seen in great brilliance in many varieties of the Verbena, in short, the colour of the ordinary military uniform. By crimson, I understand the colour seen in its deepest tint in the old Paeony and Double Daisy, shading off, through innumerable gradations, to delicate pink and rose-colours. Purple is a compound colour, dividing into two sections; viz. that in which blue predominates, and that which is tinged with a crimson hue, or, as we commonly say, blue-purples and red-purples. These definitions or illustrations of colour are what, I believe, are generally received; but they must be carefully adhered to if we mean to be correct. Persons who give their attention to the raising of hybrids, as most cultivators now do in a greater or less degree, are apt, when any particular colour is a desideratum, to give its name to any variety at all approaching it. But though this may be excusable from the natural wish to draw public attention and interest to a novelty, it has occasioned a good deal of misplaced nomenclature.

It is, indeed, curious to observe how determinedly certain families of plants seem to resist the introduction of certain colours or shades among them. The Camellia, though abounding in brilliant reds, does not display a true scarlet, except in the solitary instance of the Caroline mentioned in my last. In the Azalea, on the contrary, both hardy and tender scarlets abound; while, with the exception of Azalea sinensis, closely allied to Pontica, neither blue nor yellow are to be met with, either in the Camellia or Azalea indica. Mr. Smith of Norbiton told me he had tried every device he could think of to obtain a yellow Azalea indica without success. When once science and persevering investigation shall have discovered the secret of the causes of colour in flowers, what a boundless and
inviting field will be opened to horticulturists! At present all our varieties may be said to be owing to hybridisation alone; the well-known change of the flower of the Hydrangea hortensis, from pink to blue, being almost the only one effected by any thing like chemical principles. But it is time to return from these speculations as to what may be done in future, to what has already been done, and try to classify the almost endless varieties of the Chinese Azalea.

I. Whites.

1. Alba (the old white).
2. Candida.
3. Fielderi.
4. Phœnicca alba.
5. Tubiflora.
7. Gledsiesanesi.
8. Alba striata.
9. Multiflora striata.

II. White Grounds.

15. Variegata.
16. Exquisita.
17. Criterion.
18. Admiration.
19. Vittata.

III. Purples.

20. Obscure (s).
21. Magniflora purpurea (s).
22. Conspicua purpurea.
23. Fastuosa.
25. Jenkinsoni superba (s).
26. Purpurea major (s).
27. Magnifica plena.
28. Pulchella (s).

IV. Reds.

29. Exsesta (s).
30. Tinctoria (s).
31. Prince Albert.
32. Apollo.
33. Optima.
34. Refulgens.
35. Magniflora.
36. ° elegans (s).
37. Cruenta.
38. ° elegans (s).
39. Rubens (s).
40. Coccinea major (s).
41. Corallina.
42. Rubra elegans (s).
43. Duke of Devonshire.
44. Perryana.
45. Osbornii.
46. Rubella suprema (s).
47. Perfleta elegans (s).
48. Aurantea lucida (s).
49. Cavendishiana.
50. Eximia superba (s).
51. Double Scarlet.

V. Crimson and Pink.

52. Woolleri.
53. Glory of Ghent.
54. Russelianana.
55. Lawrenceana.
56. Rugosa (s).
57. Pudica (s).
58. Rosy Circle (s).
59. Brewia (s).
60. Rosea punctata.
61. Tenella (s).
62. Nitida (s).
63. Trotteriana (s).
64. Reine des Belges.
65. Frosti.
66. Pallida.
67. Splendens.
68. Modesta.
69. Edmondsii.
70. Semiduplex maculata (s).
71. Glory of Sunning Hill.
72. Bicolor (s).
73. Blanda (s).
74. Carnosa elegans (s).
VI. Salmon and Flesh, &c.

75. Broughtoniana (s). | 79. Audibute.
76. Praestantissima. | 80. Carnea elegans.
77. Picturata. | 81. Venusta.
78. Picta.

The above varieties, with others of inferior merit, are most of them flowering beautifully with me at this present time (April 25). Some have passed away, others are not yet fully out. I feel that I have but imperfectly succeeded in my endeavour to classify them, as the colours sometimes approach closely together. Thus Nos. 25 and 49 may be termed either a red-purple or a deep crimson, without being in either case far from the truth. My attempt, however, may perhaps be of some use, and I will endeavour to render it more so by a few remarks.

No. 1, the old White, will, I believe, always retain its place in our collections from its abundant flowering, transparent purity, and grateful odour. My plants of this are of very large size. One is six feet high, and probably more than thirty feet round, and I have four others not much smaller. Notwithstanding the brilliant novelties which surround them, they are, I think, more admired by my visitors than any other separate species, on account of the immense profusion of their snowy blossoms, covering them like a vast swarm of butterflies, and the delicate fragrance arising from them. Candida (2) is of the same habit, with rounder flowers of a more opaque white. Fielderi is of a more arborescent habit, the flowers streaked with green; very beautiful. No. 4 is absurdly named, the term Phenicea having been appropriately given to the purple variety of that name from its supposed resemblance to the Tyrian dye, but as applied to a white variety is a contradiction. I suppose it was so called on account of its habit of growth being different from the old white; its flower is of a clear opaque white, and very handsome. The next in order, Tubiflora, is a splendid thing, so closely resembling Rhododendron Gibsoni, that it is frequently supposed, by my visitors, to be a young plant of it. Nothing can exceed the beauty of its blossoms, as large and pure as those of the white Lily. No. 6 has less claim to the name than the former; its flowers are smaller, but more regular in shape, like a large variety of Gledstanesi; very handsome. Nos. 8 and 9 are very nearly alike, pretty, rather tubular, round flowers, streaked here and there with pink. They are of similar habit with Bianca, which was much talked of a year or two ago, and is very pretty, as is also 10, Beauty of Reigate, raised by Messrs. Ivery, who have given their name to No. 14,—of all the white varieties, with expanded blossoms, by far the most beautiful. The plant is of close, compact growth, and the size of its pure white blossoms quite astonishing; and when striped, as they often are, with bright streaks of crimson, they are, if possible, still more attractive. 12, Barclayana, also raised by Messrs. Ivery, has flowers as large as 14, but destitute of the porcelain lustre of that variety; the upper petal is slightly marked with green, as in No. 3, and it is of similar habit of growth. 13, Magnifica verschaffelti, flower large, slightly streaked with green
on the upper petal, too much undulated to be of good shape, foliage
and habit of growth good.

**Sect. II. White Grounds.**

Variegata and Exquisita are well known, distinct, and most
beautiful varieties, which will find place in every collection where
Azaleas are cultivated; both thrive best when grafted on stocks of a
more vigorous habit. No. 17 and the two following I have not yet
seen in flower, and place them in this section from the figures and
account given in the Florist. They will be valuable additions to this
division, at present very limited in number.

**Sect. III. Purples.**

In this section Nos. 20 to 24 have more blue in the tint than the
four following, in which the tendency is to a redder shade. 20 and
21 are very nearly alike, both in habit and flower; both are very
large, and very finely marked. 22 is perhaps the largest in flower of
any variety extant. I have just been measuring one of its blossoms,
and find it full four inches across, which gives a foot for the circum-
erference. The flowers of Prince Albert (No. 31) are equal to it in
diameter, but are more deeply divided, more star-like; while those of
Conspicua are well filled up, presenting a round disk slightly indented
and undulated; but it does not produce these fine flowers in the
luxuriant profusion common to most of the varieties of this beautiful
family; there is seldom more than one at the extremity of the shoots,
and from the viscous tenacity of the envelope, they seem unable to
burst it, and perish immaturely amidst the young shoots which spring
around them; they also shrivel early at the edges before the rest of the
blossom shews symptoms of decline; but their great size and beauti-
ful marking render them worthy of a place in every collection. 23,
a blue-lilac variety, similar in hue to the Rhododendron bearing the
same name. 24, this is very tall growing, and one of the finest of
its colour; the flowers deeply divided, but very large and abundant.
25, habit dense and shrubby, flowers abundant, and of a redder lilac
than the two preceding. 26, very like 21 in flower, but of a redder
tint. 27, one of the most beautiful of the double varieties, flowers
large, profuse, of a rich crimson-purple, and bright lively foliage.
28, splendid large lilac.

**Sect. IV. Reds.**

I have adopted the term *red* as being the most comprehensive;
but, as I have observed, the prevailing tendency in the Azalea is to
the scarlet hue. No. 29, Exserta, is one of the exceptions to this
remark, being of a deep maroon or mahogany colour. The flower is
large, undulated, and though not so lively in hue as the generality, is
well worth cultivation as a distinct and striking variety. 30, Tinc-
toria, is much lighter in colour, with a dash of crimson in the tint, a
fine, round, well-opened flower. 31 is the largest and richest *red* of
any. I have made some remarks on this before. 32 and 33 are
very nearly alike, and very fine; the former is darker in colour, and
more pointed in the petal. 34, as its name imports, is a fine refulgent scarlet; but the flower is in general too wavy and irregular in form. The same, or nearly so, may be said of 35 and 36, which are very handsome, but more deeply divided in the petals than Optima and more recent varieties. Cruenta elegans (38) is very distinct from 37; both are beautiful, but 38 is with me a dense bushy plant, covering itself with flowers, and lasting long in bloom; 37 is much taller in growth. 39 is also of a low and bushy habit, fine scarlet, not crimson, as said in the list given p. 137 of your last year's volume. 40 is most rich and brilliant in colour, and good shape; but in this last respect—shape—the varieties which follow, 41 to 47, are pre-eminent. Rubra elegans, 42, is a charming flower, perfectly round, elegantly crisped and undulated at the edge, and of as rich an orange-scarlet as can be desired. 43 and 46 are very similar in habit, as is also 47. All these three are of low bushy growth, with very large well-rounded flowers of a fine light orange-scarlet. 44 and 45 are both very beautiful; the latter has no marking, but is very round, and of a soft orange-scarlet. 48 is not so flat and widely expanded as the seven last referred to, but is beautifully marked, of a bright orange-scarlet, and with me flowers very early. 49 sometimes forms its flowers in heads or trusses, like those of the Rhododendron, which are very handsome and remarkable; but the flowers, taken singly, are not distinguished either for size or brightness of colour. 50 is a very beautiful variety, dense in its habit of growth, the flowers small compared with many others, and rather tubular, but well rounded, finely spotted, and continuing long in bloom; colour a deepish crimson-red. 51, Double Scarlet, is, I believe, the only perfectly double variety. The flowers are small, of a light brick-red colour, and produced in wonderful profusion. It is of a very tall upright habit. One of my plants, though the top has been cut off, is still twelve feet high.

Sect. V.

I have endeavoured to place the varieties of this section with some reference to their gradations of colour, No. 52 being the darkest. 53 is next in shade, large, well-shaped, with fine black spotting. 54 has, I think, attracted more universal admiration than any one other of this class, from the refulgence of its rich deep crimson flowers, though it is difficult to assign a positive superiority where nearly all are so beautiful. 56 is almost equally splendid in colour, though of a different and rather lighter shade. 58 and 59 are very much alike, the first being the deepest in tint, fine, large, widely expanded, well rounded flowers, beautifully marked. 60, much lighter in colour than the preceding, and finely marked. One of my plants of this is four feet across, and is one compact mass of bloom when in flower. 61, an elegant round flower, of a soft transparent rosy hue. 62, very large brilliant pink. 63, one of the most splendid varieties yet produced, flowers immensely large, of a deep glowing pink, sometimes forming trusses like the Rhododendron. 64, a very round flower, of a bright light rose-colour, very distinct and attractive. 65, this may pair with 57, Pudica, the one being of a darker, the other
of a lighter shade, and both large and handsome. 66, this is not judiciously named, for the term 'pallid' will neither recommend nor describe it. It is certainly of a pale or light rosy flesh-colour, but whether the size of the flowers, the beauty of their marking, or their distinct and delicate colour be considered, it must rank as one of the finest of the family. My trees are large, six or eight feet high, and ten or twelve in circumference, and when loaded, as they are, with their large delicate flowers, are the admiration of every one who sees them. 67 is also a well-known and beautiful rose-coloured variety. The double sorts, 68 to 71, are all handsome; 70 is particularly desirable, from its compact growth, free flowering, and fine marking. 72, Bicolor, is a very distinct and remarkable variety; the upper petals, instead of the spotting usually found there, are of a decided blue-purple, the lower petals being of a light rose. Its habit of growth is airy and graceful, and it forms altogether one of the most singular and elegant varieties that can be desired. 74, Carnosa elegans, has been recently raised by Mr. J. B. Smith of Norbiton. The flowers, which are of a fine transparent lilac-pink colour, are of the shape, size, and I had almost said of the substance, of one of the delicate round-bottomed coffee-cups of the olden time. They are, at any rate, as thick and firm as those of the Camellia; and take it all in all, the connoisseur will probably assign to this fine variety the first place above every other for these qualities.

Sect. VI. Salmon and Flesh Colours.

75, Smith's Broughtonia, a very distinct, large-flowered, finely marked, noble variety. A gardener, who came some twenty miles to see my flowers, was so struck with it, that he said the sight of it alone would have amply repaid him for his trouble. 76 and 77 are, I believe, both alike, and very beautiful. 78 and 79 are very similar in habit, of a lax and airy growth, and round elegant flowers; those of 78 inclining to buff, and those of 79 to a fawn colour. 80 is a good early variety, well marked, but is much surpassed by 81, the flowers of which are of very large size, beautifully spotted, and set off by the dark green myrtle-like foliage.

I have many more varieties than those enumerated, but your readers will probably think what I have given more than enough. I believe them to be all well worthy of cultivation; but if a smaller collection were desired, I should take of Whites, No. 1 (or 2), 5, 7, 14. Of Sect. II. the whole. Of Purples, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28. Of Reds, 31, 33, 40, 42, 44, 47. Of Sect. V. 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 63, 66, 70, 72, 74. And 73, 76, 81, of the last section. My reason for making the most numerous selection from Sect. V. is, that the colours included in it are distinct and various.

As to management, I have little to add to the information you have already given. I grow them in a mixture of sandy loam and peat, and keep them in-doors till the weather is settled and warm, by which time they have in general made their shoots, and finished growing. They are then placed in the shade at the back of the greenhouse, where they remain till taken in, with the Camellias,
towards the end of autumn. There are two points which I would recommend careful attention to, viz. to look them over frequently in hot and dry weather, to prevent the attacks of thrips, which a little soap and water will remove; and to give them pot-room, not too much at a time, but as the roots require, for without this the bloom will not be of its full and proper size. They have no more heat in winter than will keep down damp and keep out frost; but when flowering in spring, the temperature is kept steady and genial.

_Mediterraneus._

In the list of Camellias, p. 100 of your last Number, 48 is misprinted Flogii; it should be Floyii.

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**DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.**

**APPLES (continued from p. 114).**

20. _Scarlet Nonpareil._
   Synonym: New Scarlet Nonpareil.
   The fruit is about the middle size, regularly shaped and even in outline, slightly narrowing towards the eye, which is small and open, having a short reflexed calyx, and set in a small, shallow, even basin. Skin yellowish, russety-green on the shaded side as well as near the stalk, the exposed side being bright red, sprinkled with large brown specks and stripes of deeper red. Stalk varying in length from half to an inch long, stout, and inserted in a small even cavity. Flesh yellowish-white, firm, crisp, and juicy, with a rich saccharine flavour. An excellent dessert Apple for winter and spring use.
   The trees are of slender growth, hardy, and free bearers. A sort well adapted for dwarfs and espaliers.

21. _Braddick's Nonpareil._
   Synonym: Ditton Nonpareil.
   This excellent dessert Apple closely resembles the above in shape and size; although not so handsome, it is equally valuable. Its colour is of a yellowish russety-green, faintly spread with brownish-red next the sun, and partially covered with patches of russet, particularly near the eye and stalk. Eye small, and nearly closed by its small pointed calyx. Stalk not more than half an inch long, inserted in a small even cavity. Flesh yellowish-white, very rich, sugary and highly-flavoured. In use from December to April. The trees are of dwarf, slender habit, quite hardy and very fertile, like most of its class. It is well adapted for planting in small gardens.
   This valuable kind was raised by John Braddick, Esq., of Thames Ditton, whose name it bears.

22. _Blenheim Pippin._
   Synonyms: Nothwick Pippin, Blenheim, Blenheim Orange, Woodstock Pippin.
   The Blenheim is a noble fruit and a very popular variety through-
out England. It classes amongst the best for the dessert, and for kitchen uses it is one of the finest. The fruit is of the first size, of a roundish oblate figure, regularly formed and very handsome, skin yellowish (otherwise deep orange), stained with dull red on the sunny side, streaked with a deeper colour, and at times a little russet near its base. Stalk half an inch long, inserted in a deep even cavity. Eye large, open. Calyx short, and set in a large basin. Flesh yellow, breaking, very rich and pleasant. In use from November to the beginning of March.

The trees are very vigorous when young, consequently they do not bear well in that state; but old trees produce heavy crops of fruit, which is superior in quality to that from young trees.

This splendid Apple is from Woodstock in Oxfordshire, and takes its name from Blenheim, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough, close to whose domain it originated.

"In a somewhat dilapidated corner of the decaying borough of ancient Woodstock, within ten yards of the wall of Blenheim Park (says a recent writer in the Gardeners' Chronicle), stands all that remains of the original stump of that beautiful and justly-celebrated apple, the Blenheim Orange. It is now entirely dead, and rapidly falling to decay, being a mere shell about ten feet high, loose in the ground, and having a large hole in the centre. Till within the last three years, it occasionally sent up long, thin, wiry twigs; but this last sign of vitality has ceased, and what remains will soon be the portion of the woodlouse and the worm. Old Grimmett, the basket-maker, against the corner of whose garden-wall the venerable relict is supported, has sat looking on it from his workshop window, and while he wove the pliant osier, has meditated, for more than fifty successive summers, on the mutability of sublunary substances, on juice, and core, and vegetable, as well as animal, and flesh and blood. He can remember the time when, fifty years ago, he was a boy, and the tree a fine, full-bearing stem, full of bud, and blossom, and fruit, and thousands thronged from all parts to gaze on its ruddy, ripening, Orange burden; then gardeners came in the spring-tide to select the much-coveted scions, and to hear the tale of his horticultural child and sapling, from the lips of the son of the white-haired Kempster. But nearly a century has elapsed since Kempster fell, like a ripened fruit, and was gathered to his fathers. He lived in a narrow cottage-garden in Old Woodstock, a plain, practical, labouring man; and in the midst of his bees and flowers around him, and in his 'glorious pride,' in the midst of his little garden, he realised Virgil's dream of the old Corycian: 'Et regum aequaret opes animis.'

"The provincial name for this Apple is still 'Kempster's Pippin,' a lasting monumental tribute and inscription to him who first planted the kernel from whence it sprang."

23. Golden Harvey.

Synonyms: Brandy Apple, Round Russet Harvey (of some). Fruit small, cylindrical, and much flattened at the ends. Skin
rough dull russet, with a brownish-red cheek, and yellowish at times on the shaded side. Stalk about half an inch long, moderately thick, and inserted in a small cavity. Eye open, with short stiff segments and set in a shallow depression. Flesh yellow, fine-grained, rich and saccharine, with a spicy flavour. An excellent little dessert Apple, in use through the winter and spring months. The trees are of slender growth, hardy, and good bearers, and worthy a place in every small garden.

24. **Dumelow's Seedling**.

**Synonyms** : Duke of Wellington, Normanton Wonder, Wellington.

The fruit is of the middle size, globular, very handsome, smooth, and even. Skin pale clear yellow overspread with grey and brown dots, and tinged with red on the sunny side. Eye broad and open, and a few small plaits near the crown. Calyx short, open, showing a transparent cup. Stalk at times half an inch long, otherwise quite short and stout. Flesh pale yellow, firm, crisp, and juicy, with a brisk acid taste. In season from November to May.

This is the most useful of all kitchen Apples; it retains its sharp flavour to the end of its season, and if well matured seldom shrivels. It is highly prized for jelly, marmalade, and mince-meat, for which purposes there is no sort better.

Presuming a sufficient number of sorts for small gardens has already been described, this paper will close the list of Apples; and if a larger collection is required, choice may be made from the following list, all of which are good kinds and worthy of cultivation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beachamwell</th>
<th>Borsdorffer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedfordshire Foundling</td>
<td>Royal Russet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornish Gilliflower</td>
<td>Boston Russet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin's Golden Pippin</td>
<td>Syke House Russet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small's Golden Pippin</td>
<td>Dutch Mignonne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh's Golden Pippin</td>
<td>Margil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maclean's Favourite</td>
<td>Millfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baxter's Pearmain</td>
<td>Red Astrachan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keswick Codlin</td>
<td>Wyken Pippin*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Frogmore**

J. Powell.

P.S.—In my last paper, p. 112, fourth line from top, for *irregular* read *regular*. This is of great importance in distinguishing that variety.

* For Golden Pippin and Winter Pearmain, see p. 22, last vol.
THE GLOXINIA.

It is to be regretted that so beautiful a plant as this is should not command more general attention than it has hitherto done. It is but seldom that examples of it are to be met with, other than in nurseries; and yet what can be more charming than a collection of well-grown specimens of Gloxinias? It has occurred to me, that the probable cause of their not being more generally cultivated arises from the fact, that few societies, as far as I am aware, have hitherto admitted them into their schedules; there are some local societies' exhibitions where the flower is invited, and the result has not unfrequently been some eight or ten collections, producing a highly pleasing effect, and forming certainly not the least interesting feature of a July exhibition. Many claims may be urged in favour of the Gloxinia, the ease with which it may be grown, the length of time over which the blooming period may be made to extend, variety of colour, dwarf habit, adapting itself either to the stove or cucumber-pit, are not among the least. To produce fine specimens, provide yourself with 11-inch pots, plenty of drainage, rich loam and peat in proportions of one of the latter to two of the former, with plenty of silver-sand; accommodate them with the required temperature, which is that of a moist stove, and success is certain. To extend the blooming season, cuttings may be taken from those first started, and place them in a 3-inch pot; when struck, shift them into 11-inch pots, stop them, and they will make a good display in autumn. The following is a list of eighteen of the best varieties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carminata splendens</td>
<td>best crimson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passinghami</td>
<td>very fine bright blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie van Houtte</td>
<td>white deep carmine throat, fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wortleyana</td>
<td>light blue throat, spotted white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godefroi de Bouillon</td>
<td>blue-spotted throat, fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandis</td>
<td>blush-carmine throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teuchleri</td>
<td>blue and red striped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Regia</td>
<td>white deep purple throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fyfiana</td>
<td>light blue, distinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginata</td>
<td>white deep purple throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napoleon</td>
<td>carmine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caulescens</td>
<td>fine blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handleyana</td>
<td>white carmine throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartoni</td>
<td>pink, abundant bloomer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressleyi</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albo-sanguinea</td>
<td>white, deep carmine throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alba grandiflora</td>
<td>white</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hackney.  

Wm. Holmes.
IXORA COCCINEA OR GRANDIFLORA.

Although this lovely plant has been an inhabitant of our stoves ever since the year 1814 (at which date it was introduced from the East Indies), it has only within these last few years become a general favourite with lovers of gardening; and considering the noble and superb specimens of it that have been presented to public view at our great metropolitan exhibitions for some years past, I think it is fairly entitled to a place of high standing in every plant collection, however limited. In fact, if any person had only sufficient room to cultivate six stove-plants, this should be one of the first to be chosen. This plant, when well done, being, in my estimation, the very finest in cultivation; and its being an especial favourite of mine, will, I trust, form some excuse for a remark or two I am about to make. Although, as I have stated above, there have been some magnificent specimens of this plant exhibited of late by some growers, yet there are but few (and I say it, I hope, without offence) who bring it to that state of perfection it so justly deserves to be brought to; neither has there been of late any plants exhibited by any grower so fine and so fully expanded as we have seen them some seven or eight years back.

In the following observations I shall endeavour to shew what I consider is the cause of plants not blooming so finely and so fully as we used to see them; and perhaps, if my instructions are attended to, we shall see those majestic specimens again produced at our great floral displays, calling to our mind those grand plants that used annually to decorate tables containing the finest gatherings in the world. Should these hints catch the eye of any one who remembers the second exhibition of the Royal Botanic Society at Regent’s Park, they will not forget two plants that were then exhibited by myself—one in my large collection, the other as a single specimen. The latter had upon it fifty-nine heads of bloom fully expanded, some of them measuring eleven inches over; the other plant had fifty-seven heads of bloom upon it, and all in the finest condition, making one hundred and sixteen heads upon the two plants. If those two plants entitle me to make a few remarks upon their cultivation, I will here give the treatment they received from cuttings, for both of them were struck and grown by myself.

This being a plant of very easy propagation, I will commence at that point: in selecting cuttings no very great care is required, as either the young or old wood will strike root freely. If you happen to have a plant that has become sickly or ill-shaped, cut it down, and the old wood may be cut two joints in length, leaving the top leaves upon it; the young wood may be cut three joints long. In placing the cuttings in pots, select all the old wood to be put by itself, and the young shoots should also be kept separate, as the young wood will strike root sooner than the old, and will require potting off much earlier, so that it will be found absolutely necessary to keep them separate. Prepare some nice sandy peat for your cuttings, and well-
drained pots, filling them up nearly to the top with the soil prepared, leaving half an inch on the top for silver-sand; into this place your cuttings thickly, and put a bell-glass over them; then remove them to your propagating-frame, where a brisk damp heat is kept up. Plunge them half way up their pots, and give them a slight sprinkling of water, keeping the frame close and shaded from the hot sun; and in a month or six weeks they will require potting off, which should be done as soon as they are rooted. For this purpose select some small sixty or 3-inch pots well drained, and compost as recommended for the cutting pots, bearing in mind not to sink the plant deep into the soil, but rather (if it is found that it cannot support itself) place a small stick to secure it in its position for a few days, until it has become rooted sufficiently to stand alone, when the stick may be removed. When potted place them in a close warm frame, where the temperature should be kept from 70° to 75°. When well-established in their pots pinch out their tops, which will make them dwarf and bushy. As they advance in growth keep them continually shifted into larger pots, and after each potting top their shoots, giving air more liberally and less heat. This will cause them to make nice dwarf bushy plants. In the latter end of September they should be removed to the stove, where the atmosphere is kept dryer, and the watering partially withheld. This will retard their growth and prepare them for rest in the dull days of winter, a point of the greatest importance; for after a good rest when spring arrives they are ready to start to work in good earnest.

In the month of March, when we receive some assistance from the sun, and when the atmosphere is more light and clear, start them into growth, commencing first by examining their roots, which, if found in a healthy state, give them a fresh pot; and a few days after potting, attend to topping them as before recommended, keeping them still in the stove, and frequently syringing them over their tops with clean tepid water, and never allow your temperature to rise higher than from 60° to 65°. This is the time when especial care is required for establishing a good blooming plant; years of experience have taught me this lesson, and warrant me in making the assertion. Instead of placing your plants in a warm, damp atmosphere, and plunging them in bottom-heat, keep them in the stove, and never after this give them any bottom-heat, but expose them to the sun and air as the season advances, and the result will be that you will get fine, healthy, sound, short-jointed wood, which will bloom at every point at the proper season, and at the same time establish a fine specimen, which will afford you both pleasure and ornament in your collection for many years; whereas, by placing them in a strong damp atmosphere, and plunging them in bottom-heat, you will get more growth, and your plants will make a specimen in much less time—but what is your specimen worth? You will find it to consist of long-jointed, soft, unripe wood, and such as will never afford you a good regular head of bloom. I have no hesitation in asserting this is the cause, and the only cause, why we now see so many plants with only a few solitary heads of flower upon them. The object in
view appears to be to get a large plant in a short time, without once considering how it is to bloom. I admit that you can obtain more growth or longer wood in one year, by giving them strong damp bottom-heat, than could be got from the principle I have recommended; but the plants are kept too long, and too strongly excited, to be short-jointed or even blooming. They will keep throwing out strong shoots from the bottom, and when these have made growth from one to two feet in length, they will continue to throw out others; and keeping them growing, and making irregular wood in this way, is the cause why there is never at one time a sufficient quantity of wood in a proper state to bloom to perfection, and year after year passes away without this condition being induced. Those who are beginning to grow this beautiful plant should never aim at long luxuriant growth; try to obtain short-jointed, sound, healthy wood, which by patience and perseverance you will accomplish, and you will find yourself amply repaid for discontinuing the railroad-speed plan of growing them. Rest satisfied by doing them all the justice you can while in a state to receive it, and rest them at that season when they require it, which is in winter. As the plant progresses in size use the soil in a much rougher state, by only breaking the peat in pieces with the hand, using sharp sand with it rather liberally, and mixing some large pieces of charcoal with it also. I would never recommend a plant that is required to bloom the following spring to be shifted later than July, as late shifting will only keep them excited too late in the season, and the growth they make will be long, soft, and unripe; but if it is borne in mind to give them their last shift early, the wood will be strong and robust, and will have finished growing before winter. I would also advise that, when the plants in the stove are arranged for the winter, the Ixoras should be elevated above the others; place them on pots, in order that you may bring them closer to the glass, where they will receive more sun and air, which will cause them to set every point of their shoots with bloom. As soon as this is ascertained to be the case, do not syringe them over their tops, as too much moisture over head at this season will cause them to cast their bloom-buds and open with imperfect heads. When they begin to expand their flowers, a little mild manure-water will be found of the greatest benefit to them, applying it once every week.

The greatest pest we have to encounter among the Ixoras is the mealy bug, which, if not kept in check, will often destroy the whole bloom. For the destruction of these I would recommend the application of hot water, which will entirely destroy them as well as their progeny. Heat your water for the purpose to 140°; this can be ascertained by placing the thermometer in the water-pot. When you apply it, lay the plant down upon its side upon the hand-barrow, and syringe it about the top with as much force as you can, at the same time keeping it turned round, so that all parts may have an equal share. If this is repeated every fortnight, it will soon destroy them all; but it must be understood that this cannot be applied when the plant is growing and the wood soft and tender, or the consequence
would be that the foliage would receive much injury; take advantage of the winter, when the plant has made its growth and the wood is ripe and hard, and make a point of washing them regularly every winter, and perfectly cleanse them from this pest at this season. You will not then be troubled with it at the time the plants are in bloom or when they are making their growth.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell. Wm. Barnes.

CHISWICK EXHIBITION.

The first exhibition at Chiswick this season was favoured with fine weather—a very important matter on such occasions, both to exhibitors and visitors, and also to the society. The company nevertheless was not large; the long continuance of cold, wet, ungenial weather no doubt had decided many of the usual visitors not to venture. The show was certainly fine, as "a show;" but not equal in all respects to some former ones, owing partly perhaps to an unfavourable spring, and partly to the absence of some of the usual exhibitors.

The Florists' flowers appeared to less than their usual advantage, from the tent in which they were placed having a fixed opaque roof, so that there was a want of light; had the lower part of the roof, for a space of five or six feet broad, been glass in lieu of zinc, the light would probably have been all that could have been desired; as it was, the really fine Roses and Pelargoniums were very unfavourably placed, which was the more to be regretted, as many of them were very fine. Improvement seems to have been made in the growing of Cinerarias and in the mode of training the trusses. The best collections were greatly superior to those of former years.

Complaints are sometimes made that new flowers are sent out which ought not; perhaps it may be true; but as most of the new flowers are exhibited at one or more of the metropolitan shows, it would be well for buyers to see and judge for themselves, or to trust a competent reporter; and it is an important part of any floricultural work to give a correct account of these shows, especially of the new flowers.

One or two circumstances that were talked of amongst the exhibitors led me to think that much good to all parties concerned in these exhibitions would ensue from all the exhibitors acting together in their exertions to improve the shows. They should hold a meeting annually, after the shows are over, to suggest improvements, and should elect an acting committee, to whom all cases of dispute should be referred, and through whom the exhibitors should communicate with the societies. They would find the benefit of each other's advice and suggestions; and no doubt much valuable assistance would be rendered to the societies and to the interest of horticulture; as it is,
there is great want of communication between the societies and a
great part of the exhibitors. I beg to throw out this hint to the
exhibitors, and shall be glad if it leads to a wise and beneficial com-
bination.

Omicron.

The above introduction by our valued correspondent Omicron
leaves nothing for us to do but describe the scene in detail, which we
will now proceed to do. The show altogether was good; but in some
particulars not equal to the May exhibition in 1852. Roses in pots
were fine, also Pelargoniums; but unfortunately they were shewn to
great disadvantage, by being placed in the dark tent above alluded to.
The Orchids (large collections), Azaleas, and fruit also attracted
their usual share of attention. Pelargoniums were shewn in con-
siderable numbers, and generally were well-grown plants; but, with
the exception of the first collection, they were not sufficiently in
flower. This collection, however, was an exception, for it was loaded
with large and fine blooms, possessing the highest colour; shewing
that, with skill, the difficulties of an adverse spring may be sur-
mounted. The gold medal for the best twelve was awarded to
Mr. Turner of Slough, for Colonel of the Buffs, Magnet, Mochanna,
Chiefain, Constance, Alonzo, Rosamond, Guilielma, Rowena, Virgin
Queen, and Pride of the Isles; 2d, Mr. Dobson of Isleworth, with
Arethusa, Purpureum, Rosa, Rosamond, Virgin Queen, Leader,
Ambassador, Chloe, Vanguard, Harriett, Leah, and Governor; 3d,
Mr. Westwood; 4th, Mr. Gaines. In these two groups we re-
marked Flying Dutchman, First of May, Rubens, Celia, Star, and
Salamander, which were dissimilar to the two first collections.
There was but one collection from private growers, and that only
received a third prize, the varieties not being sufficiently in bloom.
It came from Mr. Roser of Streatham. Fancy Pelargoniums were
shewn in great beauty, and commanded their usual share of atten-
tion: the best six plants were contributed by Mr. Turner, and con-
sisted of Hero of Surrey, in fine condition, Princess Maria Galitzin,
Reine des Francais, Minerva, Annie, and Empress; 2d, Mr. Ayres,
Blackheath, with Formosissimum, Celestial, Miranda, Magnifica,
Gipsy Queen, and Duchesse d'Aumale; 3d, Mr. Gaines; 4th, Mr.
Westwood. Of these, the sorts not in the first lot were Defiance,
Queen, Superb, Louis Van Houtte, Signora Gasoloni, and Fairy
Queen. Two collections were staged by private growers, one from
Mr. Roser, the other from Mr. Robinson, Pimlico; these took first
and second prizes in the order in which they stand. The varieties
were Ambrose's Triumphant, John Bull, Fairy Queen, Picturata,
Staliaeki, Queen Victoria, Advancer, Erubescens, Princess Maria
Galitzin.

Cinerarias were in fine order, shewing a great improvement on
former exhibitions of this flower in point of growth and general
management. The first collection consisted of particularly dwarf
plants: it came from Mr. Turner, and contained the following sorts,
viz. Amy Robart, Rosalind, Queen of Beauties, Mrs. Beecher Stowe,
Mrs. Sidney Herbert, and Formosa; 2d, Mr. Constantine; 3d, Mr.
Beck of Isleworth; 4th, Mr. Dobson. Of varieties that were good in these groups, and not in the first collection, we noticed Lady H. Campbell, Bessy, Exquisite, Forget-me-not, Bertha, Wellington, Governor, and Aurora.

Calceolarias. The first prize was awarded to Mr. Constantine, gardener to Charles Mills, Esq., Hillingdon, for fine healthy plants, which required a week more to be in perfection; 2d, to Mr. Pestridge, gardener to Wm. Nuncham, Esq., Englefield Green.

Pansies. These were exhibited in pots, and were well done. Mr. Turner, to whom the first prize was awarded, had an admirable collection, comprising Monarch, an improvement on Duke of Norfolk, Ophir, Flower of the Day, Lady Emily, Sir J. Catheart, Euphemia, National, Great Western, British Queen, Sir J. Paxton, Marchioness of Bath, and Royal Standard; 2d, Mr. Bragg; 3d, Mr. Dobson. The sorts shewn in the 2d and 3d that were not in the first, were, Blanche, Sir P. Sydney, Mr. Beck, Supreme, Duke of Perth, Pandora, and Lady Carrington.

Auriculas. A medal was awarded to Mr. Turner for 36 plants in the most luxuriant health. The most conspicuous amongst them were Cheetham's Lancashire Hero, with 13 expanded pips on one spike; Ne-plus-ultra, Matilda, Complete, Ringleader, Stapleford Hero, Apollo, Lovely Ann, General Bolivar, True Briton, Prince of Wales, Smiling Beauty, Britannia, Violet, King James, Regular. Mr. Willmer also exhibited 20 plants in good health, but small trusses, compared with the large collection, the best of which was Lancashire Hero. A prize was also awarded to these.

Seedlings. These were principally Cinerrarias; the best of which were Optima and Lady Mary Labouchere, raised by Mr. Bousie, at Stoke Park; both are white ground sorts, tipped with blue; the former heavily, the latter slightly. South London, by the same raiser, is also a good flower, white edged with rosy lilac. We also noticed Mrs. Foster, Lady Camoys, Sivewright's No. 1, and Sambo: the above were sent by Mr. Turner. Messrs E. G. Henderson also produced several seedling Cinerrarias; and their new white bedding Geranium, Boule de Neige, which promises to be a good plant for the purpose.

There were several seedling Pelargoniums; it is, however, too early to criticise them, which we hope to do fully in June, when we expect to see the same varieties again. Those that attracted most attention were Governor General (Hoyle), Dido (Beck), Empress (Beck), Indian Chief (Hoyle), Leah (Beck), Emperor (Hoyle), Eugenia (Hoyle).

As regards stove and greenhouse plants, Cape Heaths, &c., they were supplied in great abundance, and in their usual beauty and excellence; but there were few novelties either in these or any other classes, if we except the glorious Lilium giganteum of India, shewn by Messrs. Veitch. This was indeed a noble plant, with fine foliage and a flower-stem some seven or eight feet high, with a dozen great red-streaked, drooping-white blossoms on the summit. If this should ever prove hardy, which we think doubtful, what an ornament it
would be to our shrubbery borders! The heath-leaved Tetratheca was also a pretty lilac-flowered shrub; and there was a nice seedling Heath, called Imperatrix, from Messrs. Veitch.

NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Is this Society worthy of further support, or is it not? On the 3d of March was held the anniversary general meeting of the members, the Society having completed the second year of its formation; and if apparent unanimity, and confidence amongst its supporters, and freedom from debt, be a guarantee of success, then is the Society flourishing indeed; for at the general meeting the business was got through in less than an hour, to the satisfaction of all, and without a solitary resignation.

The Society continues to flourish, and will do so as long as men like those who attended the last anniversary meeting continue their confidence and support. Their names are above suspicion; they are honoured alike in public and private life, and all shafts aimed at any society fall harmless whilst such honourable men are amongst its active members.

Votes of thanks were severally awarded to the respective office-bearers, and especially to the active and energetic honorary secretary, Mr. John Edwards, whose courtesy and attention have won for him the esteem and respect of the members generally: he ably fills the office in question, and I hope he may long continue to do so.

The fourth Part of the Transactions of this Society, from August to December 1852, has been issued, I need not say, some time ago, from which I find, that "during the past year no fewer than 656 Seedlings have been sent to the meetings for adjudication; and sixty-nine first-class certificates, certificates of merit, and labels of commendation, have been awarded."

Six hundred and fifty-six seedlings were sent for adjudication! I suppose that, in almost every case, the 656 seedlings were deemed of some importance and value by their raisers and exhibitors, or they would not have troubled themselves to send them; and it is possible to conceive that, with this impression on the raisers' minds, many of these flowers may have been deemed worthy of sending out as new varieties, had not the National Floricultural Society afforded its valuable aid. I am of opinion that the Society exercises very salutary influence on Floriculture. It is an ordeal to which almost every thing new and good amongst Seedling Florists' flowers finds its way; and the Society endeavours to procure for such flowers a sound and careful judgment, and makes public the names of the judges. If I were to ask a large portion of the buyers of Florists' flowers, "Does not a certificate from the National Floricultural Society give you confidence in any new flower?" I believe a very satisfactory reply would follow.

The Report further states, that "although the Society does not
arrogate to itself infallibility, it does claim to be pre-eminently entitled to support from the known ability of its censors, and the strict impartiality of the awards." It is impossible for any society to exist without its acts being sometimes questioned; but when any society, organised for a proposed purpose, so wields its influence as closely to attain the accomplishment of that purpose, it is entitled to full and vigorous support. So it is with the National Floricultural Society; and I hope that all who are members will continue their support, and that many who are not will lend their helping hand, and, by becoming members, sanction and support the existence of the Society. When raisers like Mr. Beck of Isleworth, Mr. Foster of Clewer, Mr. Hoyle of Reading, and other eminent amateurs, cheerfully send their productions to be commended or condemned as the Society thinks just, so long must the Society be free from partiality. These gentlemen are too honourable to sanction any partiality, and by their presence and support, as well as by submitting their flowers to the Society's tribunals, bear ample testimony to its influence.

It will probably be a question with the Journal Committee as to the beneficial results attending an extension of the Transactions, so as to render it more valuable as a work of reference to distant contributors. Should such be the case, not a distant amateur or Florist should be unconnected with the National Floricultural Society.

Observer.

MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

The bad effects of the past winter on the hardy evergreens here are now very apparent, the greater portion of them having suffered more or less, particularly those that were removed last autumn or towards the end of the previous spring; many that were well-established, such as the common and Portugal Laurels, have most of their last year's shoots nipped. Berberis repens and B. aquifolium, Cotoneaster microphylla, Spartium junceum, Benthamia fragifera, a few Andromedas, standard trees of Magnolia grandiflora, Taxodium sempervirens, Juniperus recurva, one or two Pinuses and Eucalyptuses are all injured, and in many instances completely dead; the Eucalyptuses have stood out for several years: one of them is twenty feet high, but it is now destroyed.

One of the most interesting things lately in flower has been Rhododendron ciliatum, which is one of the many kinds found by Dr. Hooker in Sikkim Himalaya. It quite equals all that is said of it, for it is one of the best and most useful kinds in cultivation, being of a dwarf bushy habit, an abundant bloomer, and by far the largest flowering one of all the low-growing kinds, many of the blossoms being three inches in diameter. A close greenhouse suits it best, as the foliage is more healthy and the flowers are of a pinkish or light rose-colour; if it is kept in a cold frame or planted out, it has rather a sickly ap-
pearance, and the blooms become white. About a couple of dozen plants of it, varying from six to sixteen inches high, were lately all in flower here; the blossoms were from three to six in each truss, and some of these pigmy bushes had nearly a score of expanded blooms on them. This will doubtless be an excellent sort to force early, as a little warmth suits it best, and it flowers quite as freely as a Geranium.

In the Australian house the Acacias have been very fine, together with Eriostemons, Azaleas, and Cinerarias, which, on account of the variety of colour in the flowers, form an admirable contrast with the yellow flowers of the Acacias. In the large house used as a conservatory, which contains a splendid collection of Banksias, of which B. ericifolia is one of the most striking, when loaded with its beautiful cone-like clusters of yellow-flowers, there was lately a remarkably fine specimen of Acacia verticilata, fourteen feet high, one mass of bloom; Rhododendron arboreum is about twelve feet high, and is gay.

In the Heath house are a few good kinds in flower, such as E. Wilmorei, Macnabiana, trossula alba, andromedaflora, bicolor, transparens, viscaria, triumphans, Linnaeoides, Peteveria bicolor, vernalis, with others of minor importance, and a few Epacrices. In a small stove adjoining is a number of Gloxinias, &c., in bloom, among which is a variety called G. argyro stigma splendens; it is one of the best of this tribe: the leaves are of a dull green above, purplish beneath, and have white veins similar to Eranthemum leuconervum; the flowers are large, two inches across the limb, and of a deep violet colour with a white throat.

In the great Palm-house the plants keep progressing; many of the tropical fruit-trees are becoming fine specimens now that they have plenty of pot and head room; some of the Palms are getting very large and are at present in flower; one of the most interesting things in the house is the Doryanthes excelsa, a tall-growing Australian plant, with large flowers similar to an Amaryllis. This plant very rarely flowers in this country; the stem rises from the centre of the leaves, similar to the American Aloe; at Kew it has been fourteen feet high, there being on the apex a rather close head of bright rose-coloured flowers with green anthers, which give a lively pleasing contrast to the whole.

Amongst the novelties lately introduced is Semiandra grandiflora, a shrubby warm greenhouse plant resembling a Fuchsia; its flowers are pendulous, and are borne copiously from the axils of the leaves along the branches; they are from two to three inches long, with narrow segments bent back, and are of a fine red colour.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. J. Houlston.
HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. These should now be placed out of doors on a cool north border, but not a damp one; a slight shading only is necessary during the heat of the day. If green-fly appear, place the plants in a close pit, and fumigate them two nights in succession. Gather any seed that may ripen, water rather freely during the early part of the month, and keep clean of dead leaves now as well as at all other seasons.

Bedding Plants. By this time these will be in their summer quarters; Verbenas, Petunias, and plants of similar habit, should be pegged; water any fresh planted bed if the soil is light, and the weather continues hot and dry: a good starting will lengthen the blooming season.

Calceolarias. This is the month for this gay plant to be in its greatest beauty; a few of good shape and dissimilar in colour should be placed apart from the general stock, and crossed to seed from. The earlier the seed is procured the better, and it should be sown as soon as it is well ripened. These make much finer plants, and they are more easily wintered than old kinds raised from cuttings. Cut down the old blooming-stalks, and place the plants in a cool shady situation to throw up cuttings, but let them be protected from rain.

Cinerarias. Seed should be sown as soon as it is ripened, in pans, in very fine soil. After cutting down the blooming-stalks, the old plants should be placed in frames facing the north, and they should be raised near the glass; some will require a shift to encourage them to throw up their cuttings, which should be taken off as soon as they are long enough, and struck in the sand; dividing the root never makes such fine plants as cuttings. Aphides and mildew must be kept under.

Carnations and Picotees. Top dress and stake them without delay, and trim off all dead foliage, also proceed with thinning the shoots. There are but few kinds, except it be an old plant, or one that did not bloom the preceding season, which should have more than one blooming-shoot left, the weaker ones should be removed. Disbudding will also have to be attended to as soon as the side-buds are sufficiently forward to be displaced; remove all but the leader and two side-buds at first, to ascertain which are the kindest and most likely to produce good flowers, when, if a thin variety, one more may be removed, or even two, leaving only the leader if size is required, or such varieties as Admiral Curzon, Splendid, or Lord Milton, will not look well in the same stand as Garland, Princess Royal, &c. Aphides should be looked after and kept down, either by brushing them off the points of the shoots, or by fumigating.

Dahlias. Plant out into quarters that have been previously prepared 5 ft. by 5 ft. 6 in. apart. Secure the plants at once with one
large permanent stake, and two small side-stakes, which will ultimately have to be removed for larger ones. At first slugs must be looked after, or considerable damage may be done, and it will ultimately be found that the earlier in the season earwigs are trapped the better. If mild, water the young plants over head every night after the sun has left them, and stir the soil frequently about them. If a succession of bloom is required till late, a few rows of young growing plants should be planted about the end of the third week of the month.

Fuchsias. Shade the plants in bloom and keep the bees out of the house. This is effectually done by means of blinds made of Haythorn’s or Hall’s Garden Netting; No. 4 of the latter is best suited for the purpose. We may here mention that Hall’s netting is more durable, and a better material for general use, such as shading for greenhouses, protecting fruit-trees, &c. than that known as the Nottingham netting. There are several qualities of it; 1, 2, and 3, are suitable for shading, No. 4 for blinds, or very slight shading.

Hollyhocks. These will now require plenty of water; stake and mulch all that have not been previously done; look after slugs; weak plants are often injured by them past recovery. Towards the end of the month side-shoots may be put in as cuttings. These are generally put in too long, the shorter they are the better, so that they can be pressed firmly into the soil. A frame in a shady cool situation will be the best place for summer propagation.

Pansies. Propagate freely before the cuttings become pipy. A north border will be the best place to strike them with the least trouble; mark good seedlings while they are in good colour; save seed.

Pinks. Give them water freely, liquid manure twice a week; tie them to neat short sticks for blooming; that shades may be more easily placed over those required for exhibition.

Pelargoniums. The sun during the last fortnight has brought these into good colour; at the June exhibitions we expect to see them in good character. Shading and watering, and keeping the bees out of the house, is the principal work this month. Plants for July may be placed in a cool pit or frame, with the lights off on all favourable occasions.

Roses. (See last month.)

Tulips. These will be getting past their best; let them have all the weather, and take the canvass off as soon as they are out of bloom. The beauty of the best bed depends upon the amount of pains taken in making notes, corrections, &c., during the bloom; therefore, if this has not been done, let it be completed at once.
THE AURICULA.

Our present illustration represents a beautiful self Auricula, raised by Mr. James Maltby of Oxford, from Fieldhouse's Fair Rosamond. It was first shewn in 1851; it was also exhibited and placed first in 1852 and 1853, in competition with Othello, Blue Bonnet, Berry's Lord Primate, Admiral of the Blues, Nonsuch, and other leading varieties. It is a steady flower, of the finest form of any we know in any class. On each spring show-day on which we have visited Oxford, we have been more gratified with Mr. Maltby's flower than with the collections of named kinds.

Mr. Maltby's plan of growing the Auricula does not differ materially from that generally adopted. Good sweet turfy loam, well-decomposed rotten manure, silver-sand, with a little leaf-mould, are all that are wanted: we do not approve of such stimulants as are recommended and used by some. A moderately rich soil will grow them quite strong enough, and keep the stock in better health than if richer material was employed. Plain pure soil, and the most simple treatment is adopted here with the most satisfactory results. For the last three seasons our bloom has been more vigorous than is often seen in any part of the country, more particularly in any part near the metropolis. Among varieties more especially fine may be mentioned Beeston's Apollo, Cheetham's Lancashire Hero, Ne-plus-ultra, Page's Champion, Complete, Ringleader, Glory, Bolivar, Lovely Ann, Duke of Cambridge, Matilda, Duke of Wellington, Conqueror of Europe, Fair Flora, Freedom, Britannia, King James, Lord Lynedoch, Sir John Moore, Lady Jane Grey, Privateer, Smiling Beauty, Stapleford Hero, Sophia, True Briton, Unique, and Surprise. We have not attempted to classify them. Many of the green-edges and grey-edges would do for either class; it is of little use to make a distinction when there is scarcely any difference.

It will be seen that there are but few new varieties; it is therefore with the greater pleasure that we present our readers with an exact likeness of Mr. Maltby's fine flower, which we feel assured will find its way into every collection.
THE RHODODENDRON.

I now proceed to say a few words on the Rhododendron. The alliance between this fine genus and the Azalea is a very singular phenomenon in botany, for few plants in their general appearance can be more widely different. The one succulent, vigorous, often lofty in its growth, adorned at all seasons with bright, glossy, evergreen leaves, and producing its flowers in dense clusters or trusses; the other of a dry, twiggy habit, deciduous in all the hardy species, and though the flowers of these are formed in heads, they never rise in the cone-like form of the Rhododendron; while in the tender species it is only occasionally, and as it were by accident, that any approach to this form is observed, the flowers being for the most part produced singly, or a few only together.

The Rhod. Gibsoni, a recent species from India, forms the only exception that I am acquainted with to these general remarks, having in its habit of growth, its leaves, and flowers, much more affinity to the Azalea than to the Rhododendron. Notwithstanding the decided differences above mentioned, the two genera freely hybridise together; the result being, in most cases, to produce an aggregation of the flowers in heads or trusses, and the habit of the Azalea in all other respects; though in some varieties there is a greater glossiness of leaf and a greater flexibility of stem. Some of your correspondents who have had more experience in this matter than myself will perhaps favour us with their remarks upon it.

The first Rhododendrons cultivated in this country were, as was natural, European ones, viz. Hirsutum and Ferrugineum, natives of the Alps, and Ponticum, found in moist situations of the south of Europe and Asia Minor. These were followed, after an interval of forty or fifty years, by Caucasian and Catawbiense, the latter surpassing in beauty its predecessors, being a native of North America. But the most important occurrence in the history of this genus, as regards horticulture, was the discovery of the arborescent species, which forms such a beautiful ornament on the Neilgherry hills and other mountains of India. The rich colour of what is usually called the scarlet variety of these plants,—but which, to speak more correctly, is the fine deep crimson red that prevails in the Camellia,—and the regular form of its rounded, tubular flowers, have produced by hybridisation with the older hardy species, a variety in the tints, and an improvement in the size and shape of the flower, which will render the Rhododendron one of the most charming and attractive objects wherever the soil will allow of its cultivation. The first experiments in this way were made in Lord Caernarvon’s gardens at High Clere, and the result was to obtain a flower partaking of the brilliant crimson of Arboreum, with a great expansion of the form, so that the heads or trusses, which in the native Indian species were comparatively small and depressed, were raised to a more conical shape, and increased to double the size. Some of the varieties thus obtained were figured in the Botanical Magazine and Register, under the
name of Alta-Clerenense, from the place of their origin; and every year since that time has added to the number, till it promises to rival that of the allied genus of Azalea. I have a good many of these Alta-Clerenense varieties, differing somewhat in habit and foliage, but all bearing nearly the same flower, viz. a bright crimson, finely marked. They have been in flower with me for the last month, having had no protection during the last winter, which, it will be remembered, passed without frost till February. But in general I take the precaution to mulch the roots at the first appearance of severe weather, and to protect the plants by movable woollen screens thatched with straw.

Messrs. Waterer, Standish, and Noble, and others, having succeeded in obtaining, by further crossings with the hardy species, varieties of less tenderness of habit and of later bloom, with much greater variety of colour, these first results of the High Clere experiments will probably be henceforth cultivated chiefly for conservatory ornament. For descriptions of the newly-raised hardy varieties, I must refer your readers to the Catalogues published by the respectable and intelligent nurserymen before named, and also by Mr. Baker of the same neighbourhood, who has in addition given a descriptive list of hardy Azaleas—a beautiful tribe, whose nomenclature requires revision and classification more than any other.

Of the white Rhododendrons that have flowered with me, the earliest is Campanulatum, which bloomed beautifully in April, about the same time with Caucasianum superbum, mentioned at p. 99 of your present volume. These were followed in May by Caucasianum album and Caucasianum pictum, raised by Mr. Ord of Manchester, perfectly hardy and most beautiful varieties, the bright laurel-like foliage of which sets off the pure white profusion of their delicately marked flowers to the greatest advantage. Gloriosum, a very fine variety, with the leaf and habit of Arboreum album; Varium, with a slight rose-tint, and some others; while the following have delayed coming out till the second week of the present month, June. Nivaticum, in foliage and habit somewhat resembling Caucasianum album, but more dense, especially in the truss of flower, delicately marked with yellow, and very pretty. Multimaculatum and Guttatum beautifully marked, but surpassed by Pictum, which is superior in size and shape of the flower and the magnitude of the truss, while the rich dark-brown marking of the upper petal is a conspicuous distinction that at once attracts notice and admiration; it appears to be perfectly hardy, as are also Album grandiflorum and elegans, raised by Mr. H. Waterer, first-rate varieties, having the leaf and habit of Catawbiense, from which they are sprung. Venus is a beautiful pure white, with fine dark-veined foliage, but flowers earlier, and is probably less hardy than the three last named; as is no doubt the case with Abiellanum, Albertus, and Alexandrina, beautiful varieties, with the glossy dark foliage of Campanulatum, from which they are descended. I have now named the principal of the white hybrids that have flowered with me; and proceed to the coloured ones.

The earliest of these is Nobleannum, which has stood the winters of several years well, flowering in April or earlier. Next come the
varieties of Alta-Clerense, before mentioned, followed by Russellianum and Invictum, both beautifully marked on all the petals in the throat of the flower. In the present month (June) come several fine varieties raised by Mr. H. Waterer from Catawbienese, of which Purpureum grandiflorum and Evarestianum are remarkable for producing many trusses of flowers in close aggregation; so that when expanded they form vast masses of bloom quite surprising to persons accustomed to see only the old Pontic sorts, and measuring several feet round. My trees are bent down on all sides by the weight of the flowers. Roseum celestium, and others of the same Catawbienese habit, are also very beautiful; indeed, the varieties that have been added every year of late are so numerous and so fine, that description and preference become equally difficult; and where the soil is favourable, a large tract planted with the new varieties, judiciously mixed, would in the season afford one of the most enchanting exhibitions that nature affords. From their easy propagation they will soon become abundant and moderate in price; and those who are now entering on life may see, in the evergreen woods and groves surrounding the rural residences of England, a variety and beauty which uncultivated nature never yields, except in climates unfavourable to human health, and which can only be found where peace and security enable men to anticipate the future, and to hope that the tree which they are planting, too late in life for them to hope to see its maturity, may overshadow succeeding generations of their descendants, when it rivals its congeners on the hills of Chili or California.

But we have at present to do with shrubs of a humbler growth, which any one who has sufficient vivacity left to take an interest in may reasonably expect to see in flower, and which will assuredly enter in no unimportant degree into the formation of the scenes we have been anticipating. Of the Rhododendrons that I have bloomed, the largest, both in flower and truss, are, 1. Tigrinum; 2. Maculatum grandiflorum; 3. Broughtonianum; 4. Metropolitanum. The two first are very similar in leaf and habit, and differ only in colour. No. 2 being of a bluer and darker purple than the other. Both, as their names import, are strongly and beautifully spotted. No. 3 is of a fine rose colour, with very large and thick leaves. No. 4 is the nearest approach to a true scarlet I have yet seen in this family. Nos. 3 and 4 are probably more tender than the other two. The flowers of all the four measure 4 inches across when fully expanded, and form immense and noble trusses. Two varieties, very distinct in colour from the generality of the newly raised sorts, are, Victoria, with flowers of a deep rich imperial purple; and Hendersoni, of a rich shaded claret; to which may be added Fastuosum, of a clear blue lilac, generally coming double. These three will always form a most agreeable variation from the usual run of crimsions and rose-colours. There are some fine striped varieties, as Striatum and Woolleri; the last streaked with crimson on the outside of the flower. But the best that I have seen is Bicolor of Mr. Baker's catalogue, perfectly hardy, pure white petals, thick as leather, with a broad bright pink edging, changing as the flower fades to a violet colour.
Of yellow Rhododendrons, the finest in colour is no doubt Javanicum; but it is tender, and difficult of cultivation. The varieties raised by Mr. Smith of Norbiton are, I have no doubt, perfectly hardy, but being as yet scarce, have not been brought into general cultivation. When grown out of doors they will probably be deciduous; indeed they bear the closest affinity to Azalea sinensis, their parent, in every respect, except the formation of the flowers in trusses and the marking of the upper petal, as in the Rhododendron. The best yellow variety I have bloomed is Burlington, of a rich deep primrose colour, or orange buff. Aureum superbum is also very handsome, but the truss is smaller. The varieties do not all take the colour of A. sinensis; some have the tints of the Rhododendron, lilac, pink, &c., and one, Glumiflorum, is beautiful opaque sparkling white; there are also shades of bronze and copper hues, which seem to combine the colours of the two parents. All are interesting and curious; but the yellow tints naturally excite the greatest attention, as being the only instances of that colour in the Rhododendron till the introduction of Javanicum. I grow them in the same soil as the others, viz. half sandy loam and half rotten peat turf. I have tried leaf-mould as a substitute for the latter, but it did not answer; indeed, wherever it happened to have been not well mixed, but to be in greater proportion, the roots refused to strike into it at all. I believe the essentials for growing Rhododendrons and the hardy Azaleas are a certain degree of shade and moisture. I have seen them thriving in pure sandy loam, without any admixture of peat, heath, or leaf-mould, where the slope of the ground seemed to draw a supply of moisture from the land above them; while higher up, in the same nursery, and in the very same soil, they would not thrive at all; and I am persuaded they would not do well in any soil in dry and arid situations.

Mediterraneus.

P.S. In my last article on the Azalea Indica, No. 79, Audibute should be Audeberti.

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VITALITY OF TULIP-BULBS.

Happening to take up a Tulip-bulb the other day from a large quantity of seedlings that had been unplanted, I was much struck, upon examination, to find that in boxes the large blooming roots had formed a new bulb, as well as small offsets, equally as large as those in the ground are at the present time; and what is remarkable, they have never made any roots, nor received any nourishment from any source, having been kept since last July in the Tulip-room in the boxes. The maiden roots were all decomposed. The stem which should have supported the flower is also in the same position (outside) as those grown in the beds.

Cheetham Hill, near Manchester.

John Slater.
ON CULINARY VEGETABLES.

The culture of these, if not the highest branch of gardening, is certainly the most important, the most generally useful, and the most extensively patronised; a vegetable-garden being an indispensable appendage to every country residence, both of the rich and the poor. It might therefore naturally be supposed that this branch of gardening, considering its importance, would receive the attention, and make the progress in some degree, that the more ornamental but less useful branches have done; one being a luxury for the few, the other a necessary for the many. That the useful has not kept pace with the ornamental, will, I believe, be very generally acknowledged. If we look at the improvement that has taken place within the last few years in the culture of choice exotics, at the number of new and beautiful hybrid varieties of various genera, and at the accession that has been made by the introduction of new plants, the disparity must be apparent to every observer; for the culinary department can boast of no such advances, not one really new vegetable, useful as an article of food, having recently been added to our list, either by a fresh introduction, or rendering by culture any plant we already possess useful for culinary purposes.

This being a subject of much importance, I purpose drawing attention to two or three points which deserve consideration; and afterwards to give a selection of the best vegetables, their culture, and descriptive character, as far as it is possible to do so, with the limited means of observation at the command of any one person in a single locality.

First:—What improvements have been made in the art of cultivating culinary vegetables within the last few years, and what further improvements will our present practice admit of?

Vegetable culture has so long engaged the attention of market-gardeners—a class of men who would naturally be led to adopt every possible means for the production of large crops which their extensive practice might dictate—that the marked improvement which has taken place in plant culture will not be recognised. Nevertheless a great improvement has taken place amongst general practitioners: the advantage of draining, trenching, breaking up the subsoil, sowing seeds in drills, giving plants more space for the admission of sun and air, loosening the earth about the crops frequently, and of mulching with short litter to prevent excessive evaporation during hot weather, has become more generally known and adopted. There are, however, some few who still hold out against these improvements: to sow in drills, they maintain is a loss of ground; and they will not stir the soil about the crops in summer, because it will let in the drought, with other objections, which I trust will require no argument to satisfy the readers of this work of the fallacy of their observations. Cultivators of the soil are remarkable for their singular propensity of adhering to old habits and practices; and although they may witness
the beneficial effects of an improved system, they very slowly and reluctantly adopt it.

Future improvements in the culture of the vegetable-garden may be looked for through a better knowledge of the application of manure, both solid and liquid. Half the benefit which might be derived from manure is lost through a want of this knowledge. I have seen the ill effects of an application of strong liquid manure to a crop, which it nearly killed, when the soil was very dry; but used equally strong when the soil was in a moist state, its beneficial effects were clearly distinguished. This points out the time it should be used; the soil, even in a wet state, will absorb the most valuable portion of the liquid. A system of underground and surface irrigation would also be a great improvement in vegetable culture, more particularly the former. Surface-watering in very hot weather is of very questionable service, sometimes positively injurious; underground irrigation, on the contrary, would be of the greatest service, without a possibility of a single objection being raised against it.

II. C. O.

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TEA ROSES.

Having for the last three or four years devoted some time and attention to the cultivation of that fine class of Roses, "the Tea-scented," I send you a list of a few of the best and most distinct varieties which I have found well adapted for pot-culture, thinking it may be useful to some of your readers in making a selection from the numerous (and in many cases comparatively worthless) varieties which now swell out our Rose-catalogues to such a ridiculous extent.

Adam . . . Pale blush.
Bougère . . . Rosy fawn, large.
Devoniensis . . Creamy white; best of the class.
Elise Sauvage . . Yellow, orange centre.
Eugene Desgaches . . Rosy blush, very fragrant.
Moiret . . . Fawn and yellow.
Niphetos . . . Pale lemon.
Souvenir d'un Ami . . Salmon.
Safranot . . . Apricot; changes to buff.
Vicomtesse de Cazes . . Bright yellow.

These are all free growers, either on their own roots or on the Manetti stock, and with proper treatment will flower abundantly. To complete the dozen, I should add Madame Willermorz, white, fawn centre; and Smith's Yellow, which, though apt to produce a green centre, is, when perfect, inferior to none. By means of a well-arranged succession of these varieties, the conservatory may be supplied throughout the greater part of the year with this queen of flowers, which certainly forms one of its most charming and fragrant attractions.

Niphetos.
PUlRITY IN THE TULIP.

A great outcry has been made for some time about purity being indispensable in the Tulip; whilst at every national meeting, notwithstanding the regulations state that purity is indispensable, blooms are allowed to win strictly impure. If the regulations are to be evaded or qualified, then those who stage for purity are not put upon the same footing as those who make allowances for the discretion of the judges, who are often partial to certain varieties. Why state in the regulations that purity is indispensable, whilst Platoff, alias Royal Sovereign, is allowed to win, when it is notorious that it is not pure, being cloudy or shaded, with a yellow of a dusky colour? There is also a very large number of the Chellaston seedlings a very impure white at the base, and yet the judges pass them. Something definite must be laid down and acted upon, or else we shall be in a state of confusion. Blooms with impure stamens are cast out, whilst the cloudy bottoms remain in the stands; and it is a fact that is now admitted by all who have paid any attention, that the tinge upon the top of the stamens arises principally from natural causes, whilst some open discoloured. About the third day the pollen becomes semi-fluid, and flows down upon the stamens, and, what is very remarkable, only tinges the inside, whilst the outside part of the stamens is as pure as possible. Again, I have seen this season repeated instances of one or more stamens tinged in the same flower, and the remainder perfectly pure. Some varieties do not as readily tinge as others, and these will be found upon examination to have scarcely any pollen and do not seed, whilst the flowers which have the greatest quantity of pollen on the anthers seed readily. I am of opinion that of two evils I would prefer tinged stamens, arising from the causes just related, to a cloudy bottom; and it should be distinctly stated in the regulations for judging, that such allowances would be made, subject to being brought against other properties, so that this or that flower should not rank so high, whilst the one that is very impure on the stamens, arising from constitutional causes, should be disqualified. This, to a practical judge, would be very easily ascertained, as it would shew it on every side; whilst, from the other cause, the greatest discoloration will be on that side nearest the pericarpium, and, in innumerable instances, scarcely if any on the outside portion of the stamens.

If these are made the fundamental principles of judging, we shall soon get at what we are all aiming at—purity, as near as can be approached; as it will be found that nearly eight out of every ten blooms, when a few days old, will shed a little discoloration on the stamens, and some at the base; but this latter point ought not to be allowed, as it cannot arise from the pollen, but from other causes.

Cheetham Hill, near Manchester. John Slater.
AURICULAS.

Permit me to begin my letter by congratulating you on the accession of "Mediterraneus" to the list of your contributors, and to thank him for the interesting and useful information he has afforded. To shew him how carefully I have studied his instructions for a practical purpose, I would beg to call his attention to a remark of his upon the Camellia, Section I., Whites, No. 5, Low's Imbricata, which he cautions us from confounding with its namesake Alba imbricata. Now on turning to Messrs. E. G. Henderson's Catalogue, I find "Imbricata alba, Low's." And again under the word Alba, "Alba imbricata, Low's, fine white." But no "Imbricata, Low's," without the adjunct alba. This completely puzzles me, and leaves me in uncertainty whether I should be following his directions or contravening them, if I were to order it.

My object, however, in writing is to inquire after the fulfilment of a promise made by you in the Hints for the Month in the May Number, under the head of Auriculas. As I live 150 miles from London, and see but few flowers except what I grow myself, please tell me all about your stands at the show and your stages at home, as you promised, before it is too late for this year's arrangements. [Be assured we shall not forget our promise—En.]

It is easy to believe that Cheetham's Lancashire Hero is the finest variety you have bloomed this season. Can any other equal it in any season or under any one's hands? With me it absolutely answered the theoretical perfection by which we describe what an Auricula should be. But the edge was green, and not grey as described. Can any one say if that was owing to the plant being young, and only producing four pips? I pollened them with Beeston's Apollo, of which, if any thing comes of it, you may hear some years hence. What has become of Sir John Moore this year? its name does not appear among the conspicuous ones of your stands.

In your April Number Mr. Cooke directed us to use a drainage of broken bones for Auriculas; and as I had the opportunity of trying the plan, I have done so with a dozen. But the consequence in about three days afterwards (owing to the presence of water among the bones) was such, that I wrote immediately to a gardening periodical for advice. And I mention it to you, as I confess I think it a most hazardous practice to make a charnel-house of the receptacle for the most delicate and aristocratic of flowers, as your correspondent advises us. Whatever may come of this experiment, I shall never follow that advice again. What they appear to me to like best, and in which their foliage is always most vigorous and glossy and deep coloured, is the same that the Cineraria so delights in,—half-decayed leaves. Some of the Lancashire growers appear to me to use nothing but that and decayed wood. I doubt, however, if on such diet they would produce flowers in proportion. A very useful way of forming a stimulating compost I tried last year, and mean to continue; namely, at this time of the year to soak some fresh sheep-
dung in water till the whole becomes a semi-liquid mass, and then to incorporate it, which in that state it easily does, with five times its quantity of best loam. By the winter, if turned well two or three times, it will be intimately mixed and ready for the frost, and by the time the top-dressing is wanted, it will be ready for that purpose. I used it as such without any further addition; but it was rather too strong. By this time, however, with the leaf-mould and decayed wood I have by me, it makes apparently the best compost I have ever had.

I quite agree with you about the shutters in Dr. Horner's frame for these plants. I had one made which answers excellently, except the sliders. Had these turned upon hinges, as you recommend, there would have been nothing to desire. I think, however, I shall keep this for my best, and have another made on the plan and dimensions of Mr. Cooke's, which I expect will be a better recommendation than his drainage. My frame is glazed with single panes of plate glass reaching from the back to the front; by means of which, being near the window, the bloom can be seen nearly as well in wet weather as in dry.

Last autumn more plants than usual bloomed, I believe, everywhere. Nearly every plant I possess attempted to do so; but in most cases I pinched out the pips, leaving the stem, as soon as a leaf appeared by the side. I wish, however, to mention what appears to me a rather curious result of a trial, as to what time this practice ought to be considered too late. In November Dickson's Matilda and Hudson's Apollo sent up trusses. The latter, which was growing the faster, I treated so; and it has not flourished at all this spring: the former had ten pips, but the stem did not rise above an inch and a half, and remained stationary; so I left it, and expected it to wither and perish. However, it did not, but swelled during the warm weather of January, remaining still at the same height, and I was several times going to pinch off the pips; but I did not, and at the usual time it rose to its proper height, and expanded all its pips beautifully; and when the first was just beginning to open, a central spring truss made its appearance with seven pips, and the whole seventeen were in bloom together. A truss, therefore, that comes in November it seems should be left to itself. It is curious that the extremely trying cold of the spring did not injure this visible truss, though it spoilt for me several that had not emerged.

IOTA.

[This communication, although but "semi-official," is too practical to be other than interesting to our readers.—Ed.]

TULIPS.

GROWERS seem to be unanimous in opinion that the past blooms in many localities have been more generous by far than they have been
for years, being freer from blight and canker, with a thorough development of a larger amount of varieties than ordinary. At one time doubts and fears were rife in consequence of the adverse (to vegetation generally) early spring; these were, however, soon dispelled, and as growth proceeded, every assurance was afforded of a fine and vigorous though somewhat late bloom. There are those even among whom we may term gardeners, both professional and amateur, who have never beheld the massive and varied charms of a well-appointed Tulip-bed; the amount of flower, the regularity and evenness of the head of bloom, their diversity, yet orderly and systematic arrangement, are but a few of the features to which many well versed in horticulture and floriculture are entire strangers; their comparison with houses of Pelargoniums, Azaleas, or even miscellaneous collections of greenhouse plants, must prove altogether unfa- vorable to the latter; their unconstrained natural forms realise fully the free-and-easy system now so much urged by our highest authorities; few sticks or stays are there to be found even in a bed containing perhaps from a thousand to eighteen hundred blooms. Then, again, colour is to be found of the brightest tones: snowy whiteness; yellows, from pale lemon to the deepest shade observable in our field Buttercups. Nor is their glossiness of surface less remarkable; from the most cheerful tint of pale lilac may be regularly and progressively traced the deepest glossy maroon, even approaching the blackness of polished ebony; then bright pale pink graduating into the deepest and most dense cherry-red, — and in all there is substance, texture, surface, and purity, which we may look for in vain as belonging to any one family in the whole range of Florists' flowers. Then, again, as to the diversity of their markings, they intimately blend the entire range of the classes pertaining to the Picotee as regards the feather, whether light, medium, or heavy-edged; and the flame flowers rival the bizarres, and surpass the flakes of our Carnations, charming though they be.

Like the Dahlia, the Tulip lacks perfume; nevertheless, discuss its qualities, and it will be found to hold in combination as many attractive and valuable features as belong to any gem similarly circumstanced in the whole wreath of Flora’s garland. On the score of cultivation, none harder in constitution, or easier of treatment, exists; we would have every establishment claiming floricultural perfection incomplete that did not own its Tulip-bed, and which failed to consider it in the same ratio of desirableness with its pine-tums, vineries, aquariums, terraces, conservatories, and fountains; yet such is not the case, nor can it be in the present state of affairs. The time is, however, we hope, at hand, when floriculture will take a place in the “world of flowers,” which will command attention even from the few who are now indifferent to the pursuit, and insensible to its pleasures. But to our task.

Mr. Groom of Clapham Rise, Surrey, we believe claims to have the longest bed in cultivation, being 235 rows, each of seven bulbs; these, with here and there a bulb in the same hole, made up little short of 2000 blooms; while the out-beds contain perhaps twenty
times that number,—a forest of flowers! But to the sorts: foremost stands Dr. Horner, a narrowly feathered bizarre, with pale yet pure and dense yellow ground, somewhat too globular in form as seen this season, and also deficient of marking, yet commanding a front position; Fleur de Marie, on the contrary, boasts the heaviest feather, of dense cherry crimson on a pure white ground, better in form than the doctor, less colour would prove desirable; Old Charbonnier noir was in unique trim, as were Michael Angelo, Claude, Parmigiano, Rodney, Blamart, Roi de Siam a feathered Aglaia, shone conspicuously; in fact, what Heroine fine is to Triomphe Royal, so was this bloom to the flamed variety of Aglaia; it was as bold as the best Bion we ever saw. Of new flowers, Mr. Perkins and Duke of Wellington, bizarres, the former flamed, the latter feathered, were both of the highest merit; and we doubt not that Mr. Groom considers himself a lucky raiser, valuable as they must hereafter prove: we noted several other good seedlings; but we learnt that at present they are only under private numbers, which, although we were made acquainted with, we refrain from giving. Taking growth into consideration, even as compared with other metropolitan collections, we must term it feeble, the nature of the soil being such as can never produce vigour, though it keeps the strains very light, clean, and chaste,—characteristics valuable and desirable, but we would wish to see blended thereto strength and robustness.

At Wace Cottage, Holloway, the flowers grown by Mr. John Edwards were, we may say, strong, bold, robust, clean, and bright; sizes larger, taken as a whole, than those at Clapham; nor was this obtained at the expense of delicacy of feathering or purity of colour, although at similar distances from the smoky atmosphere of London, Clapham being about three miles south from London Bridge, while Holloway is three miles north from the Post-Office. We are somewhat particular in these geographical comments, in order to shew what may be done when energy and perseverance are skillfully and practically brought to bear on any fancy or pursuit: all these are due to Mr. Edwards; and whatever a f.w may say, it is well known to all unprejudiced persons, that whatever Mr. Edwards really takes in hand he carries out with some claim to perfection. But to the Tulips. Large collections of the Chellastons are grown here, Mr. E. being one of the originators of the National Tulip Meetings, was thus early in the field; and seeing the value of these far-famed flowers, he obtained supplies from his midland friends, and now he holds a well-selected and proven stock; yet some confusion prevails here, for we noticed Lord Vernon, Princess Royal, Chellaston Beauty, Purple Perfection, Countess of Harrington, Sable Monarch, in strains so similar that it was difficult to detect palpable differences; say what we may, the whole of them are invaluable amongst our bybloseens; incorrect or not, all were absolutely pure; Addison was admirably done: these, we learnt, were from roots purchased of Mr. Groom expressly to meet the northern demands for heavy feathered bybloseens; breadth of petal on the top in this is much needed; David, although good, is similarly deficient; General Bournavelde is
also of the same marked class; we observed, however, a very narrow feathered bloom; doubt has been expressed if so much difference could exist; but as we have it in Triomphe Royal and Heroine, and in the bloom noticed at Mr. Groom's as Aglaia, why not in this? 'twas a fine flower. Ivanhoe was well done, as were Musidora and Michael Angelo; Queen Charlotte, obtained from Mr. Wood of Nottingham, was beheaded and sent to the place from whence it came for exhibition; although said to be the same as Superb en noir, it was dissimilar here; both were fine. Thalia did not entirely grow out of the green; the contrary with Victoria Regina (Groom); this had done well, and by far surpassed the best of the many to be seen in the collection of the raiser at Clapham; Van Amburgh, so like Pilot in form, is, we fear, for ever stained.

We will now turn to the Rose class: of these Anastasia, is a fourth-row flower and very respectable, while Astonishing, Aglaia, Triomphe Royal, Lachesis, *cum multis aliis*, were all more or less dissimilar in some critical particular; Bijou seems to be a traitor, and illustrates forcibly the error so often committed of blaming this or that vendor for supplying spurious or inferior strains; now the original bulb in this collection we saw blooming in that fine condition in which it was illustrated in the pages of an early volume of the *Florist and Garden Miscellany*; the same bulb has never since been free from a thoroughly blue base, the state we noticed it in at our inspection. Catalani, Cerise blanc, Ponceau très blanc, and Dutch Ponceau, the latter very dissimilar, are here each kept separate, although we must confess to a striking resemblance; of Heroines and Bions, imported bulbs from the north, there was a fine display; of the former of not less than a dozen superb specimens: Lady Stanley, a midland variety, was bold, dissimilar, and valuable; Magnificent was too full of colour, but of this flower more anon. Bizarres next claim our attention. We will commence with Pilot: great caution is needed in getting in this flower from unknown or doubtful quarters; that there are three strains or sorts is certain; the Pilot has pure stamens; Aide-de-camp, an alias, by some, is taller and larger, but of a duller shade, while Captain Sleigh has stained anthers, and is taller than the true Pilot; the three sorts here (Holloway) had all been received from the midlanders as true Pilot; Captain White was good and bold, yet not free from the dingy base: is it ever so? Duke of Devonshire had not done well; Gold Cup, an imported stock, had but one (!) flower out of eight in its known form; Hamlet is pretty in form, but without decision in marking; Marshal Soult lacks purity of stamens; Priam (Wells), a good strain of the well-known Polyphemus, was in excessively fine condition, the feathering being little short of the black only claimed by Polyphemus (Brown); Plátoffs, or Royal Sovereigns, were not of the truest feathered strain, although we learnt that many bulbs were purchased from the midlanders; Garrick had done well, and much pleased the Nottingham judges; Vivid we thought good until we saw the bloom in Mr. Hunt's stand at the Surrey show; this was indeed a superb specimen.
The 180 rows at the Royal Nursery must be set down as "well done;" perhaps the greatest gem was Magnificent (Hayward's), a specimen meriting all the attention bestowed on it at Nottingham, —pure, well formed, and beautifully marked; such a bloom must enhance the popularity of a flower about which there has previously been some stir. Strong's King had even surpassed its usual excellence; Heroines, Princess Royals, Pilots, Bion, Arlette, Nora Creina, Polyphemus, Ulysses, Ibrahim Pasha, and Lord Strathmore, were all of the finest strains.

[To be continued.]

A GARDEN OF WILD FLOWERS.

There are two distinct classes among those who profess a love for flowers: those who admire nothing that is not new or rare, and those, on the other hand, who can appreciate plants simply for their own intrinsic beauty, or for some association that time or circumstance has woven around them. To the latter class belongs my friend Brown. He is a great lover of flowers and of his garden, in which he performs prodigies with the spade and the pruning-knife. Besides this, he is a constant reader of the Florist, a circumstance that will doubtless raise him in your estimation, Mr. Editor.

I have frequent opportunities of enjoying a stroll in his garden, which, as a whole, is a model of its class. But there is one particular part of it which I especially admire, and which, as a novelty in gardening, I think worthy of a passing notice in your pages.

This novelty is a garden of wild flowers, collected from their different localities, and accommodated, as far as possible, with the circumstances surrounding them in their natural habitats.

I should, however observe that the greater part of them are such as blow in spring; for, as their proprietor very justly observes, it is then that the greatest want of flowers is felt by those who have no greenhouse or conservatory to resort to. The weather is often such as to invite a garden ramble, and the ordinary denizens are scarcely in their best attire.

The spot devoted to these plants is a nook well open to the south, and backed to the north and east by a high bank and trees. It is in a manner shut away from the general grounds, but not isolated; while it forms a part of the whole, it does not intrude into view. A little stream, having its origin in a neighbouring spring, has been taken advantage of, and now runs through it, for what purpose we shall presently see.

The bank above alluded to has been artificially extended, and thus the garden appears in a hollow, with one side open. There is the entrance, which is under an iron arch covered with Pyrus japonica.

Now for the interior arrangements. The bank is broken from a
regular slope as much as possible, and well garnished with old roots, pieces of rough sandstone, and stems of trees, which furnish excellent situations for very many plants. On and about them in the bank are patches of Saxifraga oppositifolia, Glechoma hederacea, the common Primrose (Primula vulgaris), the Blue-bell, Agrapthis nutans, both blue and white varieties, and the Grape Hyacinth (Muscari racemosum). There is also Anemone nemorosa, so common in our woods, with its beautiful white flowers. A. apennina, and the still scarcer A. ranunculoides, which we will claim as a native, whether it be so or not. Then there is the herb Robert (Geranium Robertianum) and G. molle, besides bunches of Violets; the poets’ Narcissus, and very many others, which those who are acquainted with British plants can easily supply. And early in the year the Snowdrop thickly studs the place. The garden itself is composed of small regular-shaped beds of various sizes, in which some of those named, besides many others, are in masses. Here is Stellaria holostea, a sheet of the purest white, the Pasque Flower (Anemone nemorosa), spreading its rich violet-purple petals to the sun, the Colt’s-foot, yellow, the Potentilla fragariastrum, white, and Shakspeare’s Daffodil,

"that comes before the swallow dare,
And takes the winds of March with beauty."

Amongst others there is the Aconite (Eranthis hiemalis), the Green Hellebore, and Ranunculus ficaria, with Wall-flowers’ Spring Vetch, and Pulmonaria angustifolia. Besides these beds there are patches of green turf devoted to various species of Orchis, and other plants that delight in green pastures. I had almost forgotten a beautiful mass of Fritillaria Meleagris, and another of Ornithogalum umbellatum, the Star of Bethlehem.

Now of the water. Its channel is broken by a succession of flats and recesses in its banks which are very low, where many plants that delight in such situations are luxuriating. There, conspicuous above all, is the Marsh Marygold (Caltha palustris), with Cardamine pratense, Ajuga reptans, and Menyanthes trifoliata.

Besides these beds, which I should say are upon gravel, there are dispersed about several picturesque old stumps of trees, in the nooks and crannies of which very many plants are growing. On the shady side of one is a patch of Oxalis acetosella. Close by it on one of the patches of green turf, the three varieties of Polygala vulgaris are in full bloom—pink, blue, and white. Amongst the shrubs on the bank there is the Black-thorn, the White-thorn, the Crab, the Gorse, and the Broom, with the Box, the Juniper, and the Yew, for evergreens.

I dare not reveal the sequestered nook in which my friend is thus embowered; but should any garden-loving reader of the _Florist_ by chance wander there, I can promise him a cordial reception, with a cigar and a bottle of wine to boot.

_Crayon._
ECHITES SPLENDENS.

When properly managed, and well-bloomed, this lovely stove climber is the admiration of all who see it; and, in addition to its intrinsic beauty, it is invaluable for the length of time it continues in perfection, justly entitling it to take the highest place in plant-collections.

For the benefit of your readers I will give the treatment I have pursued with respect to it for these last ten years, and under which I have found it to thrive well, and bloom to my entire satisfaction. The best time to commence growing a plant, if required to bloom fine the same season, would be April, but May or June might also be chosen, if the plant is not required to flower early. Commence by examining the roots, and if found to be in want of fresh potting, prepare some light turfy loam and fibrous peat, in equal proportions, for the purpose; adding to this half the quantity of well-decomposed leaf-mould, and a liberal allowance of sharp silver-sand, mixing it well together, and using it in a rough state, taking care to well drain the pot that is to receive it. When potted, the best place for it will be in a close house or pit, where the temperature is kept rather high and moist, say from 70° to 80°, and where bottom-heat is at command, for there is no plant with which I am acquainted that delights in a moderate bottom-heat more than this does. When it starts into growth, train it upon some sticks or on a trellis, keeping it tied as it advances; for if this is not done, it will be found difficult as well as dangerous to perform the operation after the plant has been allowed to make long shoots and becomes entangled in each other. Keep it syringed over the top every morning and evening; and as it advances supply it with some weak manure-water twice or three times a week. This must be applied in a tepid state, and it will be found to add amazingly to its strength and vigour; it will soon begin to shew bloom from the sides of the young wood; and as soon as the flowers begin to expand, it should be removed to a cooler and dryer atmosphere, until by degrees it can be brought to bear the temperature of the conservatory, where it will continue to bloom three or four months in great perfection. At the end of the season, either in September or October, according to the state of the plant, and the time in which it has been started into growth, it will require to be wintered in an intermediate house, where water should be gradually withheld for the purpose of ripening its roots and wood. It may remain there till the season arrives for starting it into growth; and if more than one plant is required a succession will be necessary, by starting them into growth at different seasons. When the time shall have arrived for starting them, examine their roots, and if found in a healthy, kind state, they may be shifted into a larger pot; but if, on the contrary, they are unhealthy, and the mould unkind, partially prune the plant, and shake it clean out of the soil, potting it into the smallest pot that can be made to accommodate it, and using the same compost as before directed. Using the smallest pot it can be conveniently placed in will cause it to throw out its roots with
more vigour, and will also afford you the advantage of giving it another shift when growing; whereas by potting it in a large pot at first, the mould becomes unfriendly and sour before the roots reach the outside, and failure is often the result.

It will be found of the greatest advantage to the well-doing of the plant to give it proper time for rest, placing it, as before mentioned, in an intermediate house, which should range from 45° to 50°, and as it gradually ripens its growth, regulate the watering until it is withheld altogether for at least six weeks before the time arrives for potting it for the next season's growth. It is a tuberous rooted plant, much resembling that of the Dahlia, and consequently it is a very strong feeder. While growing supply it liberally with heat, moisture, and liquid manure; and there need be no fears entertained but that it will be brought to bloom in great perfection.

I may here remark that I never would allow the plant to remain in the same soil over two years, as the mould becomes exhausted and unkind; shake it clean out of the soil and start it again the same way by which a young plant should be started. It has then the advantage of fresh soil every time it is shifted, which will cause it to throw out in abundance young and vigorous roots. It will also be found that too much shading is injurious to its blooming. I have seen very large strong plants that never could be brought into bloom, but were kept continually growing from no other cause than being too much shaded.

_Camden Nursery, Camberwell._

W. Barnes.

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**THE LATE NATIONAL TULIP MEETING AT NOTTINGHAM.**

There cannot be two opinions as to the benefits that will be derived from the gathering together of Florists from all parts of the United Kingdom, for the purpose of competing with each other in a friendly spirit, as we have long misunderstood each other as to what constitute the properties of the Tulip; one portion advocating size and purity, others making marking a _sine qua non_—shape and purity out of question; another class, in advance of their brethren, wish to see a large flower well-formed, pure in every respect, likewise regularity of marking, whether the flower be a flame or a feather. Again, others differ as to the beam in a flamed flower, whether there ought to be any feather in the bloom or not. In this particular the leading southern growers agree with the northerns. Mr. Lawrence's definition of a flamed flower is in perfect unison with what has been recognised in Lancashire for upwards of a century; and that being the case, I think that a flamed flower to be perfect must have both beam and feather; and, moreover, the beam should be full of small branches striking into the feather, so as to have as much branching as possible, yet the ground-colour to shew between each branch; and
the inside to be an exact counterpart of the outside—not as is commonly seen, very little ground-colour. The beam ought never to go through to the top of the petal, but should stop short, tapering gradually as it ascends from the base of the flower until it merges into a small point into the feathering, and is completely lost amidst the beautiful pencillings of the feather. Now it is by these national meetings that an assimilation of ideas and a correctness of taste diffuses itself amongst all Florists, and that harmony and good feeling are engendered; aliases are likewise exposed, and there is an increase in knowledge of every thing that relates to our favourite pursuit. Each one has some favourite theme to relate as to his success in producing fine specimens, and a large amount of information is obtained highly beneficial to all.

The season of 1853 has been probably one of the worst [The southerns consider it one of the best.—Ed.] ever known by the Tulip cultivator. An open winter seldom produces fine feathered blooms; and it has been remarked that after a severe winter the bloom is much better than if the season had been otherwise. But in the present one we have had both combined. In the early part the vegetation of the Tulip was rapid and nearly six weeks in advance, thus making them more susceptible of severe weather; in the latter part we had frost intensely severe and of long duration, chilling and stopping the circulation of the colours, which during the fine weather had been brought into a state of activity, and then the frosty nights congealing that which had risen towards the edges of the petals, thus making blotches of colour, particularly the breeder or mother colour, in nearly every petal which was checked by cold before it could be condensed into the natural colouring. That such is the case will, I think, admit of no doubt.

It was owing to the severity of the season, as well as the cold weather, that the national meeting was not so rich in blooms as was anticipated. Few of the more northern exhibitors were in bloom before the 30th day of May—ten days later than usual. The Derby growers were in full bloom, whilst those of Nottingham had scarcely one; and this will partly account for the Derby growers being so successful. Mr. Lawrence, of Hampton, had a very fine pan (all pure) he had selected particularly for purity, and by this means he did not obtain a position which his flowers merited. His Salvator Rosa was a perfect gem; and yet, strange to say, it never got a place in the flamed bybloemen class; whilst one was placed first with the breeder out at the top of every petal, which all northerns consider a defect, so much so as nearly to disqualify the bloom. Mr. Turner had some fine blooms, as he took several premiers in the classes, which is more complimentary to a grower than in taking a low position in the pans, as the blooms have to compete with a much larger number, all single specimens; the like remark applies to Mr. Edwards's blooms. Purity did not appear to be indispensable, or else many pans would have been placed much lower, if not disqualified.

In Class A, the first pan ought to have been placed the second.
The Sir Sidney Smith, or Magnum Bonum as it was labelled, was bad, as well as the Maid of Orleans; whilst the second pan only contained one bad flower, Lord Milton, flamed bizarre, which was green round the base where the beaming commences. There was one pan which contained two Abbott’s Gem; but this was afterwards disqualified. Judges ought to be careful, at a meeting like a national one, to see, after they have placed them, if any pan contains two varieties the same, although labelled different. The Rev. T. Creswell’s pan was placed third; but it was much superior to the one placed second. The classes were in some particular instances badly placed; for instance, in the feathered bizarre class, was placed sixth a Duc de Savoy; a variety almost extinct in the north. It was green at the base in three petals, and the yellow at the base was cloudy; other discrepancies might be cited.

Blooms, considering the season, were very good. Sixteen hundred were paid for, although there were not so many [Twelve hundred.—Ed.] staged.

Amongst the novelties were Nymph, a feathered rose, placed third, the base being in a cloudy white. Gibbon’s Salvator Rosa (why not have chosen some other name, as we have already Hooker’s and Brown’s?) is a very striking flower; but it will not bear scrutiny, having what is termed a grizzly feather, i.e. an alternate feather of the breeder colour and one of the proper colour, which has always been considered a very serious drawback upon all Tulips. Lord Denman has a very cloudy base, tun-dish in shape, but a most excellent marker; the top of the bloom very even and well rounded; and had it purity, with a better form at the base, it would stand second to none. Spencer’s First-Rate is a very promising variety.

Amongst the seedlings which had never obtained a prize, Slater’s Earl Richmond, a feathered bizarre of extreme purity, from an offset bloom, was placed first; Tariff (Mart’s), a flamed bizarre, second; colours very striking, having a good yellow ground, pure base, but long in the cup, yet, from its colours, it will be cultivated, although it was rather grizzly upon the feather; Queen Victoria, a feathered bybloomen, raised by Mr. Jackson of Belvoir, the raiser of Lady Clifton, was considered by all to be a very first-rate variety; Lady Clifton (Rose) was placed sixth. This cannot be the one so highly praised, as it is long-cupped and impure at the base, and flamed, whilst the other is stated to be pure and short-cupped. If this is the case, two varieties have been made into one, and some confusion will consequently arise from it. Amongst the seedling breeders few were of that character to merit notice except the first, which was challenged by more than one to be Duke of Hamilton, which is well known for its character, and has been in cultivation upwards of twelve years. Another seedling, Slater’s Marius, took a seventh prize in the classes; but as this is the only good break, much cannot be said in its favour, although it possesses every other requisite.

In breaking up the pans of twelves into sixes, the parties employed for that purpose could not have understood their task, or Mr. Lawrence, Edwards, Turner, Thorniley, and others, would have.
had a much higher place amongst the sixes, as it was understood that the exhibitors of twelve blooms were to put their best six on one stand and mark it, so that it should be placed in its proper place, which could not have been the case, as several pans of sixes, by the parties named, containing their refuse specimens, after placing the other blooms in twelves, took prizes, which would not have happened had the others come before judges.

The next meeting is to be held in London; and it is to be hoped that a suitable time may be fixed upon, so that the northerns can meet their southern friends on that occasion; and no doubt, from the numerous growers in the neighbourhood of the great metropolis, the tastes of their northern brethren will be found upon scrutiny to be in unison with their own.

John Slater.

Cheetham Hill, near Manchester.

MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

One of the paramount features belonging to ornamental flower-gardening, and one that displays considerable taste and ability, is the arrangement of the various kinds or groups of plants that it contains. Herbaceous plants, for the most part, can only be planted in beds, borders, or on clumps, to produce a good effect, the tallest-growing kinds occupying the centre or back-ground, gradually decreasing in height to the margin; but trees and shrubs, to display the greatest advantage, imitate nature, and break that monotony which would otherwise be too prevalent, should be planted singly, or some few kinds, such as Azaleas, Rhododendrons, &c., should be planted in clumps, as when they are in flower in a large mass, they produce, from their various colours, a very striking effect. There are many kinds of Conifers, &c., which are splendid objects for a lawn. Standard Roses distributed about, and not planted too closely or in straight lines, are objects of extreme beauty throughout their flowering season; but during spring and the early part of summer there is nothing that can vie with the elegance, gracefulness, and profusion of flowers produced by the various species of leguminous plants. Many of this family are possessed of unrivalled beauty; the herbaceous kinds for the beds or borders, and the shrubby species for clumps, walls, or throughout the shrubberies, or many as standards for the lawns; they are the most interesting and highly-ornamental group of all our hardy species for out-door decoration. Every one is pretty familiar with the beauty and gracefulness of the Laburnum, Wistaria, Robinia, Edwardsia, Genista, &c., our native Broom and Furze, which in many localities constitute the gayest part of our rural scenery. The double-blossomed Furze, which is perhaps one of the showiest flowering of our indigenous shrubs, if planted singly throughout the shrubberies, or on the outside border of the flower-garden, forms a large bush, 3 to 5 feet high, and loaded in spring with a profusion of very fragrant flowers, which towards evening fill the air with their perfume. The various kinds of Cyttus, Caragania, &c., are handsome free-flowering shrubs, suitable for the borders or clumps, some of them forming very compact bushes, 2 to 3 feet high; others are of a prostrate or trailing habit; but if they are grafted on stocks of the Robinia, or common Laburnum, they form large handsome heads, and with this advantage, that they can be planted as standards on the lawn, or here and there one on the beds or clumps, to give variety to the flower-garden, and keep it in a blaze of beauty during spring and the early part of summer; the stocks should vary from 2 to 6 feet high, according to the kind with which it is intended to graft them; from their various heights they may be arranged so as to
harmonise with the general contour of the grounds, and thus produce a pleasing effect. The following list contains the best kinds that are now growing at Kew; they are all standards, mostly upon Laburnum stocks, a few being upon their own roots, and with a very few exceptions they are all at present in flower.

**Cytisus supinus.** This is a very ornamental species; the branches are hairy, slender, and pendulous, forming a head 3 to 4 feet diameter, flowers yellow and brown. A native of the south of Europe.

**Cytisus sessilifolius.** A rather erect-growing handsome species, forming a head 5 to 6 feet diameter; it has smallish sessile leaves, and bright yellow flowers on the apex of every branchlet. It is a native of Italy.

**Cytisus elongatus.** An ornamental species, having slender branches, which form a head 3 feet in diameter, the flowers are rather large, are of a yellow and brown, and borne copiously all up the branches. It is a native of Hungary.

**Cytisus purpureus.** A very ornamental species, with slender branches and purplish flowers; it forms a rather close head 2 feet in diameter. It is a native of Austria.

**Cytisus purpureus roseus.** A very handsome variety; it forms a head 2 to 3 feet diameter; the flowers are of a reddish-purple.

**Cytisus purpureus albus.** This is a very elegant variety; it forms a close round-headed bush 18 inches in diameter, and has large white flowers all along the branches.

**Cytisus purpureus pendulus.** This is a very handsome graceful variety; the branches are slender and pendulous, a foot or 18 inches long, forming a head in shape resembling a spread umbrella, which is covered with purple flowers.

**Cytisus scoparius.** This is our common Broom. It forms a very handsome bush when trained as a standard; it is very showy, having large yellow flowers.

**Cytisus albus.** This forms an admirable contrast with the preceding one; it has long slender branches, and forms a large bush 5 to 6 feet in diameter, which is literally covered throughout with white flowers. It is a native of Portugal.

**Cytisus laburnum pendulus.** A very graceful variety, having pendulous branches with clusters of yellow flowers. It was raised in the gardens.

**Cytisus uralensis.** A rather erect-growing hairy species from Russia; not yet in flower.

**Cytisus argenteus.** A very ornamental species, with slender branches and flowers of a brown and yellow. It is a native of France.

**Cytisus nigracius.** An erect-growing kind, with small leaves and yellow flowers on the apex of the branchlets. It forms a close head 2 feet diameter, and is from Austria. It is not an early-flowering kind.

**Calophaca wolgarica.** An ornamental kind, with slender, hairy, pendulous branches, 2 to 3 feet long, and yellow flowers. It is a native of Siberia.

**Spartocytisus nubigenus.** This is a very handsome flowering shrub; the leaves are terete, and resemble Cytisus scoparius; it grows rather erect, forms a head 2 to 2½ feet diameter; the flowers are very fragrant, of a lightish pink, and are produced copiously along the branches. It is a native of the Canary Islands.

**Halimodendron argenteum.** A slender-growing, neat-looking, spiny shrub, with small leaves and pinkish flowers. It forms a very compact round head 2 to 3 feet diameter, and is from Siberia. It flowers about July and August.

**Caragana pygmea.** A very graceful and beautiful species, the branches are slender, pendulous, 3 to 5 feet long, with small leaves, and flowers yellow, tinged with a reddish brown. It is from Siberia.

**Caragana grandiflora.** This is a very neat-looking species, with slender spiny branches, and small glaucous leaves. It forms a head 3 feet in diameter; the flowers are large, yellow, and of a reddish brown. It is from Iberia.

**Caragana tragacanthoides.** A stiff-branching spiny shrub, with yellow flowers. It forms a rather close roundish head 2 to 2½ feet diameter, and is a native of Siberia.

**Caragana altagana.** This is a large-growing and very free-flowering species; the branches are slender, spiny, and form a wide-spreading head 6 feet in diameter. It has yellow flowers, and is from Siberia.
CARAGANA SPINOSA. An ornamental close-growing spiny species, with yellow flowers. A native of Siberia.

CARAGANA CHAMAEGOU. This species forms a rather large, close head; the leaves and stem are glabrous; the flowers yellow and reddish brown. It appears not a free-flowering kind, but is rather a handsome-growing shrub, and is a native of China.

CARAGANA JUBATA. A stiff-branching pendulous spiny shrub, having yellow flowers. It is a native of Siberia.

CARAGANA FRUACESCENS. A glabrous slender-branching pendulous species, having yellow flowers, and forming a graceful head 2 to 3 feet in diameter. It is from Siberia.

CARAGANA ARBORESCENS. This species is spiny, of rather erect growth, and of a much-branching habit; the branches while young are red. It has yellow flowers, and is from Carolina.

ROBINIA HISPIDA. This is one of the handsomest-flowering of all hardy shrubs. It requires to be kept low, or planted in a very sheltered situation; the branches being brittle, are apt to be broken by winds. It has large pink flowers, and is a native of Carolina.

ROBINIA PSEUDACACIA TORTUOSA. A very ornamental large-growing tree, with twisted leaves and white flowers. It is from North America.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. HOULSTON.

NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

June 16.—The President in the chair. Sixty-four seedling plants were staged on this occasion, the greater portion consisting of Pelargoniums; but there were also Azaleas, Gloxinias, Lupins, Petunias, Thunbergias, Verbenas, Mimuluses, Fuchsias, Pinks, and Calceolarias. First-class certificates were awarded to Pelargoniums Virginia (Hoyle), and to Rosa (Foster); to the former for its general good properties, being a light flower, with purple maroon top petals; and to the latter for its form, texture, and smoothness of petal. An Azalea named Striata formosissima, sent by Mr. Taylor, gr. to J. Coster, Esq., of Streatham, received a certificate of merit. It is a white sort, flaked and spotted with light purple. Similar certificates were granted to Pelargonium Carlos (Hoyle), for its bold and showy character, being light rose with dark top petals and medium margin; flowers large and truss bold. To Pelargonium Lucy (Foster), for its general good properties; to Pelargonium Pearl of England (Dobson), being a decided improvement on Pearl, and as a white flower highly valuable. Among other meritorious Pelargoniums staged, Autocrat (Foster) possessed many good properties; Brilliant (Foster) is remarkable for the dazzling scarlet of its ground-colour; Cloth of Gold (Foster) is very showy; others of less note were staged by Major Foquet, Rev. T. Trimmer, T. White, Esq., and Mr. Hocken; several fancy varieties were contributed. A label of commendation was awarded to Lady Mary Labouchere (Bragg), being an excellent variety for vases, baskets, and other out-door purposes; as a bedding sort, Pretty Polly (Keynes) well deserved the award granted it at the previous meeting; Verbena Beauty (Banks) received a label of commendation, it is in the way of Madame Buenzod, but larger; Calceolaria Amazon received a similar award for its good
bedding properties. Fuchsia Charmer (Banks) has a good habit and desirable colours (white and purple); Pink Napoleon (Norman) evidently possesses many first-rate properties; it was requested to be shown again. Mr. Salter sent a collection of Iris blooms, which were much admired. Some Calceolaria flowers arrived too late for the inspection of the judges; they came from Hull; two or three of them were evidently first-class kinds.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. Keep them in a cool, shady situation, protected from heavy rains. Green-fly will cause some trouble this month, but the plants must be cleared of them, either by fumigating or brushing them off; keep the soil in a good state for use in August, when they will require re-potting.

Calceolaria. Cut off the flowering-stalks to assist the plants in producing cuttings. Seed should be sown in very fine sandy soil.

Carnations and Picotees. This will be the most interesting month to the growers of these flowers; some few of the early kinds are already bursting and shewing their rich colours. Disbudding will have been completed, excepting some of the later plants, which should be done as soon as the side-buds can be removed. Clear off all dead foliage and keep down aphides; such shoots as are too high up the plant, or where they are crowded, may now be put in as pipings under small glasses, with a little bottom-heat; small cuttings strike best: it is no use piping late, they should be put in early, or the plants will not be equal to layers.

Cinerarias. Transplant first-sown seedlings, and sow seed for succession; take cuttings of the named varieties as soon as sufficiently long, and strike them in sand, in small pots, placed in a cool frame.

Dahlias. Water these every evening in dry weather over the foliage, with soft water; from the amount of rain we have had, they will not require root-watering for a time; secure them to stakes as they grow. Earwigs cannot be looked after too early or perseveringly. Slugs must also be exterminated before they come into bloom.

Fuchsias. These will be getting into full flower, and must be carefully attended to as regards watering. Plants for late bloom should have their final shift, and buds pinched off should they appear.

Hollyhocks. Secure these with stout, but not long stakes. Cuttings should be put in as often as they can be taken from the bottom or side shoots. A large number of cuttings will never be got at one time; but to make a large stock the plants should be looked over as often as once a week.

Pansies. Plant first-struck cuttings in north border, or other
cool situation, for autumn bloom; continue to put in cuttings, also to save seed.

Pinks. Complete the propagation of these at once, by putting the cuttings in under small glasses, similar to the plan recommended for Carnations and Picotees. Seed, to be secured against wet, should be protected with small glasses, placed over such pods as are most likely and desirable to seed—from such as Criterion, Lola Montes, Regulator, Sappho, and other fine-petalled flowers moderately full.

Pelargoniums. Cutting down should now be done in earnest for another season, more particularly for early bloom; choice sorts also must be cut down for the purpose of propagation. Keep the plants tolerably dry for a short time before as well as after cutting down. Some let them remain out of doors after cutting down, which answers very well if a dry fine season; but if a wet one, they are better under glass, in a light situation, with plenty of air. Sow seed as soon as ripe. See that the soil is in proper order for re-potting, which should be done when the young shoots are about an inch long. The Fancies require similar treatment, but should not be delayed cutting down, neither should they be placed out of doors to break; excess of wet would be fatal to many of them.

Roses. Vigilance will still be required to hunt out the rose-maggot, which, in consequence of the young shoots becoming ripened, often locates himself on the top of some of the most promising flower-buds, where, covered by a leaflet, he feeds on the edges of the petals, and so destroys some of the finest flowers. To hard-opening varieties, as La Reine, Souvenir de Malmaison, &c., a rather liberal application of liquid manure will be found very serviceable in stimulating the blossoms and causing their expansion, otherwise many of them would be abortive. The best period is just after rain. A few perpetuals, as the Duchess of Sutherland, William Jesse, &c., are at some seasons not so certain of giving autumnal blooms as could be wished; this may be remedied to some extent by shortening the longest of this season’s barren shoots to half their length. Those two fine hybrid Chinas, Generals Allard and Lamoricière, may frequently be induced to give autumnal blooms by the same treatment. Should the remainder of the season prove dry, mulching should not be neglected.

Tulips. These may now be taken up where not already done, and put in a shady cool place, to dry off gently; the outer skin and soil should be removed when they have been out of the ground a few weeks.

Hollyhock and Dahlia Boxes. It will be well for intending exhibitors to see their boxes, show-boards, and tubes are in proper order, and have the show-boards newly painted and varnished in good time. They should become quite hard and dry before using. Wood-plugs, or tubes for securing the flower-stalks, should be soaked a few days before required; it prevents their absorbing the water in the zinc tube, and to swell before they are placed in it, instead of after.
THE CALCEOLARIA.

On reference to our volumes for 1848 and 1850, we find plates giving illustrations of the novelties of the time, and accompanying them some valuable memoranda furnished by our lamented friend the late Mr. M. Woodhouse and by Mr. Holmes of Sudbury. Much that is there stated is fully applicable at the present time; and nothing more so than the complaint of a general want of novelty, which is more and more apparent in all subjects either submitted to or seen by us during the time intervening. We had almost given up any further progress as hopeless, when by mere chance a package, directed to the Secretary of the National Floricultural Society on a late exhibition-day "came to the rescue;" but this package being received after the meeting had been dissolved, was not taken officially into consideration; suffice it to say, however, that the contents, Calceolarias, were freely discussed by the members present; and as if to aid in the examination, a box of blooms, duly submitted by another grower, was used to test the quality of the "late comers." The verdict was unanimous; and a "general rush" ensued, to learn by whom the strangers were sent. It proved to be Mr. W. Stones, gardener to W. Irving, Esq., Coltman Street, Hull; and to this cultivator we are indebted, through the zeal of our coadjutor Mr. J. Edwards, for a second supply of flowers, from which a selection was made and transmitted to our artist; and now we have the pleasure of presenting them to our readers in the accompanying plate.

That Mr. Stones has been a painstaking raiser may be gathered from his quaint remarks now before us; he observes that, as a grower of Calceolarias for six years, he has bought a number of the best sorts, and year by year has not failed to profit by the experience of former trials, made with a view to their improvement. Nil desperandum and Major's Conqueror, Gaines' Pearl and Holmes' Rosalind, Kinghorn's Ardens and Major's Captivation, Kinghorn's Napoleon and Major's Pearl, Kinghorn's Rubini and Gustavus, these, together with Pennycuik's Baron Eden, have been the parents of the flowers now under consideration. Not only is Mr. Stones, however, fortunate as a raiser, he is eminent as an exhibitor; for we learn that a first prize was awarded to his skill at the late Hull exhibition held in the Zoological Gardens, and that by the connoisseurs of both Yorkshire and Lincolnshire are these things held in high esteem.

NEW SERIES, VOL. III. NO. XXXII.
We cannot, however, consider the Calceolaria in its present state in any other light than that of an annual; and in this view of the matter we are not alone, for being favoured in another page with an outline of the culture practised by Mr. H. Constantine, gardener to C. Mills, Esq., Hillingdon, a successful exhibitor at each of the London shows both in 1852 and in 1853, we observe that his opinion entirely coincides with our own on this subject. Until an increased amount of shrub-biness has been infused into their constitution, we fear they cannot be looked upon as safe subjects to be classified, or rather say elevated into the ranks of florists' flowers.

Mr. Stones intimates his intention to propagate as many as he can for sale next spring; let him, therefore, harvest his seed well, and distribute the same through the trade or otherwise, and for the future turn his attention to the desideratum "shrubby habit," so much needed,—a task we can but own requiring some energy and much perseverance.

As regards our illustration, we have refrained from appending names to the varieties there displayed, from the acknowledged uncertainty there is pertaining to their propagation.

To those of our readers who may not have attended the metropolitan shows, it may be observed, that Mr. Constantine's plants there staged each measured from seven to nine feet in circumference, and that they might have been termed one solid mass of bloom, numbering many hundreds on each plant.

THE PINK.

In 1852 (page 59 of the Florist for that year), a correspondent, in a sensible but rather severe article on the Pink, concluded by prophesying that an improvement in this old but favourite flower was at hand; grounding his hypothesis on the fact that a large number of seedlings was known to have flowered in 1851. The result is now pretty well ascertained; and however sanguine the writer may have been, we think it must have exceeded his expectations; it certainly has ours. The best stand we have seen this season—namely, that which took the first prize at the Regent's Park show on the 29th June—contained, out of the twenty-four varieties, fourteen that were raised in that year. More conclusive proof of improvement there could not be. Neither have we been standing still since. The present season has produced some in advance of any thing we have before seen. The full confused flowers are now pretty well gone out of cultivation. Great Britain and Narboro' Buck, once such favourites, are now only
tolerated until we have a sufficient number of a new and better style. On the other hand, the northern growers begin to appreciate a few more petals in their flowers than formerly; the result of which is, that there is now only an imaginary difference in the taste of the southern and northern growers.

We must particularise, however, by describing some of the best kinds for the benefit of those who have not seen them. The finest variety that has come under our notice was raised by Dr. Maclean, of Colchester, and is named Great Criterion. This has a petal as large as a Picotee, beautifully laced with rosy purple, with just a sufficient number of petals, and no more. It is of full size. Maclean’s New Criterion, Adonis, and Venus, are also of good quality, and very promising.

The Oxford growers have been doing their duty by the Pink. From three growers we have received some very good flowers. Looker’s John Stevens is the finest dark purple we have seen. It took the first prize from amongst a large number of seedlings at the Oxford Pink show, beating some very fine flowers. Juliet, by the same raiser, is a heavily-laced purple, yet having plenty of white on each petal, and very smooth; and Earl of Derby is full, without being confused; and there are several others not yet named. Mr. Colcutt, also of Oxford, has several that will make fine flowers; but being under number, we cannot particularise them. No. 5 we thought the best.

In the collections shewn by Mr. Bragg of Slough we noticed some varieties possessing first-rate quality, the best of which we consider to be James Hogg, Hercules, Purple Perfection, Mrs. Bragg, Lord Charles Wellesley, Koh-i-noor, Hector, President, Ruby, and Sir J. Paxton. Norman’s Colchester Cardinal has been shewn in considerable numbers, confirming its quality and fine lacing, yet it is rather thin. Mr. Read, of Silsoe, Beds, has sent out some very useful flowers. Ada, a soft rosy purple, we particularly noticed (its only fault being a little undersized), and Bertha, also purple, with good quality. Among our own, the best is Beauty of Salt Hill, a flower of fine substance, and very smooth. Perfection, Esther, Phoenix, Sarah, King of Hanover, Harry, Constance, Purity, and Arthur have all been shewn in fine condition this season. Edwards’s Titus, a large flower, is very showy, but reflexes too much.

The old varieties that have been seen good and maintain their position are Sappho, Lola Montes, Criterion, Whipper-in, Mrs. Maclean, Regulator, Kate, Lord Valentia, and Optima. The season was too late to make any display at Chiswick; yet the blooms were finely grown, and we never remember to have seen them better laced, shewing that a late spring is favourable to a good bloom of Pinks.
HISTORY AND CULTURE OF MIGNONETTE.

It is now an age since this fragrant weed of Egypt first perfumed the European gardens, and it is so far climatized as to spring from seed of its own sowings. The Reseda odorata first found its way to the south of France, where it was welcomed by the name of Mignonette (Little Darling), which was found too appropriate for this sweet little flower to be ever afterwards exchanged for any other. By a manuscript note in the library of the late Sir Joseph Banks, it appears that the seed of the Mignonette was sent in 1742, by Lord Bateman, from the Royal Garden at Paris, to Mr. Richard Bateman at Old Windsor; but we should presume that this seed was not dispersed, and perhaps not cultivated beyond Mr. Bateman’s garden, as we find that Mr. Miller received the seed from Dr. Adrian Van Royen, of Leyden, and cultivated it in the Botanic Garden at Chelsea in the year 1752. From Chelsea it soon got into the gardens of the London florists, so as to enable them to supply the metropolis with plants to furnish out the balconies,—a fact noticed by Cowper, who attained the age of twenty-one in the year that this flower first perfumed the British atmosphere by its fragrance. The author of the Task soon afterwards celebrates it as a favourite plant in London—

"—— the sashes fronted with a range
Of orange, myrtle, or the fragrant weed."

The odour which this little flower exhales is thought by some to be too powerful for the house; but even those persons, we presume, must be delighted with the fragrance which it throws from the balconies into the streets, giving something like a breath of garden-air to the “close-pent man” whose avocations will not permit a ramble beyond the squares of the fashionable part of the town. To such persons it must be a luxurious treat to catch a few ambrosial gales on a summer evening, from the heated pavement where offensive odours are but too commonly met with. We have frequently found the perfume of the Mignonette so powerful in some of the better streets, that we have considered it sufficient to protect the inhabitants from those effluvia that bring disorder with them in the air. This genus of plants, of which there are a good many species, was named Reseda by the ancients, from resedare, to assuage, because some of the species were esteemed good for mitigating pain.

The Mignonette is transformed into a perennial shrub, which dispenses its odours at all seasons of the year, by the following simple treatment: A young plant should be placed in a garden-pot, with a stick of about eighteen inches in height inserted by its side, to tie up its branches to; as it advances in height, the leaves and young branches being kept stripped off from the lower part, so as to form a stem to the height required, this stem will become sufficiently hard and woody to endure the winter, by being placed in a greenhouse or the window of a sitting-room, and may be preserved for several years, if air is given to it whenever the weather will allow, so that
the young branches do not become too delicate. As soon as the seed-vessels begin to form, they should be cut off, which will cause the plant to throw out a fresh supply of blossoms; but these plants should never be suffered to perfect their seed, as it would greatly weaken them, and generally cause their entire decay; for the sweet Reseda is an annual in its proper climate, and therefore naturally decays when it ripens its seed. It is frequently observed that the seeds of the Mignonette which scattered themselves in the autumn produce finer plants than those that are sown in the spring, which should teach us to sow a part of our seed at that season of the year in pots or boxes, kept in frames through the winter, or in a greenhouse. D. M.

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COTTAGE ROCKWORK.

When we contrast the gardens of the wealthy with those attached to cottages of tradesmen, we are in some measure led to believe that, so far as rockwork is concerned, improvements have been altogether confined to the gardens of the rich. Any one who looks on the huge blocks of stone piled up, one on the other, at the entrance of the great conservatory at Chatsworth, could scarcely imagine that a rockwork could be made on a small scale to have a good effect. It would be wrong to say that this has not been tried, and successfully accomplished; I have seen, however, many a corner filled up with stones, which went under the name of rockwork, that looked more like a tumbled-down wall than any thing else to which I could compare it. I have had an opportunity of inspecting a few cottage-gardens in the vicinity of London and elsewhere, and I have observed that where beauty has been the point aimed at, these gardens have been generally laid out in gross, with flower-beds in the shape of circles, ovals, squares, &c., with not unfrequently a mound in the centre. Now let us imagine a level plat of ground, 40 yards long by 40 wide, laid out in the manner just adverted to, and who will not be able to perceive that a great sameness pervades the whole? But if this mound in the centre consisted of properly-built rockwork, that formality would in a great measure disappear.

In building small or great rockworks there are but few rules by which a person can be guided; yet a few hints on this subject may possibly be of service to those who have not had much practice in this branch of ornamental gardening.

I once saw a small circular rockwork, about 14 feet in diameter, in the middle of a grass-plat in front of a cottage, which, according to my taste, was very effective; still, there was ample room for improvement. A rockwork, in a place of this description, should be made in the following manner. The chief point to be attended to is a sure foundation; for if this gives way, the superstructure must assuredly follow. Whether circular or oval, the outside should be irregular, something of a zigzag form. In the first place, there should
be no loose stones. The outside row should not be more than two or three inches above ground, and the stones should be laid close to each other in order to prevent the soil from escaping between them; this being done, fill up level with some good compost well beaten down; then lay the next tier a foot or so farther back, with stones varying from one foot to two in height, placing them close together also. This, too, must be irregular; but instead of following the zigzag form of the first line, corners may occasionally be brought out as far as the inner corners of the first. In setting the stones, the outside or face should always be as upright as possible; for they never look well when set in a sloping direction. This tier being of different-sized stones, the highest should always be where there is the largest base; this again should be filled up with soil to the height of the lowest stones, leaving the peaks to stand up. Then the next tier should be laid about another foot back, and built in a similar way, keeping in view the erect position of the stones, and having the highest to alternate with those of the last terrace; this being again filled up, other two may be made on exactly the same principle; then a few larger stones may be set on the remaining space, leaving room for two or three evergreen shrubs, such as Berberis aquifolium.

If a small rockery were built in the manner just described, the slope on the sides would consist of little shelves, on which plants might be grown, not only alpines, but such as there might be some in flower nearly all the year through. For spring-flowering the following may be planted: Crocus sativus, Anemone apennina (blue), Hepaticas, Arabis grandiflora (variegated), white; Aubrietia deltoidea (pinkish), Gentiana verna (blue), G. acaulis (blue), Alyssum saxatile (yellow), Primula auricula (yellow and purple), common Primroses, Draba azoides (yellow), Saxifraga cespitosa (white), S. oppositifolia (red), &c. Then, for summer: Aquilegia glandulosa (blue), canadensis (scarlet), A. grandiflora, var. bicolor, Campanula media (blue), C. nobilis (purple blue), C. pumila (white and blue), Dianthus deltoides (pink), Digitalis purpurea, Crucinella stylosa (pink), Statice tartarica (blue), Trollius asiaticus (yellow), and T. europeus (ditto). Some of the dwarf varieties of Verbenas would also make a good show, and they would keep in flower until cut down by frost. For winter a few roots of Christmas Roses, winter Aconite, and Snowdrop might be planted.

Then, those whose little piece of ground is overshadowed by trees may have a small rockwork built as above described, and instead of flowering plants, they may have native Ferns arranged in such a manner as to have the larger sorts hanging over the stones. Around the bottom some of the species of Saxifrage would both succeed and look well; such as S. azoides, S. hypnoides, and S. cespitosa, of which there are several varieties. Then, for the top: Aspidium filix mas, A. spinulosum, A. oreopteris, Osmunda regalis, and Asplenium filix femina, will have the desired effect. For the sides I would choose Polypodium vulgare, P. dryopteris, Asplenium adiantum nigrum, A. trichomanes, Aspidium lobatum, Scolependrum vulgare, Blechnum boreale, Adiantum capillus veneris, and Crypto-
gramma crispa. More might be added; but these will suffice to afford an idea of the kind of arrangement I am advocating.

In places where stones are not easily obtained, clinkers (often called burrs) from a brick-field might be made to answer the same purpose.

D—d.

CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY.

FOR AMATEURS.

The situation or locality for your Strawberry-ground (which is the most important matter) should be in the most central, elevated, and open part of your garden, level, or very slightly inclining to the south, and quite away from the drip and shade of trees, or any sort of obstruction to sunshine, which is more than any thing conducive to excellence in the flavour of Strawberries, as in every other kind of fruit we cultivate; and also that the rains and frequent waterings may not be drained off so quickly as they would be if they were planted on a declivity. Your ground must be trenched very deep, say two feet at least, and the line of your rows should be very richly manured with completely rotten stable-dung the whole depth, from bottom to top; and if your soil be rather of an adhesive quality, so much the better; or if light and sandy, and a good rich marl-pit happens to be within a moderate distance, it will amply repay you to make it rather adhesive. A well-incorporated and richly-manured mixture of the two soils will always be found most genial for the production of fine Strawberries.

The best time to make your plantations is the first or second week in July; but it may be done now, and the runners in most seasons will be ready for that time, if properly managed, which is by pegging down, as early as you can, the strongest runners at the first joint, and stopping them from running farther by pinching off the ends; and you must consider it imperative that you select none but fruitful plants to take your runners from; all barren stools had much better be dug up and thrown away, to prevent the possibility of mixture. Having prepared your ground, and your plants being nicely rooted, proceed carefully to cut the runner-strings at about an inch from the plants, and dig them up with the rounded point of your hollow trowel, with as little disturbance of the soil adhering to their roots as possible, that the hot weather may not flag them, and that there may be no necessity for shading. Your plants will be much forwarded by your particular care in this operation.

If the weather be showery, do not waste the present moment, nor depend on to-morrow, but plant them just as your taste may approve, i.e. either in rows of little triangles, or in double rows close together, one plant alternating with the other; the individual plants in both cases standing from five to seven inches apart; and each row of plants, whether double or in triangles, should have a space
of two feet six inches at least betwixt them, to give them the full advantage of sun and air, also for the greater convenience of weeding (hand-weeding), watering, regulating runners, and gathering the fruit; and do not tread the ground near the plants any more than you can help in doing this, nor dig, fork, or hoe amongst them; nor clip their foliage at any time, except of dead leaf-stalks, for the sake of neatness. Water them immediately after planting, lightly but profusely; and continue to water them frequently as may be needful, till they are firmly rooted, and afterwards, if the weather be dry; look them over daily, and let all autumn runners (also spring and summer runners, except your own supply) be cut with scissors, or pinched off as they make their appearance; and do not fail to exercise your utmost diligence at all times, particularly in March and April, to destroy every snail among them, or any where else in your garden, for they are your greatest enemy in fruiting-time; ten or a dozen young ducks, about a fortnight or three weeks old, will, in moist weather, soon do this effectually; which having done, spread the grass cut from your lawns, or moss, or tanners' spent bark, neatly about them, it will keep the fruit clean, and watering will not be required quite so frequently as if the sun could act upon the surface of the mould. By planting thus early, and sparing no possible pains to encourage their growth, you will obtain fine vigorous and well-rooted plants the first autumn; and this may be considered your greatest achievement towards success in producing a large crop of beautiful Strawberries the first season after planting.

Upon this system of culture I have grown some of the magnificent fruit of Myatt’s British Queen more than two ounces each, and of Knight’s Elton an immense crop, and nearly as large. The fruit of the first season is generally the finest; the second, remarkably abundant and nearly as fine; but your plantations must always be renewed as early as possible after gathering the fruit of the second season; for if you allow them to remain for a third year’s fruiting, you will always find them a stumpy mass of unsightly stools that will seldom produce half a crop, and having become densely crowded and shaded with leaves, will, in a cold and wet season (which is always fatal to the Strawberry crop), rot upon their trusses before they are half ripe. The same flat of ground will do for a continuance with most Strawberries; which, on renewing with plants, must always be dug and well stirred up the whole depth, and a little fresh soil and some well-chopped turf or manure added; but the Elton, being a late Strawberry, will sometimes require planting in another place before the present crop is ripe and gathered; or another very excellent system for providing yourself with plants must be resorted to, viz. take as many four-inch pots as you have occasion for plants, sink them level with the ground, fill them with your compost, and peg down a runner upon each, in the manner before instructed; you can by this method, at your convenience, later in the season, turn out the plants with the balls entire, and plant them upon the old ground that you have newly prepared for them. Watering rather profusely after the sun has left them (not late) must never be ne-
glected, from a little before blooming to the end of fruiting-time, every two days at the furthest, when the weather is hot and dry; and it will be of much advantage that the line of your rows be a little the lowest; that is, having a gentle and evenly-raked inclination towards the plants from the middle of the space between the rows, just enough to convey the rains and waterings to their roots; and observe, that rain, river, and rivulet waters are the best for your purpose; but if you are driven to the pump, let it stand in the hot sunshine a whole day at the least; a top-dressing amongst the plants with a rich com-post, in March or April, will be of very much advantage to them by filling up, with a slight pressure, the honeycomb state of the soil produced by the worms during the winter.

A strict attention to this mode of culture will always insure you an abundant crop of the finest fruit in existence, viz. Myatt's British Queen and Eleanor, Knight's Elton, and Keen's seedling Straw-berries.

J. T.

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ON JUDGING STANDS OF FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

In performing my duties as secretary to a horticultural society, I have often had my attention directed to the method which the judges frequently adopt to determine the relative merits of the different competing stands. For instance, when they are called upon to decide which is the best out of a number of stands, some of them running pretty close in point of merit, they very often compare the flowers individually in the position they chanced to be placed in each stand.

A decision according to this method may at first seem to be correct; but on examining it more closely, it will be found to be entirely dependent on chance. Suppose that two stands A and B, each consisting of six flowers, are to be judged, and that each figure underneath denotes a flower and its degree of merit. If they chanced to be placed in the first position, they will both be equal.

\[
\begin{align*}
A & : 3 & 2 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\
B & : 3 & 2 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 5
\end{align*}
\]

But suppose we take the same flowers, and change their position, thus,

\[
\begin{align*}
A & : 3 & 2 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\
B & : 4 & 3 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 2
\end{align*}
\]

it will be seen that B gains on 4 flowers, and A on only 2, consequently the award is given to B. Change their position again,

\[
\begin{align*}
A & : 5 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 2 & 3 \\
B & : 4 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5
\end{align*}
\]

This time A gains on 4, and B on only 2; therefore the award is given to A. Thus it will be seen, that according to this method of judging, either lot may be made either equal or superior, merely by the position the flowers are in at the time of judging.
It may be asked, How can this be remedied? Simply by assorting each lot previous to comparing them indiscriminately, and then taking the best flower of one lot against the best flower of another lot, the second best against the second best, and so on in rotation.

Delta.

ALLAMANDAS.

These noble and fine-looking plants are well worth all the attention that can be given them. The length of time they last in bloom, together with their fine rich glossy foliage, intermixed with beautiful yellow flowers, causes them to be exceedingly showy and attractive. Allamandas are in no way difficult to manage; but at certain stages of growth they require rather more watching than some other plants, to insure their blooming in perfection. I would first commence with a small healthy plant by potting it in the following compost: take fibrous loam and light turfy peat in equal proportions; add to this half the quantity of well-decomposed leaf-mould with a liberal mixture of sharp silver-sand and rough charcoal; incorporate all well together and pot your plants, giving the pots plenty of drainage, and using the soil in a rough state. When potted place them in a stove where bottom heat is at command; plunge them about half the depth of their pots, keeping them frequently syringed, and the temperature of the house soft and humid, with the thermometer ranging from 70° to 75° of heat, in which they will soon commence rapid growth. Place in their pots either sticks or wire for their support, and for training them upon; but at this season I would only advise tying, the training to be done as little as possible, only sufficient to keep the plant from receiving any injury by breaking down, allowing the shoots to ramble at their pleasure, until they begin to shew bloom upon their points. When this appears, they can be trained in whatever shape may be considered best, regulating the wood to make a well-formed and handsome plant; but keeping the shoots tied and turned as they advance often retards the growth of the present young wood, and causes the plants to produce other wood instead of bloom; and a season's experience will discover to you that you have a large plant with very few flowers.

As the plants advance in growth supply them with some stimulating material in the shape of manure-water, prepared from either sheep or cow dung, placing one bushel of either into a tub, and adding twelve gallons of rain-water to it, allowing it to stand twenty-four hours before using it. When applied, strain it through canvass; add two gallons of clear water to one of manure, and apply it twice or three times each week; it will also be found that soot-water, when properly applied, invigorates the plants amazingly, and causes them to throw out fine dark robust foliage, and increases the size of their bloom. In preparing this add half a bushel of soot to thirty gallons.
of water, allowing it to stand at least twenty-four hours before using; and when applied, add to every gallon the same quantity of clear water, applying it once every week. As the plants advance in growth, keep them potted into larger pots, using the same compost as before directed, but in a much rougher state. When in bloom, they can be removed into the conservatory or a cooler house, where they will continue in beauty a very long time; but in doing this it must be borne in mind not to expose them to draughts or cutting winds, but to place them in a quiet situation.

When they have finished blooming for the season, which will be in September and October, they can be removed into an intermediate house or a stove where the temperature is kept low, exposing them as much as possible to the sun, to ripen their wood, gradually withholding water until it is entirely withheld from them, and allowing them to go to rest in the dark days of winter. The watering must be regulated entirely by the time they are required to be in bloom; if a plant is wanted to flower early, withhold the water at an earlier period; but if a succession is required, continue the watering longer, never allowing the plants to be without it altogether more than one month. When the season arrives to commence their growth for another year, which will be the latter end of December or beginning of January, according to the time you require them to be in bloom, prune them back, leaving two joints of their last summer's wood, and remove the soil about one inch from the top, adding some fresh in its place for a top-dressing. The plant will then be ready to place in the house, as directed last season, and where it can be treated in all respects the same as before.

At the commencement of the following season, I should advise them to be pruned in closer, and shaken out of their soil altogether, removing all long straggling roots, and placing them in smaller pots. This will afford the means of giving them all fresh soil through the season; for by keeping them long in the same soil, it will become unkind and very much impoverished. The plants should therefore never be allowed to remain in the same material more than two years.

The following are the best kinds in cultivation, and as they will all thrive well under the same treatment, I will not attempt to direct my mode of cultivation to either of the varieties in particular, although I must admit that the true Grandiflora is by far the most delicate in colour and perfect in shape. The sorts are, Aubletia, Grandiflora, Schotti, Cathartica, and Nerifolia.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell.  

William Barnes.
NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

July 14.—Mr. Stains in the chair. The following awards were made. Certificates of merit: To a hybrid Bourbon Rose, called Vivid, from Messrs. Paul—a variety with a vigorous climbing habit, and well-formed bright scarlet-crimson flowers. To the same for Moss Rose, Princess Alice, a very double sort, with pale-pink flowers, having deeper pink centres, and altogether a very desirable addition to this class. To Mr. Bragg of Slough, for Verbena Standard, a rosy-lilac kind, with yellow eye, shaded with crimson. To Dr. Maclean, for Pink, Great Western, a full-sized, finely-formed variety, possessing good substance, and smooth, with bold petals, having a large field of ground-colour. To Mr. Bragg, for scarlet Pelargonium, Glory, a dwarf horseshoe-leaved sort, with great trusses of deep-bright scarlet. Label of commendation to Mr. Looker of Oxford, for Pink, Earl of Derby, a rosy-purple, heavily-laced kind, of full size. Ditto to Mr. Bragg, for Verbena, Ne-plus-ultra, a French-white variety, with very large rosy centre and yellow eye, truss small, but novel and peculiar in marking. Ditto to Mr. Gill, Westbourne Grove, for Verbena, Joseph Hume, a compact dwarf sort, of medium form; colour rich purple, with a white eye. Ditto to Mr. Wood of Notting-ham, for Delphinium pulchrum, a lavender-blue variety, with a pink blotch at the extremity of each petal. Messrs. Veitch had cut blooms of Pelargonium Fair Ellen (Story's), apparently a fine kind, the under petals being French white, and the upper ones shaded carmine, margined with white. Other new plants were also shewn by Messrs. Veitch; and we remarked the fancy Pelargonium from Mr. Bragg, called Lady Mary Labouchere, which was rewarded at a former meeting.

CROWEA SALIGNA.

The following remarks on the cultivation of this plant were read a short time ago by Mr. Taylor, at a meeting of the Streatham Gardeners' Mutual Instruction Society.

Suppose a plant purchased about February, let the first operation be to examine it for white scale and mealy bug; if any appear on it, thoroughly eradicate them before placing it with other plants. If there is a vinery in which forcing has just commenced, that is the place to start it into growth, by placing it near the light, and if possible close to where the air is admitted, which will induce it to grow more "stocky." As soon as the roots begin to be in motion, it should be potted into a pot two sizes larger than that in which it is, well draining with broken potsherds. The soil I use is light fibry peat well incorporated with sand, placing some rough peat over the
potsherds, and pressing down the soil very firm when potting; after this operation is over, it is gently watered with a fine-rosed watering pot, to settle the soil round the ball. It is then returned to the house, being particular neither to over or under water it, that is to say, I never water until it requires it, and then I apply it with a liberal hand, for it is in this particular that the great secret of successful plant-cultivation lies.

If, as I have said, the house is a vinery, by the time the grapes are in bloom the temperature will be too high for a young plant, and it must be moved to other quarters, if a close pit or frame is at hand worked by dung or otherwise, that will suit it, provided the night-temperature does not exceed 55°. If no such convenience is at hand, it will be satisfied with greenhouse treatment, if draughts are at first avoided by keeping the lights close for a time where it is placed. As its shoots lengthen, they must be stopped by picking out the points when about four inches long, and as the plant increases in bulk, it must be properly staked out, in order that the air may circulate freely through the branches. If it is found to have filled the pot with roots by August, it must be shifted into a sixteen-sized pot in the same soil as already recommended, and placed in a cold frame, which, if kept close, will suit it for a time, admitting air gradually, in order that the wood may be matured by autumn, so as to enable it to stand the same treatment as other greenhouse plants, keeping it moderately dry from December until February, where the treatment given above may again commence for another season, keeping the flowers all pinched out; and should it perchance be attacked by that pest, the white or brown scale, winter is the best time to get rid of it, as the wood being then hard will bear severe treatment. Water heated to the temperature of 180° will rid it of any vermin exposed on the stems or leaves, *i.e.* if it is applied freely with a strong syringe, and it will not seriously injure the plant. If the plant is intended to make one at our great exhibitions, it will be wanted by June or July; and to have it in good condition then it will require some harsh treatment, not to be endured by many New Holland plants with impunity. Suppose it to be wanted by June, in that case it will be necessary to cut back the young shoots in October, and place the plant in a closer house or pit than a greenhouse, where a night-temperature of 55° is kept up, with plenty of air by day and night, in order that the plant may push thick short growth. It may remain in this pit or house (being careful of over-watering in the dull winter months,) until February, when it will require a higher temperature, say a pine-pit or vinery, where it can have abundance of air; and as the season advances it must be more liberally supplied with water. By the beginning of June the flower ought to be in a forward state, so that the plant can be gradually hardened off to endure a greenhouse; for I find that by keeping it in heat it drops its flowers as fast as it expands them, but that by placing it in an airy situation the blossoms come of a better colour, and are more lasting, indeed the bloom will be maintained to even the end of September.

If the plant is required for the common purposes of decoration
alone, then it will be better to keep it with New Holland plants until March, and then excite it in a gentle heat, and by the beginning of September it will be found to be a valuable addition to the conservatory until Christmas. It is most valuable for cut-flowers, as its scent is agreeable to most persons.

CULTURE OF THE CALCEOLARIA.
BY MR. CONSTANTINE.

I make my first sowing about the middle of July, and another about the first of August, in pans half-filled with drainage, and then filled up with a mixture of about two-thirds light loam, the rest peat and leaf-mould in about equal proportions, with a good sprinkling of silver sand, all sifted tolerably fine; the pans must then be thoroughly watered, so as to wet every particle of soil, and allowed sufficient time to drain before sowing; the seed may then be sown thinly, and a little finely-sifted soil scattered very lightly over it. The pans may be placed beneath a hand-glass under a north wall, or in any other shady situation, and kept tolerably-close until the plants make their appearance. The pans must be kept moist, merely sprinkling with a very fine rose-pot: great care is required here, for if they are at all heavily watered, the seed, being so very fine, is all carried away with the water. When the plants make their appearance, more air may be given them; as soon as they will bear handling, they should be pricked out into other pans (prepared in the same manner), about two or three inches apart. They will soon make nice little plants, and may then be potted off singly into three-inch pots, using a mixture of about two-thirds tolerably light turfy loam (not sifted), the rest leaf-mould and dung from an old mushroom-bed, in about equal proportions, with a good sprinkling of sand; they may then be placed in a cold pit, and allowed plenty of air. The plants will soon progress rapidly; as they fill their pots with roots they must be shifted into larger sizes, until they are in 8-inch and 11-inch pots, which are large enough for any Calceolaria; they must be frequently fumigated to keep down green-fly; all they require through the winter will be to keep the frost from them; let them have plenty of air, and at the same time keep them rather dry at the root, than otherwise.

As the spring advances, and as the plants fill their pots with roots, more water may be given, occasionally using weak clear manure-water. As the plants increase in growth, let the shoots be pegged down on the soil; they will root into it, and help the plants considerably. According to the time they are wanted to be in flower, let the shoots be stopped, or otherwise those that are not stopped will be in flower early in May, while those that are stopped will come into flower probably a month later; and now comes the time to repay us
for our trouble. No plant can be more gay than Calceolarias while they are in flower; one only regrets that they are so soon gone. A cool, airy greenhouse is the place for them while they are in flower; they must be kept shaded from the sun, and at no time are they fond of too much light.

If seed is required, now is the time to look after it, setting aside a few of the best-marked and best-formed flowers; these must be carefully fertilised, otherwise it is in vain to look for seed; and even then it frequently ends in disappointment. The best flowers are not the best seeders; on the contrary, they are generally the worst; they not unfrequently die off altogether without ripening a single seed. If you wish to propagate certain varieties, they should not be allowed to seed at all, but should be cut down directly they are done flowering, fresh surfaced, and set in a shady situation; they will soon throw up some cuttings, which may be taken off and struck under a hand-glass in a shady situation. When struck, they may be treated the same as recommended for seedlings; but unless you have got something very first-rate, it is hardly worth while to try to save them at all, as they seldom make such fine plants as those raised from seed. If proper care is used in saving the seed from the best varieties, the generality of the plants so raised may be expected to be equal, and probably a few superior to the varieties they are raised from. I think we must thus admit that the soft-wooded varieties must be treated almost as annuals.

The above treatment is recommended for soft-wooded varieties; but it will also apply equally to shrubby kinds, in which we must allow there is a great deal to be done; by carefully crossing the soft-wooded with the shrubby varieties some first-rate things may be obtained. The shrubby habit may be obtained with the large fine flowers of the soft-wooded sorts. Such plants may be perpetuated from cuttings; but every one who has grown the soft-wooded kinds must admit that it is a matter of no small difficulty to save a variety from one year to another. Besides, varieties from crosses so obtained are more perpetual flowerers; they keep growing and flowering a much longer time, and are splendid things for the greenhouse and conservatory.

Hillingdon, July 12, 1853.

REMOVING EVERGREENS IN SUMMER.

The question, "When is the best season to remove evergreens?" has been so repeatedly and so fully discussed in the various horticultural periodicals, that one might almost despair of casting any new light upon the subject; nor is it necessary, so far as the general bearing of the question is concerned. Every one that has extensive planting operations to perform, and especially where the plants have to be
conveyed any distance, need scarcely be told that early autumn is the most appropriate season. There are, of course, many exceptions to this as to all other general rules; but as they do not affect the question under discussion, nothing more need be said about them here.

But the safe removal of a single tree is often of the greatest importance to its owner; and it sometimes occurs with amateurs and possessors of small gardens, as well as others, that if a few shrubs could be safely removed at seasons not ordinarily considered favourable to planting, great convenience, as well as much pleasure, would result.

That the majority of persons mostly interested in such operations are by no means fully aware of what can be done in this way, the numerous questions one hears addressed to those who are supposed to know most of the matter fully testifies.

"When can I safely remove the large Portugal Laurel opposite my study-window? It is grown too large, and obstructs the light so much, that I must have it taken away before next season."

"The evergreens on the lawn in front of my greenhouse have grown so rapidly, though only planted four years, that I must remove them. Pray, Mr. A——, when will be the best season to insure success? I ought to have thought of it before now, I know; but I can scarcely endure them another year; and, moreover, I wish to increase my flower-beds, which I cannot till they are gone."

"Dear me, I have remained away from home so long, that I fear it is now too late to think of altering the outline of the shrubbery I spoke to you about in the winter, as we can hardly effect it without removing several of the large evergreens, and they are now in full growth. Do you think I might still attempt it?"

These are but samples of the style of questions year after year addressed verbally, or through the correspondents' columns of gardening periodicals, by really garden-loving people, to those who are looked up to as authorities on such matters. That information is really needed is obvious; and it cannot but answer some good purpose to record a few facts on the subject.

Two years ago some planting operations were unavoidably postponed till June. Among some plants then to be removed were a number of Spruce Firs. Of course they were in full growth. The young shoots were some inches in length, for it was the latter end of the month. The weather was warm too, and no showers were falling. The trees were, however, removed and planted; and I do not think a failure occurred among a goodly number. For some days after removal, and when the sun was full upon them, the young and succulent shoots hung down like pieces of cord; but the night-dews greatly assisted them, and the morning generally saw them erect again. They were of course removed as carefully as possible, and were not kept out of the soil longer than was absolutely necessary. Had the young fibres been subjected to the burning sun, and allowed to become dried up, no care in any other way could have compensated for the evil sustained.

Well, the result of this, which may be termed an accidental suc-
cess—for, to tell the truth, such results had not been calculated on—led to the practice being adopted in the present summer, and, as will be seen, with greater success.

It was June again—the second week—and some contemplated removal of large shrubs had not been effected; but with the vivid recollection of former success the work was commenced.

Among the plants to be removed were some Abies canadensis, eight or ten feet through, and as much in height; American arbor-vitae, of still greater height; with numerous specimens of Red cedars, Hollies, and Portugal Laurels, besides a fine plant or two of Abies pinsapo, Atlas cedar, Rhododendron, &c. &c. Of course, they were all in active growth. Some of them had made shoots several inches long; and to an ordinary observer they were in the worst possible condition to remove.

However, they were removed, and are now growing luxuriantly; but no one unacquainted with the fact, and judging merely from the appearance of the trees, would imagine that they had only occupied their present position little more than a month.

In planting under such circumstances, care and dispatch are of the greatest consequence. Without them, successful results cannot be calculated on; and if showers do not occur at intervals after the removal of the plants, the garden-engine should be frequently brought into play, and under all circumstances the plants should be well watered in.

To remove plants in June with success will certainly involve a little more care and additional expense, and perhaps for extensive operations would be all but inadmissible; but, waving such considerations, the practice will often be found highly advantageous to adopt, as every one who has a garden of his own, or the care of another's, knows well enough. The success of the practice is beyond question.

Crayon.

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MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

It may not be known to all your readers that Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods, &c. have caused the gardens, hothouses, and museum here to be opened to the public during Sunday, the same as on other days. This alteration is evidently much appreciated by the public, for nearly ten thousand visitors one Sunday availed themselves of the opportunity of a quiet ramble among the tropical and other vegetation with which the garden is so amply furnished.

Both in and out of doors the charms of Flora are now super-abundant. The show-houses are as gay as they well can be with their usual summer occupants; among the more conspicuous are Plectranthus concolor picta, a very showy free-growing plant, with yellowish-green leaves blotched with purple on the upper surface; it is one that will no doubt soon be found in every collection, being
interesting on account of its handsome leaves. Achimenes Beck-
mani, one of the best of the genus: where three kinds are cultivated
this should be one; the flowers are large, and of a rich reddish-
purple; it has the habit of A. longiflora. Episcia melissæfolia, a
new plant with pretty reddish-purple flowers; but its habit is against
its becoming very popular.

In the Cactus house the plants have been recently re-arranged,
and many of them are now in flower; some of the most interesting
are Cereus peruvianus monstruosus, which is about ten feet high,
and has the appearance of a ragged rock; C. repandus, C. Tweedi, and
several of the night-blooming kinds are now flowering; C. gemmatus
and C. geometrizans are very handsome sorts, and well worthy the
attention of those who cultivate this tribe of plants.

In the aquatic house the Victoria regia, Nelumbium speciosum,
Nymphaæ devonianæ, N. dentata, N. cerulea, and others, are all
flowering; Euryale ferox we may expect to flower shortly, as several
bloom-buds are fast progressing.

In the Orchid house may be noticed Cattleya crispa, the Dove
Orchis (Peristeria elata), the East and West India Butterfly plants, So-
bralias, and others that are at present flowering, with the great variety
of Stanhopeas, which are now in the height of beauty. The Rice-
paper plant of the Chinese (Aralia papyraceæ) is now well established
and growing vigorously; it is two feet high, rather handsome-look-
ing, with large soft woolly leaves, white underneath; it was intro-
duced a short time back from the island of Formosa.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. J. Houlston.

THE PANSY.

The bloom being now over, let us examine what has been doing with
the Pansy in 1853. From the unusual lateness of the spring, it may
be said there has been no out-door bloom, at least no good flowers
have been produced. Those which have been fine were grown in pots
under glass, i. e. in cold frames, with lights to run over them in bad
weather, as recommended in the pages of the Florist as long back as
1848, and which is the only certain method of getting fine flowers,
growing some in beds for stock. It is not only for cut blooms that
we recommend pot-culture, but for making a beautiful plant to be
exhibited, as those who saw the first collection at the shows this
spring can testify, and also for the great display they make for
months at home.

As regards new varieties, we readily confess that but few good
seedlings have presented themselves of late. The best new white
ground sort we have is Beauty (Downie and Laird), which is a first-
class flower. In yellow grounds, Hales' Monarch is a decided im-
provement on all of the Duke of Norfolk class, and is the richest
flower we know early in the season. In justice to our Scottish
friends, we must repeat the opinion expressed last year (page 161),
that at present they are doing more for the Pansy than we are in the
south. Several of the varieties sent out last season have proved to
be exceedingly fine flowers, the best of which is Dickson's Royal
Standard, which has a pale-straw ground, with rich dark top petals;
the lower petals have a broad heavy margin of the same shade, good
eye, stout, and very large. Miss Talbot, Earl Mansfield, and Sove-
reign, are also good Scotch varieties, with those enumerated last
season, at the head of which stands Royal Visit, Miriam, and Flower
of the Day. The best English varieties of last season are Sir J. Cath-
cart, Marchioness of Bath, Sir J. Paxton, National, and Rising Sun.
The moist cool summer will be in favour of the Pansy; therefore
look forward to a more prolific season in 1854.

Those who intend competing in 1854, we recommend to propa-
gate a good stock of the following, in addition to those above enume-
rated, all of which we have seen fine this season: Adela, Blanche,
Duke of Perth, Great Britain (Parker), Ophir, Pompey, Rainbow,
St. Andrew, Sambo, Alfred the Great, British Queen, Duke of Nor-
folk, Euphemia, France Cycole, Gliffe, Lady Emily, Lord Walsing-
ham, Pandora, Robert Burns, Sir J. Franklin, Sultan, Supreme,
Thisbe, Aurora, Caroline, Mrs. Beck, Mrs. M. Hamilton, Penelope,

THE HARDY AZALEA.

I would write a chapter on these beautiful shrubs, if I knew how.
But the variety is so endless, and the nomenclature so confused, that
it is scarcely possible to designate them correctly. For instance,
Messrs. Waterer's Princeps is a splendid amber colour; Mr. Baker's
(of the same name) an equally fine white, tinted with pale rose.
Conspicua, with the former, is a deep golden yellow; with the latter,
crimson and orange. I have one Grandis orange buff, variegated
with red and white; another, a large white, with rose tints. I have
two Pontica albas, similar in leaf and habit, very distinct in flower.
In short, there is no knowing when you write for a variety what it
will turn out. To a person first commencing, with plenty of room
and soil, this uncertainty may be of little consequence, as all the
varieties are beautiful, and he may leave them to the selection of his
nurseryman, without fear of being disappointed. But to amateurs
like myself, who have to make their soil, and wish to confine their
collection to the best sorts, it is very perplexing. All catalogues of
Azaleas ought to be arranged with some degree of classification; for
though it may be impossible to describe with accuracy the endless
variations of nature, there are certain clear and leading distinctions
which would greatly assist in making a selection. In the Tulip and
Carnation the favourite varieties are very numerous, and often im-
possible accurately to designate; but the distinctions of byblœmen,
bizarre, rose-flake, purple-flake, &c. are general and clear. If Azaleas were arranged under the heads red and red grounds, white and white grounds, yellow, orange, buff, variegated, pink, &c., a very useful guidance might be given, accompanied with a further sketch of the distinguishing characteristics of each separate variety, bracketing together those which nearly resemble each other.

For instance, under the reds, begin with the old

Coccinea . . . Small starry flower, deep scarlet.
    ,,  major . . Flower larger, colour a shade brighter.
    Atro-rubens . . Fine dark uniform red.

and so on. Let each nurseryman give the colours of his own catalogue; and then, however numerous the names, the general distinctions will soon be reduced to order. Some names of themselves indicate the colour, as Atro-rubens above, or Alba florescens rosea, viz. white tinted with pink and yellow. But in what respects the Reine d'Angleterre or Des Belges differs from the Duchesse de Nemours or from Marie Dorothee, or whether the Grand Duc de Luxembourg bears any resemblance to General Chasse, I am quite at a loss to conjecture. I shall, therefore, not attempt to describe my own collection, as many sorts have probably more than one name, and one name often designates more than one sort, as in the instances given; to which I may add that I have received from the same nursery under the name of "Exquisita," a white variety, with a yellow upper petal and a large shaded orange one; while Messrs. Waterer's of that name is a beautiful pink. All the three are, however, well deserving of their name; and it would indeed be exceedingly difficult, out of the endless variety, to say which are most beautiful. Even the old varieties, cultivated before the Belgian improvements of this family were introduced, have recommendations peculiar to themselves; and a more beautiful tribe, taken altogether, cannot be found in the whole range of horticulture. Like many other things, American plants, as they are called, are most longed for where the soil forbids their general cultivation, and where a collection is therefore the more rare, and the more prized. And the Azalea possesses these advantages over the Rhododendron, that it comes sooner into flower, and takes up less room. Any person ordering Azaleas next autumn will receive them well set with bloom for the ensuing spring, and may grow twice the number in the space that would be required for Rhododendrons. Of the many splendid floral displays which delight the eye in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, none, in my opinion, equal that which is to be found at the proper season in the American gardens of Surrey. The Auricula, the Anemone, the Hyacinth, the Tulip, the Ranunculus, the Rose, the Carnation, the Pink, the Pansy, the Cineraria, the Calceolaria, the Geranium, the Fuchsia, and, though last not least, the Dahlia, form a long succession of floral beauty, and are all so attractive in their way, that one knows not which most to admire. They have also this great advantage, that they may be cultivated any where and
upon any scale, cheering and adorning the cottage-garden or the town windows, and requiring no peculiarity of soil but what ordinary diligence may any where provide. They will therefore always be the most general and popular objects of cultivation. But it is precisely because exhibitions of American plants on an extended scale are in a great measure confined to certain localities that our surprise and pleasure at beholding them is so much enhanced. The gratification which the florist derives from a bed of Tulips, or a stand of Geraniums, arises from the perfection of form or colour of individual flowers, together with the almost dazzling effect produced by their aggregation. An American garden is a scene; and until the new varieties shall have been more extensively diffused and planted, one that is only to be found in the principal nursery-grounds. The horticultural festivals display greater variety and rarity; they have the charm of good music, and of a gaily-dressed assemblage; but nothing ever gave me so much the idea of a Paradise, or the gardens of the Peris, as the American nursery at Knap Hill, where the variety and vast size of the Rhododendrons, the dense thickets and hedges of Azaleas, their endless variety of colour, their delicious fragrance, the songs of the nightingales which sought shelter among them, and the fine order and keeping of the whole, have left a more poetical impression of enchantment on my fancy than the princely Chatsworth or the gay Chiswick has produced on me.

The exhibitions of American plants at the latter place, or the Regent's Park, are very interesting as displays of fine and new varieties. But the transplanting certainly checks them in some degree; and no one who has not visited them in the localities from which they come, can have any adequate idea of their luxuriance and effect when cultivated to a large extent.

The gardens at Knap Hill and Bagshot, visited in

"The lovely season atwixt June and May,
Half prankt with spring, with summer half imbrown'd,"

will, I feel assured, draw forth from every one another line of the poet's:

"It is indeed a lovely spot of ground."

These beautiful shrubs require no care in their cultivation when the soil and situation are favourable, and may be propagated with the greatest ease by merely laying down the extremities of the branches.

Before I conclude, let me say in reply to your correspondent (p. 153), that I am sorry if I have added to the perplexity which a similarity of name has necessarily occasioned respecting Messrs. Low's Alba imbricata Camellia.

The term imbricated, which means that the petals of the flower are laid regularly one over the other, like the tiles of a house-roof, is applicable to so many varieties of the genus, one of the principal beauties of which consists in the symmetrical form of the flower, that it is not a good distinctive appellation. It was, I believe, first used for a fine variety imported from China by the Horticultural Society, the colour of which is red.
It was afterwards applied to a white variety, with the addition of
the word 'alba,' to distinguish it from the red one; and Messrs. Low
having again designated their recent variety Alba imbricata has oc-
casioned a perplexity, which, however, will no doubt be cleared up
by adding their name, as Mr. E. G. Henderson has done; and I
have no doubt will send your correspondent the true variety raised
at Clapton.

Mediterraneus.

REGENT'S PARK AND CHISWICK EXHIBITIONS.
JOTTINGS BY A GARDENER.

Those persons who have been in the habit of visiting the great metro-
politan flower-shows for the last few years, cannot but be struck by
the general sameness in appearance of the collections of stove and
greenhouse plants. Some of the individual plants are immediately
recognised as "old stagers;" and what alterations there are, are more
frequently effected by changing one species of a genus for another,
rather than for a genus quite new, as a show-plant. Some alteration
is certainly necessary, or the shows will lose much of their interest.
Orchids maintain their popularity by their variety and constant
change in appearance, as well as by the extreme beauty and gro-
tesque character of their flowers. Individual plants are not so imme-
diately recognised by those who constantly visit the exhibitions, con-
sequently they command much greater attention than the collections
of stove and greenhouse plants.

The exhibitions of Heaths have of late lost much of their interest,
which is no doubt to be ascribed to their formal and lumpy appear-
ance, and which is exceedingly distasteful to many persons. A
greater freedom of growth, so as to destroy the stiff and ungraceful
character they are made to assume by constant stopping, would add
much to their beauty. At present, they only vary in size or quantity
of flower.

Much might be done to relieve the present monotonous appear-
ance of the Heath tent, by introducing plants having pendulous
foliage. Even a few of our native Ferns in pots placed amongst the
Heaths would help to set them off to more advantage.

The collections of stove and greenhouse plants must be improved
in general appearance by the introduction of a fresh class of plants,
as far as it is possible to do so; and it cannot be doubted that the
plant-catalogues offer the means of doing this.

There are many very beautiful plants that have not yet, I believe,
been exhibited at the metropolitan shows; one that I am quite sure
would be viewed with admiration is the Crinum amabile. This is
a truly magnificent stove-plant; its flowers are beautiful and de-
lightfully fragrant. It is of easy culture, and flowers very freely
about July; so that it would come in at a season when there is a
paucity of flowering plants. It requires a rich loamy soil; and during
the time it is flowering must be liberally supplied with water. I
have seen a large plant produce its noble flowers three times in one year. This being a plant belonging to a class so different in appearance to those usually exhibited, would add much to the beauty of the collection.

DIVULGATOR.

[Although we fully agree with our correspondent that a large amount of sameness prevails at our great exhibitions, yet we must also admit that there is much pleasure in periodically viewing even old friends with their new faces and improved forms, which are year after year much increased in size. We have, however, reason to hope that one or two strangers of distinction may be introduced to our different collections before long; for a few new plants of first-class merit have been shewn at these great displays this year. First among them must be mentioned the beautiful Ceratostema longiflorum from Messrs. Veitch, a neat-growing shrub with brilliant red tubular blossoms an inch long, smooth, polished, and shining. The same nurserymen also exhibited Philesia buxifolia, a promising Chilian plant, with crimson bell-shaped flowers that are very showy. This was stated to be hardy at Exeter. We likewise remarked from the same firm a pretty Veronica, with white spikes tipped and shaded with pink, which will doubtless be an acquisition. Some nice Hoyas have also been exhibited; and Gaylussacia pulchra from Mr. E. G. Henderson is a promising thing. Concerning the gigantic Lily of India, which has been shewn in good condition this year, we gave some account in our last. It is certainly a noble plant, and we hope it may prove, as it is expected it will be, hardy. Messrs. Osborn had a pretty New Holland Oxylobium, which we hope to see again. Lapageria rosea, a twining plant, was exhibited in better order this year than ever we have seen it; but we fear it will never become a general favourite. Its flowers, though individually extremely beautiful, are produced too scantily.

The above are all more or less new and distinct, and will serve to vary our groups considerably; but, as our correspondent suggests, there are doubtless numbers of old plants which improved cultivation might make surpass in beauty even the best of the subjects commonly staged at floral fêtes; and to the discovery of these, as well as to the development of their latent capabilities, we would beg to direct the attention of those who would wish to "come in first" at our great contests in 1854.—Ed.]

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. Re-pot at once in the usual manner. Young plants that are in small pots should have the old soil only partly removed. If the pots are not new, they should be well washed before using. This is later than some recommend for potting; but we find it answers best, less plants blooming in the autumn. The frames should still face the north, and be kept close for a time. Fumigating will be necessary occasionally.
Calceolarias. (See article by Mr. Constantine in the present Number.)

Cinerarias. Seedlings should be potted into larger pots as they progress. Increase named kinds by putting in cuttings in store-pots in very sandy soil. This plan makes much better plants than dividing the roots. Mildew will be the pest to keep down, which must be done with sulphur on its first appearance.

Carnations and Picotees. Layer these as they go out of bloom: this is in most cases delayed too late, the consequence of which is that the plants do not winter well for want of sufficient root. Transplant any pipings that are struck to make stock-plants to be potted up in October. If seed is required, small glasses must be used to protect the most promising pods from rain. Keep the pots raised above ground on strips of wood, otherwise this wet season will cause many of the layers to canker.

Dahlias. These will have made strong and rapid growth, owing to the quantity of rain that has fallen: they are a little too sappy, but this could not have been avoided. Tie out the shoots to give them all the air possible; and tie each plant securely, or the first rough wind will do considerable mischief. Thinning the shoots must be proceeded with; but it must be done with caution, not indiscriminately, or many varieties will be made coarse and open in the petal. Disbud on the same principle; Sir C. Napier, Sir J. Franklin, and Triumphant should be disbudded freely, as no amount of growth will make these coarse. Slugs are very numerous; these, with earwigs, must be perseveringly kept under.

Hollyhocks. Here, in the south, this noble flower is about at its best, and will remain fine for a fortnight at least. Those that have a late planting will of course prolong the bloom, which is exceedingly fine; the moist weather we have experienced has caused a fine growth. Care should be observed in selecting seedlings; this can only be done well by those who have a good knowledge of sorts already out.

Pansies. Transplant cuttings into raised beds as soon as struck; sow seed already ripe, and secure more from late-blooming plants.

Pinks. Transplant young stock from the pipping glasses into beds of well-prepared soil free from wire-worms. Cuttings may be still put in from choice or scarce kinds. Secure seed.

Pelargoniums. Seed, as it ripens, should be sown in broad-topped pots or pans, slightly covering it with soil; a little shading in bright weather will be beneficial. The first cut-down plants will have broken sufficiently to be shook out of the old soil, disrooted, and re-potted in fresh soil in a size smaller pot. Place them in a frame near the glass, and keep them close for a time; at first shading will be required. Dry the plants by giving them air every morning; young stock should receive every attention. The strongest young plants intended for specimens should be selected and potted on, giving them plenty of light and air. Use lighter soil for favories than for the ordinary kinds.
THE MOSS ROSE.

There is much that is obscure concerning the history of the Moss Rose. Some say it was originally introduced from Holland, and others from Italy, about the year 1735; and it is generally believed to have been a sport from the Provence. Its beauty and fragrance have made it peculiarly the poet’s flower, and the mystery overhanging its origin has given free license to the imagination. We remember to have read a very pretty tale in verse, in which the Goddess of Flowers is represented as sleeping beneath a Rose-tree, and on awakening casting over the flower a veil of moss, in return for the shade and fragrance it afforded her. If this is highly poetical, we have nothing to offer in its place but what is supposititious, and must therefore leave the question to poetry or conjecture. Perhaps we have as yet no variety to surpass the original in beauty; the seedlings raised from it, though differing in colour, are generally inferior in form and fulness, so that any onward step is a source of congratulation.

Many of our best kinds have hitherto been the result of “sporting.” Mr. Shailer, of Battersea, states that the White Moss (1788), the Striped (1788), the Single Red (1807), the Scarlet (1808), the Sage-leaved (1813), and the Moss de Meaux, are all due to this peculiarity of nature, the two former having originated at his father’s nursery at Chelsea. Mr. Paul, in the Rose Garden (division ii. p. 32), has the following remarks on this tendency in Moss Roses: “Some tribes of plants are more disposed to sport than others; and the Provence and Moss Roses possess this peculiar property in a remarkable degree. I have seen the White Moss bearing at the same time, and on the same plant, red, white, and variegated flowers; I have also seen the Perpetual Moss, whose flowers should be white, produce pink flowers entirely destitute of moss! I am informed, and think it probable, that the Moss Unique was first obtained in this manner; a branch of the White Provence Rose produced flowers enveloped in moss; the branch was propagated from, and the plant so propagated produced flowers retaining their mossy characteristic.”

Mr. Paul informs us that the subject of our present plate, Princess Alice, is a genuine seedling, raised by himself from a sowing made in the Cheshunt Nurseries, in the spring of 1847. The parentage is not preserved; but he remembers

* “Sporting” is a term used to express the tendency of certain plants to produce occasionally flowers differing from what they usually bring forth.
hybridising certain Moss Roses with a strong-growing variety of the Alba Rose, with the view of obtaining a vigorous-growing Moss Rose, with the distinct and beautiful characters of the former. It would seem that his labour was not altogether misapplied, for the appearance of this variety would lead us to conjecture such a parentage. The growth is exceedingly vigorous, more robust than that of the Moss de Luxembourg; and the flowers, which are abundantly produced in June and July, have in one stage the blush edges and deep pink centre of the Alba Rose. It recently received a certificate from the National Floricultural Society, by which the buds are described as well mossed. As it frequently forms shoots four feet long in one season, thickly clothed with good foliage, it will make a short Pillar-Rose; but whether grown as such, or on a stem, the plant should be well thinned in pruning, and the shoots left shortened but little, to induce a profusion of flowers.

We may remark that the entire stock of this beautiful Rose is at present in the possession of the Messrs. Paul, and that it will be first offered for sale, we believe, in November of the present year.

This is the second new Moss Ross that we have had the pleasure of introducing to our readers; Moss Lanei, figured in a former volume, being the first. Is not this something in so limited a family, and both such flowers as will undoubtedly stand the test of time?

THE PELARGONIUM.

In the Florist for May, page 117, speaking of the Pelargonium, you say, "The plants grown for exhibition about London are exceedingly fine this season." As an ardent admirer of this charming flower, I was pleased with the prospect you thus held out, that the exhibitions of them would be unusually gratifying; but the result, to my own mind, has been of a mixed character; for though some of the collections have been admirable, both in cultivation and quality of bloom, I must own that many have appeared to be very inferior even to former years; so much so, that in some cases it was impossible to recognise old acquaintances. My impression is, that many of the exhibitors cling to the old sorts long after they have been surpassed; and another thing is, they appear to pay more attention to the size of the plant than the goodness of the bloom, probably stimulating the growth too late to perfect the flowers. How far the decisions of the judges in past seasons may have led to this, I am not prepared to say; but my idea is, the quality of the flower has been sacrificed to the size
of the plant. Such were the impressions made upon my own mind; and if I am in error, I hope you, or some of your able correspondents, will set me right. Mr. Turner’s collections, both in May and June, were every way worthy of the praise universally bestowed on them; they were certainly magnificent, shewing many of the newer varieties in great beauty. This is a point of much moment; for if the same varieties are to be shewn year after year, the interest in these shows must languish, and the bank of Pelargoniums, however fine as plants, will become as little attractive as the Ericas apparently have become. But I hope better things; the new flowers are neither wanting in numbers nor novelty; and I have noted the following, as having been shewn with good effect, of new flowers recently sent out: Magnet, Colonel of the Buffs, Mokanna, Chieftain, Enchantress, Optimum, Ariadne, Medora, Leonora, Ganymede, Zaria, Gertrude, Oscar, &c., all good; and of seedlings not yet sent out I noted Pilot, Governor-general, Carlos, Duchess of Wellington, Nonpareil, Virginia, Regalia, Mary, Zeno, Attraction, Rival Queen, Fair Ellen, Lucy, Rosa, &c. as very desirable and promising, and well fitted to replace the defective old sorts, which ought to be discarded. Cloth of Gold appears also very attractive in its colours, being very dark top and bright orange lower petals; it received a silver medal at the Regent’s Park for its approach to Scarlet as well as Regalia at the previous show. Virginia I heard received a first-class certificate at the National Floricultural Society, and Carlos a certificate of merit: perhaps this decision was right; but I had placed Carlos first in my own estimation. I hope to see them both, as well as the striking and beautiful Nonpareil, both in the new class for new flowers, and also in the large collections. I fear the idea of size of plant is a great barrier to the growth of new varieties, and I should be glad to see the judges try to remedy this fault; and perhaps if they were to withhold the prize from inferior collections occasionally, it would have a beneficial effect. It is quite possible to grow a plant in one season from a cutting sufficiently large to shew a good head of bloom.

INQUIRER.

[Our correspondent is evidently a close observer of what is doing with the Pelargonium, and we generally agree with his opinions, although there are a few omissions, probably from not attending all the exhibitions. It is much to be regretted that our great societies have discontinued awarding prizes to deserving seedlings; small prizes would cause all the leading flowers to be brought forward, and thus give the public an opportunity of judging for themselves.—Ed.]

NATIONAL CARNATION AND PICOTEE SOCIETY.

The third annual meeting of this Society was held, in accordance with public announcement, at York on the 3d and 4th ult. From the extremely cold, wet, and ungenial weather which had prevailed
throughout July, great anxiety was felt by those acting for the Society, and many fears were expressed that, as an exhibition, the meeting would be a failure.

The result completely and most pleasingly falsified these fears, the exhibition proving the most extensive hitherto held, and being assuredly quite equal to its predecessors in the growth and quality of the specimens brought forward. Twenty-three stands of twelves, and about 500 single specimens, were placed for award, the competition being so close and well sustained, that the most careful criticism was needed to determine the respective merits of the several collections. In such circumstances, it must have been very gratifying to the judges to note the hearty approval their selections received; and the emphatic testimony borne by some old Florists from the north, "that not a stand or a single specimen had been misplaced or misjudged," was so unanimously concurred in by a large assemblage, and is so much in accordance with my own judgment, that I claim from the editor the right to repeat it here, not as incense to himself and the gentlemen who gave their valuable services, but because this unanimity, growing from so much diversity, exhibits most plainly the value of these aggregations; whilst the improvement of the flower is unquestionably largely secured in the knowledge diffused, that all are striving for the same results.

Of individual specimens my notice will be brief. The blooms generally were fine examples of growth and colour; and at the close of this I shall enumerate those which were in their finest order in their respective classes.

Contrast still needs attention; more especially this was observable in one or two of the nurserymen's stands. A slight attention to the arrangement of the various blooms, so as to bring their colours more into juxta-position would have remedied this; and I urgently beg my friends to remember that they lose a great individual advantage, in addition to the fact, that the flower is inefficiently presented to the public notice, so long as they overlook or neglect this apparently trivial, but really most important point.

Seedlings were not so numerous as I have seen them on former occasions, but those which were present were of fine quality generally. Foremost in Picotees was a splendid heavy red sent by Mr. Hoyle, to which a certificate was deservedly awarded. Alice Hoyle (heavy rose), from the same source, is a most delightful variety; but too closely resembles Headley's Venus to be shewn as dissimilar; it is, however, smoother than that variety, though, I must confess it, my old eyes were not good enough to detect roughness in either, until the difference was made observable by means of a powerful magnifying-glass. Duke of Devonshire (Bayley), heavy purple, is a noble variety, not quite so bright at York as I saw it subsequently in my peregrinations through the midland counties, a result probably due to the cold and moist atmosphere which had so long prevailed; but wherever it is grown, it will, I am sure, have many admirers. In the first stand I noticed a fine heavy purple, which I believe will make a first-class variety; but being a yearling, it must be seen again.
A light rose, placed first in the class, also shewn by Mr. Dodwell, is too thin; a few more petals would make it extremely desirable. In Carnations the novelties were still fewer. Bayley’s Rubens, C.B., and Rembrandt, S.B., are flowers of capital substance and fine colours; a little more refinement in Rembrandt would enable it to dispute the palm with Admiral Curzon. Dodwell’s Rachel, P.F., is a very lively, cheerful variety, much resembling Premier in its colour, and a very desirable addition to the class. Two or three other seedlings there were, but they were either out of condition or secondary to old varieties. A fine batch of Picotees from Mr. Headley were closed up and past criticism; but from their remains, I feel justified in applying the epithet “fine” to them, and confidently expect some superb additions to the heavy reds.

Of the varieties sent out last autumn, Haidee (light purple Picotee) was exquisite, undoubtedly the queen of the class, and well deserved the premier prize awarded to it. The specimens of Bridesmaid (also light purple), seemed to want more growth. Victoria Regina (heavy rose) was in fine condition; and the same may be said of Countess (heavy purple): both capital additions to their respective classes. Poor Tom (May) is a noble rose-flake, full, finely crowned, and with plenty of colour. Schofield’s Magnificent, in the same class, is also a fine flower. Falconbridge, P.B., was shewn in splendid style in Mr. Bayley’s stand, and is a superb sort, full of colour, as a north-countryman likes.

Of the older varieties there were fine specimens of Lord Rancliffe and Lord Lewisham, S.B.’s; Lord Milton, Jenny Lind, Owen Glendower, and General Monk, C.B.’s; Sarah Payne, P.B.; Premier, Beauty of Woodhouse, and Squire Meynell, P.F.’s; Africana, Firebrand, Queen Victoria, and Justice Shallow, S.F.’s; Lovely Ann, Lorenzo, Ariel, and Flora’s Garland, R.F.’s; and in Picotees, Mrs. Norman and Prince of Wales (heavy reds); Gem (light red); Alfred, Lord Nelson, Lady Harriet Moore, Prince Arthur, and King of Purples (heavy purples); Ophelia (light purple); Mrs. Barnard (light rose); and Venus, Princess Royal, Grace Darling, Green’s Queen, and Miss Rosa (heavy rose).

Admiral Curzon was not shewn in its usual fine condition; the blooms in the stands from Derby, where it is usually so fine, and where I subsequently saw it finer than I had ever before known it, being insufficiently expanded. The specimen of Lord Rancliffe, to which the premier prize was deservedly awarded, was a splendid bloom; but, as if to shew the inconstancy of this variety, a second bloom in the same stand was rougher and more wanting in refinement than any other scarlet bizarre I noticed on the stage.

At the close of the day a large and influential party dined together at the Sand-Hill hotel, and worthily brought to an end a day of exceeding enjoyment by an evening of great harmony and good fellowship. Let us hope that kindness so happily expressed and reciprocated may live through all future years, and until Florists and aggregate meetings shall be alike unknown. Of individual efforts I feel it would be invidious to make any special mention; but one
thing I must record,—and I do it advisedly—I am quite sure the harmony (the vocalised portion of it) will long live in the remembrance of all present.

In accordance with the practice of the Society, which requires the place of meeting for the next season to be determined, Derby was unanimously elected, and Mr. Dodweil requested to act as secretary. From the antecedents of Mr. Dodwell and our friends at Derby, I have little doubt the reputation of the Society will be fairly sustained; and I am sure every admirer of these lovely flowers will accord his support to a cause so deserving. Nor should our support end with the mere contribution of our several mites. We should bear in mind that gentlemen who undertake the carrying out of meetings such as these, undertake duties of the most arduous character, full of trouble and responsibility, and surrounded with contingencies calling for the exercise of the most opposite qualities—energy, forbearance, and temper. Indeed, fairly to estimate the value of success, such as our friends at York have achieved, we should measure the possible consequences of a failure; and whoever may do this will join heartily with me in the expression of the obligation the floral community is under to Mr. Hepton, and the gentlemen who acted with him. York, indeed, has a proud pre-eminence in the fact, that there the National Tulip Society became of national interest; and there prizes offered for Carnations and Picotees first approximated to the expense and labour necessary for their production.

Annexed is the award of the judges—Mr. J. F. Wood, F.H.S.; Mr. Charles Turner, F.H.S.; Mr. John Holland; and Thomas Adams, Esq.


Twelve Picotees.—1. Mr. Keynes, with James the Second, Venus, Mrs. Barnard, Princess Royal, Ophelia, Alfred, Victoria Regina, Haidee, Juliet, Lord Nelson, Countess, and Grace Darling. 2. Messrs. Schofield and Son, with Olivia, Beatrice, Mary Ann, Portia, Prince Arthur, Mrs. Horner, Alfred, Isabella, Miss Rosa, Victoria Regina, Mary, and Ann. 3. Messrs. Bainbridge and Hewison, with Miss Rosa, Portia, Sir W. Middleton, No. 70 (Dodwell), Prince of Wales, Lady Harriet Moore, Elizabeth, No. 8 (Dodwell), Lady Harewood, Mrs. Barnard, Sebastian, and Mary.


Twelve Picotees.—1. Mr. E. S. Dodwell, with Duke of Devonshire (Bayley), Regina (Marris), Prince of Wales, Seedling, Haidee, Countess, Venus, Prince Arthur, Rosalind, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Barnard, and Bridesmaid. 2. John Edwards, Esq., with Mrs Norman, Princess Royal, Alfred, Princess Royal, Grace Darling, James the Second, Queen Victoria, Countess, Christabel, Mrs. Barnard, Gem, and Queen Victoria. 3. Mr. Bayley, with Duke of Devonshire, Regina, Haidee, Countess, Venus, Mrs. Barnard, Gem, Prince Arthur, Prince of Wales, Duke of Devonshire, Prince of Wales, and Bridesmaid. 4. Mr. Silbey of Nottingham, with Gem, Mrs. Barnard, Alfred, Ophelia, Alfred, Lord Nelson, Sophia, Jenny Lind, Theodore, Mrs. Norman, Princess Royal, and Lady Alice Peel. 5. Mr. H. Steward, with Miss Rosa, Ganymede, Elizabeth, Miss Rosa, Enchantress, Princess Royal, Mrs. Barnard, Juliet, Princess Alice, Mrs. Norman, and Delicata. 6. Mr. Fisher, Derby, with King of Purples, Countess, Mary, Lady Harriet Moore, Seedling, Mrs. Barnard, Prince of Wales, Isabella, Venus, Prince Arthur, Lord Nelson, and Bridesmaid.

Single Blooms in Classes.—Open to all.

A first-class certificate was awarded to Mrs. Hoyle (Hoyle), a heavy red-edged variety of great excellence, something in the style of King James, but a decided improvement upon it. It is of good size, very smooth, petals broad and gently cupped; the white and colour first rate.

ROSES AT THE EXHIBITIONS.

In anticipation of a more complete review of the more recent novelties, I have ventured to give some account of the following varieties, of which (they having justified the good opinion given of them in former numbers), a more perfect description thus early may not be unacceptable to your readers.

Queen Victoria (Paul’s) was exhibited in fine condition; and there is little doubt that it will now become an established favourite. A sheltered situation will be found best suited to it. Auguste Mie proves a first-rate exhibition flower. Protection from wet is, however, essential to the perfect development of its blossoms. Le Lion des Combats is a noble flower, of a dark or purplish crimson, of rather flat form, and conquers the Rose-raiser’s difficulty by being quite distinct. When speaking of Souvenir de Reine des Belges, its mottled marking was not mentioned, this often being, as in La Reine, &c. only a sporting beauty; but in this variety it appears constant, and is certainly an improvement on Prince Albert (H. P.), as it opens quite freely, and is a very nice shape. General Bedeau improves on further acquaintance, maintaining the brightness of its colour and the superiority of form over Louis Bonaparte; the very clear pink of the inner and the white outside of the petals of Madame Lamoricière make it very pleasing.

L’Enfant du Mont Carmel proves to be much in the way of William Jesse, but more double, and of fine robust habit. General Cavaignac is a good addition to show Roses, and was much admired. The stiff petals of William Griffiths, and its distinct lilac tint, makes it an acquisition, particularly for exhibition. Chereau has also much improved in size, without deteriorating from the excellence of its form. Noemi, of a similar colour, not quite so large, is a good Rose. Caroline de Sansal was also shewn in fine condition. The size and colour of Louis Peronnet, with its habit of incurved petals, makes it one of the most striking in a collection.

General Brea was noticed as a good light rose-colour; but to General Castellane the palm of excellence must be awarded, being faultless in shape, of a clear, pleasing, vivid colour, and beautifully scented.

Laura Ramaud was admired for its delicacy; but Mrs. Rivers will be the favourite of this colour, its form being perfection. Rosine Margotten is a very slight, if any, improvement on Duchesse de Montpensier, divested, however, of the very peculiar but delicious perfume
of that variety. Dr. Julliard is another acquisition for exhibition, being a bold, fine Rose, but of the old-fashioned colour.

The novelties were scarce. A seedling H. P., Lady Shelley, exhibited by Mr. Mitchell, of Piltdown, Sussex, is a fine large shaded crimson; but whether a foreign or an English production it was not stated. Messrs. Paul produced Moss Princess Alice, which, as your plate will shew, is quite distinct—a lilac-tinted pink, deeper in the centre, and shading off to white. Its habit also appears robust. They had also a box of Bourbon Prince Albert, which gave a better idea of it than what had been before exhibited. Its colour is that of Comice de Seine et Marne, but larger and a better shape. The most beautiful box of the season was, however, Messrs. Lane’s Paul Ricaut, which for shape and colour has never been surpassed. To Bourbons, Louise Odier, a bright rose-colour, with very stout petals, was the only recent addition.

Nothing at the exhibitions was more striking than the Roses in pots. The size which the plants have attained, and the masses of flowers with which they were covered, made them one of the most attractive features of the earlier shows. It is difficult to particularise whose specimens out of any collection were best, as they were so generally good. The only plant that could be considered in any degree superior to its compeers was a very fine plant of Devoniensis, in Mr. Francis’s collection. Mr. Terry’s Persian Yellow was a finer specimen of pot-rose culture than we think was ever before seen. Mr. Busby had a not very large but an exquisitely bloomed plant of Géant des Batailles, all the blooms (and there were plenty of them) being so bright. Messrs. Lane’s Coupe d’Hébé is, however, the best plant of all the collections; and this year it was indeed magnificent. Magna Rosea was nearly equal to it. Juno was also beautifully bloomed; and a plant of Madame Fontaine, a small white, was a mass of blossom. Auguste Mie, from the beauty of the comparatively young plant exhibited, will soon be a favourite.

In Messrs. Paul’s, that beautiful Tea, Madame de St. Joseph, again made its appearance; but so evenly excellent were the plants exhibited, that it was impossible to make a fair selection; and, as a whole, it may be said that the Queen of Flowers is now taking a position (thanks to the energy of the growers and the encouragement given by the societies) to which she is fairly entitled.

Ealing.                                          C. G. WILKINSON.

AURICULAS.

Allow me to say a few words in reply to your correspondent, Iota, in reference to my method of using bones in the cultivation of the Auricula.

I have employed bones, as described in the April number of the Florist, for several years, and have never sustained any injury
thereby; but, on the contrary, my plants are, and have been, remarkably vigorous, producing blooms proportionably fine.

Having, therefore, been so successful myself, I should have felt surprise at Iota's misfortune, had I not been convinced of the precocity of his decision; arising, I have no doubt, from the unsightly appearance presented, for a short time, at the bottom of the pot; but as this appearance is only short-lived, it has never subjected me to any alarm.

In answer to our friend's inquiry relative to Cheetham's Lancashire Hero, I beg to say that the variation alluded to is peculiar to most Auriculas; and I think may be attributed to some temporary condition of the plant, arising from age, soil, or climate. A green-edged variety of my own raising (Robert Burns) has produced plants this season with green, grey, and white-edged blooms.

I would here mention what appears to me to be a curiosity in this tribe. About four years ago I bloomed a seedling Auricula of a sulphur colour, edged with bright green; the ground-colour of the bloom sparkling in the sun as if sprinkled with particles of ice: it is a stout flower, very circular and flat, the tube is pale, and the paste too narrow; still, it is such a novelty, and forms so great a contrast with the fine black, purple, and chocolate grounds of these flowers, that I consider it an acquisition to my collection; and in compliment to the poetess, I have called it Eliza Cook.

Little Beauty, another seedling which bloomed the following year, is a small but perfect flower; thrum good, tube rich lasting orange, circular, and not too large; eye fine and circular, stops well at the ground, which is yellow bronze, proportionably edged with bright green. This I need not say is a favourite of mine, owing to its neatness and novel ground-colour.

Another curiosity is a seedling which bloomed for the first time last season; it threw up a stem, and an umbel of six pips, in the usual way; but also on the otherwise naked stem was produced a perfect plant, with a close little heart, composed at this time of nine leaves, and which continues to increase in size and strength daily, although the bloom has been gone more than two months, and the flower-stems of most of my stock have decayed. I shall carefully watch this anomaly; and if the stem should not fall (which I think it will), I shall have great pleasure in communicating the result to your interesting periodical.

 Permit me to conclude by congratulating you on the fine portraits which you have lately presented us with of my favourite flower the Auricula.

_Hill Field, Coventry._

_Samuel Cooke._
MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

Some of the more interesting summer-flowering things are the several kinds of Clematis, a tribe of plants with which most cultivators are familiar, as few gardens are to be found that do not possess some of them. Though not all alike worthy of cultivation, yet there are many among them, showy flowering kinds, which deserve a little attention, and if they are nicely trained, form beautiful objects for the parterre during summer. Being of a climbing habit, they are admirably adapted for covering trellis-work, stumps of trees, walls, or any unsightly objects; or they may be planted in clumps or beds throughout the flower-garden, and trained to stakes. They grow freely in common garden-soil, and produce abundance of flowers during the summer.

There are several good hardy kinds, which, if planted on a clump or large bed, and trained in the following manner, produce a charming effect during their flowering season. They should be planted about three or four feet apart, each one having a stout stake to train it to. Those in the centre may be about six feet high, which, of course, should have the more robust-growing kinds gradually decreasing in height, and likewise with smaller growing plants towards the margin. The stakes should all be connected together, by means of small tar-line, from their tops, along which the slender trailing-stems can easily be led. There is a large bed of them here so treated; and being now mostly in flower, they have a very pretty appearance. The following are the best kinds, all hardy, and easily procurable at a trifling expense:

Clematis Vitalba. This is a large and rather coarse-looking plant, with pannicles of smallish white flowers, which are very fragrant. It is indigenous to Britain.

Clematis lanceolata. An interesting species, with shining lanceolate leaves and white flowers. It is a very distinct species, of rather upright stiff growth.

Clematis campaniflora. This is a neat-looking and rather pretty flowering kind. The flowers are smallish, bell-shaped, and light-coloured, tinged with blue. It is a native of Spain.

Clematis viorna. This is a North American species, of robust growth. It has rather large leaves, and fleshy flowers about half an inch long, which are of a globular cone shape, and reddish outside.

Clematis Hendersoni. One of the best of the genus. It has large showy flowers, of a deep blue colour, literally covering the whole plant. It is a splendid object when planted in a border and trained against a south wall.

Clematis revoluta. This is a pretty flowering species, with rather smallish leaves and violet-blue flowers, which are borne in great profusion.

Clematis cylindrica. A very handsome flowering kind, of dwarf habit, compared with most of the others, growing only about three feet high. The flowers are pendulous, one inch or more in diameter, cylindrical at the base, and of a light-blue. It is a native of North America.

Clematis integrifolia. This species is of rather erect growth, about three feet high; has entire leaves, and blue flowers two inches in diameter.

Clematis florida. This is a very showy flowering species, of a neat slender habit. The flowers are large (two inches and a half in diameter), and of a creamy white. It is a native of Japan.
Clematis florida flore-pleno. A beautiful variety, with double flowers of a creamy white, two inches and a half in diameter.

Clematis viticella rubra. A slender-growing kind, with smallish leaves and flowers of a reddish purple.

Among other plants, the following are worth attention:

Retamia spherocarpa. A hardy evergreen glaucous-looking shrub, very similar to the common Broom. It has long slender pendulous branches, and small pea-shaped flowers, of a deep yellow colour, borne on short stalks along the branches. Its habitat in the garden will be the shrubbery; but it does well against a wall. A plant of it here against an east wall is twelve feet high, and is at present flowering abundantly. It is of a much-branching and very graceful habit, and makes an interesting variety among broad-leaved things.

Metternichia principes. A glabrous evergreen hard-wooded hothouse shrub, of a tolerable bushy habit, attaining the height of about three to four feet. The flowers are of good moderate size, funnel-shaped, very fragrant, of a clear white, and are borne on the ends of the branches. It is a new plant, introduced to English gardens from the continent, is a native of Brazil, and is at present in flower at Kew.

Condradia floribunda. A dwarf evergreen hothouse herb, of considerable beauty, belonging to Gesnerads. It grows about six or eight inches high, has rugose hairy lanceolate leaves, and scarlet flowers, which are borne profusely among the leaves close to the stems. This species requires a treatment similar to Gloxinias, Gesnerias, &c.

Brillantasia owariensis. A rather straggling-growing evergreen stove-herb, with large coarse hairy leaves, and pannicles of blue flowers much resembling those of Salvia patens. It is a new plant in cultivation, and is a native of Sierra Leone; but being of a coarse habit will prevent it becoming popular.

Tellima nepalensis. This is a hardy evergreen herbaceous plant, and is a valuable addition to beds or borders. It has a good habit, with trinate leaves, and erect stems from two to three feet high, on which are borne spikes, from two to four inches long, of pinkish-purple flowers. It blooms in August and September.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. Houlston.

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Kymnel Manor.

This interesting place is situated within a short distance of Chisslehurst, and about ten miles from London on the Maidstone road. It was purchased by the present proprietor, A. F. Slade, Esq., some seven years back, and was then in a comparatively neglected state; but under Mr. Slade's direction the house has been much modernised and improved, the garden has been entirely remodelled, and a number of new forcing-houses and sets have been erected.

The land here is exceedingly strong; it is, indeed, nothing more than a thin layer of strong loam resting on a bed of almost impervious clay; consequently, thorough drainage was one of the first operations to be attended to both in and out of the garden. The work however, in many instances, was not well performed, and hence it is not so effective as it ought to be; still, the land is much improved, and now produces fine crops.

The lawn and pleasure-grounds are entirely new, and the shrubs
being now thoroughly established, begin to assume a very interesting appearance. To procure masses of shrubs as gardenesque specimens in a short time on the lawn, Evergreens have been planted en masse; that is, such things as evergreen Oaks, Arbutus, Laurustinus, Portugal Laurels, &c. have been planted in clumps of from twelve to two or three dozen plants together, the object being, I presume, to get the semblance of large specimens as quickly as possible. At present the plants have a lumpish dwarfed appearance, the height not being proportionate to the width; and even when the plants get more fully formed, I doubt whether they will be so permanently interesting as two or three good specimens occupying the same space. In a few years the "battle for life" must commence; and though the strong may overpower and destroy the weak, the result will be gaps, and any thing but healthy progress.

On the lawn are also some fine masses of Rhododendrons, in splendid health, and some fine specimens of the rarer kinds of Coniferae. Cupressus Goveniana was obliged to succumb to the terrors of the "ice king" during the past spring, and a number of choice kinds were killed about two-thirds of their height from the top. One, a fine plant of Cupressus macrocarpa, was killed, as if seared by lightning; and on examination I found the bark most injured on the northeast side, as if the injury had been the result of a sudden thaw; and what makes this supposition more probable is, that where the main stem was protected or shaded by the surrounding branches, there the injury stopped, and the bottom branches were quite healthy. Of Cryptomeria japonica and Taxodium sempervirens, there were some large plants; but both bore evidence of a severe winter, from the effects of which they are not likely to recover for some time.

Roses, especially the finer kinds of Tea and Perpetuals, are here quite "at home," and grow with a wild luxuriance that would gladden the heart of a Rivers, a Paul, or a Lane. The more popular varieties, as Géant des Batailles, La Reine, Cramoisie superieure, &c. are dispersed in large masses; and the last-named formed a mass of glowing fiery crimson, such as I never saw before. To say that some single stems, and there were many such from a plant, bore trusses of bloom from fifteen to eighteen inches in diameter, with from fifty to a hundred expanded flowers, and hundreds of buds coming on, is quite within the mark; so that the bed formed a dense mass of bloom. These plants have been established several years. In the spring they were pegged down, and flowered very splendidly; but the branches which are blooming now have started principally from the base of the plants, and no doubt have derived considerable advantage from their vertical position. They and all the Roses in the place have, however, been materially assisted by liquid manure thus prepared: during the lambing season, a number of ewes were folded in a large shed; and weekly, or more frequently if necessary, the litter, when well saturated with urine and droppings, was collected and placed in a heap in the garden; adjoining this heap a hole was formed (for it is only necessary to dig a hole here to form a tank, the clay being so very impervious), into which the essence from the dung
drained; and this, when properly diluted, is the *aqua vitae* with which the plants are occasionally deluged, and which has infused so much life into them. To this manuring, no doubt, the brilliant colour of the flowers is in some measure attributable. My old favourites—Souvenir de Malmaison and Mrs. Bosanquet—were in splendid condition, as also were Tea Caroline, Bourbon Phoenix, Proserpine, Baronne Prevost, Solfaterre, and Lamarque.

Adjoining the house, and accessible from the drawing-room, is a long, narrow, lofty conservatory, with a curvilinear roof of ground-glass; in it are planted various Camellias, and other greenhouse plants, and there are also some very splendid climbing plants. It was here that Tacsonia manicata first produced its magnificent scarlet flowers, and it still continues to bloom every season. *T. molissima* was loaded with blossoms, and a large specimen of Mandevilla suaveolens was a sheet of its delicious pure white flowers. At the back of this conservatory there is a large Camellia house, containing some fine and promising young plants, and some tree specimens of Cestrum elegans and Aurantiacum.

The kitchen garden is situated a short distance from the house, and contains two vineries, with pits for Pines, two remarkably compact span-roof pits for Cucumbers and Melons, and several ranges of pits for other purposes. The Vines bore a very good crop of Muscat and Hamburghs; but through the excessive wet, cold soil, and the want of proper drainage, they had not “finished” quite so well as could be desired; indeed, Mr. Eyre said he found the points of the roots quite black and dead, owing no doubt to the excess of moisture. The Cucumber-house was full of splendid fruit; but the Melon-house has been devoted to the culture of Orchids and other stove-plants, and there was a magnificent plant of Stephanotis floribunda covering the entire roof. The Melon pits contained some fine fruit, and some Pine plants were also coming on. Mr. Slade is a Tulip fancier, and has a fine bed of choice kinds. The borders in the kitchen-garden are planted with flowers; and here also Roses are in wild luxuriance, some of the kinds producing shoots of prodigious strength. The gardener's cottage is in the Elizabethan style, and with its trim garden, rich in standard Rhododendrons and Roses, has quite an enviable appearance. Here we noticed, for the first time, a very handsome lawn specimen of the New American Weeping Willow (*Salix americana pendula*), forming a graceful pyramid some twelve or fourteen feet high; and there was also a nice plant of *Pinus insignis*. In a plantation adjoining the kitchen-garden some of the choicer Pinuses have been planted out, and where they have room are making splendid plants. In this plantation Providence has left a finger-mark. During the remarkable storm in June, “the lightning, followed with a thunder-bolt,” struck a huge Oak, the largest and tallest in the place; and though a plant that would square eighteen inches or two feet of timber at the base, shivered it to atoms, distributing the branches in all directions, and some to a distance of several hundred feet. The trunk was split to the very base—large enough to admit a man’s leg; and some of the heart-wood was shivered and doubled up like so much
bast-mat. I have seen many trees struck by the electric fluid, but never before have I seen such havoc as this.

Blackheath, Aug. 11, 1853. Wm. P. Ayres.

LESCHENAUTLIA FORMOSA.

This beautiful and continuous-blooming greenhouse-plant; when well-grown, is surpassed by few; and a little extra attention bestowed upon it will amply repay the cultivator for his trouble. First, procure a nice healthy bushy plant to begin with; examine the roots, and if found in a healthy state, shift into a larger well-drained pot. Prepare for it some rough fibrous light peat, mix with it half the quantity of sharp silver-sand and some rubbly charcoal; when potting, care must be taken not to press the soil down too close, as the roots are of a fleshy nature, and delight in soil where they can extend themselves with freedom. When potted, the plants can be removed either to a close cold frame or the greenhouse, where they will soon begin to make rapid growth. Should the weather be bright and sunny, shade them from the mid-day sun; this may be continued through the summer, as they delight in a partially shaded situation. I have seen many plants that have been exposed to the sun become brown in their foliage and unhealthy, and very rarely ever afterwards make good specimens, even under the most favourable treatment.

Keeping them close, and shading them for several hours in the day for some time after they have been fresh potted, encourages them to start into growth freely; sprinkle them over their tops in the afternoon before the sun is too powerful, and remove the shading altogether as they advance in growth. Give them a little air by raising the lights behind them, and increase the quantity as they become established in their new pots; if they succeed well, they will soon require another shift, which should be given them before the season is too far advanced. Any loose straggling wood that may present itself should be removed, to make the plant bushy and symmetrical in form, and the bloom should be continually picked off them, until they are of sufficient size to form nice specimens, when they may be allowed to bloom. By keeping three or four, a succession of fine blooming plants may be obtained, without allowing either plant to continue too long in flower, which would weaken and ultimately exhaust them; but by keeping a succession of plants, and allowing one to bloom only a certain time, and removing the flower-buds from the others, until they are in their turn required to bloom, will always insure a good succession; and as soon as the plant that has been in flower for some time is succeeded by another, remove all the blossoms from it, and start it into growth, in order to make it ready to take its turn again with the others. It will be found neces-
sary to look diligently after the green-fly, as these plants are very subject to their attacks; and unless looked after very minutely, they would escape the notice of the naked eye, being of the same colour as the foliage. Many plants have been totally destroyed by these pests before the cause was ascertained; and I should advise, whenever an opportunity offers, i.e. when fumigating any other plants, to remove them to the house that is to be smoked, which will prevent them from being attacked, and keep them clean and healthy.

When the time arrives for placing them in their winter quarters, a nice light airy situation should be selected for them as near the glass as can be obtained, keeping them turned round every three or four days, to prevent their drawing to one side. Turning often will cause them to make good-formed handsome regular plants; and great care must be taken in watering them during winter, as there are few plants with which I am acquainted that are more impatient of water at that season than Leschenaultia. Little more remains to be done until spring arrives, when they should be again examined at their roots, in order to ascertain whether they require another shift; if found to be in want of such, choose the plant that is required for blooming first, and withhold the potting from it until it has performed its duties, and is succeeded by another; it can then have another pot, picking off all the bloom and buds that are perceptible, and starting it into growth. By this practice there need not be a month in the year in which one of the plants may not be finely in bloom; and as they advance in growth, a little weak manure-water will be found of the greatest benefit to them, in invigorating them; apply it twice every week while they are in bloom, but withhold it throughout the latter part of autumn and the dull days of winter.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell.  
William Barnes.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A POT-ROSE.

CHAP. I.

PROPAGATION—EARLY GROWTH—CHANGE OF HABITATION.

A writer of no mean authority has said, that whenever an individual speaks of himself, we should listen with attention, as we may almost invariably gather from his remarks an insight into his character and nature. It is because I believe in this opinion that I am about to relate my own history; and if by withdrawing the veil, the public, by knowing more of my nature, should think less favourably of me, I shall at least have the satisfaction of having dissipated the false reverence upheld only by seclusion, and my associates may be gainers by the light thus thrown around my path.

Much that occurred in the few first weeks of my existence is of course not very vividly before me; and lest I should mislead the
public, it is perhaps better that such should be passed over in silence. I, however, distinctly remember existing as a short branch, terminated by a flower-bud, in company with other branches, on what is termed the parent tree; and although deriving sustenance from the same root and through the same stem, I had a certain sense of my own independence—of my capability of becoming a separate individual, and being in after-times the main stem whence should arise branches like myself. As I heard one and another bestow a passing word of praise on the freshness, beauty, or fragrance of my flower, but reserve the comble de gloire for the plant on which I grew, I longed for the time when my master, who was a nurseryman, should see fit to detach me from my parent, and place me in the state of a cutting, to begin life entirely on my own account.

Accordingly one morning, just as my flower had dropt, I heard with joy, as he gently pressed me between his finger and thumb, that I was "ripe enough," to use his own words, and that on the morrow I was to become a cutting. As the preparation for the coming event was made beneath my own eyes, I shall relate as briefly as possible the bare facts, not troubling the reader with my hopes, fears, and aspirations, as they may be more easily imagined than described. First of all was brought into the house about a peck of pure yellow loam, chopped fine, but not sifted; it appeared to have been the top-spit of an old pasture, cut and laid up to dry and air some months previously; the next material was about half a peck of decayed leaves, technically called leaf-mould, and next about a quarter of a peck of white sand. These materials were laid on a flat board and thoroughly mixed together, by turning them frequently with a small spade, and then pronounced ready for use. I now saw a quantity of pots brought in, of the size called large sixties, and a boy followed with some broken pots under his arm, some bricks, and a hammer. He began breaking the pots into pieces nearly the size of the bottom of the pot, and put one piece the concave side downwards over the hole of each pot; he then broke the bricks into pieces about the size of a nut, put a handful over each piece of crock, and filled the pots with the soil previously prepared, pressing it down rather firmly, and striking it off level with the top of the pot with his hand. I now made a pretty shrewd guess that into one of these pots I was to go; and with an exulting heart (ah! I little knew then what I had to go through before attaining that separate and independent existence I so much longed for,) I saw my master approach with a little white-handled knife in his hand, and before I scarcely knew it, I was severed from the stem. After the débris of my flower was cut off, there remained two leaves; the upper one was left intact, and the lower removed; the stem was then cut straight, just below where the bottom leaf joined it, and I was a cutting "made." The accompanying woodcut represents, as nearly as I can remember, my appearance at this early epoch of my career.

I was now inserted, in company with three others, in one of the pots previously described. A hole was made at the side of the pot with a dibble, about the size of an ordinary cedar pencil, and the

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lower two-thirds of my height were placed firmly under the soil. The pot was then removed to a frame, with a gentle bottom-heat, and plunged to the rim in sawdust. For the first few days I suffered greatly, owing to my old sources of nourishment being cut off, and having as yet no power of appropriating the new ones at my disposal. I am sure if my master had not exercised the greatest care and watchfulness over me, I must have died; and I resolved, if I recovered, to shew my gratitude, by throwing blossoms and odours around his dwelling all my life. He kept a tank of warm-water flowing beneath me night and day, by which means not only was the soil in which I was placed made warm and comfortable, but a moisture rose and adhered to the under-sides of my leaf, which proved peculiarly refreshing. Whenever the sun burst upon me, threatening to dry me of my juices, he ran with a mat to afford me shade; and he further refreshed me morning and evening with a dew-like shower, thrown through a fine-rosed syringe. In about eight days the juices exuding from the top and bottom of my stem had formed a callous; and a few days later white porous roots began to form, with sponge-like points, that sucked up the moisture from the soil, and I felt my almost exhausted strength rapidly recruiting. My master now allowed a little sun to fall on my leaf in the morning, and admitted a little air into the frame in which I had been closely shut for a fortnight. By this treatment my strength became so great, and my roots spread so rapidly, that the eye in the axil of my leaf began to grow, and I was shaken out of the cutting-pot and placed in a pot of the same size by myself, in a soil something similar, but with decayed manure instead of leaf-mould, and about one-fourth the quantity of sand. I was here separated from my companions, one of whom had died a cutting, not having been sufficiently ripe when taken; one had not yet rooted, having been too ripe; and the fourth was placed in a separate pot, like myself. I was now carried back to a frame with bottom-heat, syringed with water morning and evening, and shaded from the sun as before. For the first two or three days very little air was admitted; but after that time more and more was given every day, the shade was made lighter by degrees, till at last the frame was entirely removed, and I was exposed to the sun and air night and day. It was now July, and the growing season was before me; my first anxiety was to shew my gratitude to my master, and being of the kind called "autumnal," by the third week of September I produced three, not over-large, but finely-shaped and highly-coloured flowers.

As the nursery in which I grew was much visited by lovers of flowers, I heard many high encomiums passed on me; and one even-
ing I was purchased by a quaker, a piece of white paper was tied round my pot, and I was placed inside his carriage; and I, who before had only lived, now lived and moved I knew not whither. It was gratifying to me to see how my new master gazed on me, handled me, and inhaled my attar breath, regarding me, as I thought, with more than usual interest, because he considered my destiny altogether changed in his hands. For my part, I resolved to do my best to please him, as I had done my former master. Soon the carriage stopped; I was handed out, passed through the hall and drawing-room, admired by the servants and ladies, and placed by my master in the conservatory. I had not been long here before I saw a red-faced, happy-looking man, without a coat, and with a blue apron, coming towards me with a watering-pot; this, as I afterwards learned, was John the gardener, of whom I shall have more to say by and by. My master met him close by me; and a conversation immediately ensued, ending by John expressing himself highly pleased, but wishing I had been a "wee bit bigger." When I had shed my flowers, I was taken out of doors; and a frosty night having denuded my branches of their leaves, I was removed to a dry cold pit for winter quarters.

William Paul.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

PLUMS.

The Plum is a native of Europe, Asia, and America. In its wild state it is a low thorny tree, bearing an astringent fruit. Our fine sorts are, however, not indigenous to any country, but owe their existence principally to the skill and industry of man.

The Plums cultivated in our gardens were probably brought in the first place from the Continent; latterly some good kinds have been raised in this country, and a valuable addition to our collections has been received from America.

In its present state of perfection the Plum is a rich, luscious fruit; although perhaps not quite so wholesome as many others, owing to its laxative and flatulent nature; but when used in pies, or preserved with sugar, it loses in a measure these properties.

In France the Plum is much used for drying. The kinds employed in the production of the dried fruit, known in England as French Plums and Prunes, are the St. Catherine, d'Agen, Perdrigon, and Prune d'Ast, large quantities of which are annually exported from France to all parts of the globe.

Nearly 200 varieties of Plum exist in this country: but in the following papers a few of the best only will be noticed, principally for the guidance of amateurs.

1. Wilmot's Early Orleans.
   Synonyms: Wilmot's large Orleans; Wilmot's Orleans.
   This valuable Plum was raised some years ago by the late Mr.
Wilmot of Isleworth. To all appearance it closely resembles the common early Orleans; but in quality it far surpasses that variety, and may be considered the best of its class.

Almost every person possessing a garden grows an Orleans Plum; but very few are in possession of this variety, which should be more widely disseminated.

The fruit is of middle size, round, slightly compressed, the suture extending from the stalk to the apex, which is a little indented. Skin thin, pale red on the shaded side, intermixed with green—the exposed side being dark purplish-red, and thinly spread with bloom. Flesh pale yellow, growing darker as it ripens; quite melting, possessing a rich sugary flavour, and parting clean from the stone, which is small and nearly round. Ripens the end of July and beginning of August.

The trees are of moderate growth and excellent bearers; young shoots short, downy, and thickly set with buds. Bears well as a standard; but truly deserves a place on an east or west wall.

2. Smith's Orleans.

Fruit above the middle size, oval, slightly irregular, having a moderately deep suture on one side. Skin purplish red, changing to a deeper colour, mottled when fully matured, and spread with a fine azure bloom. Stalk half an inch long, not over stout, and set in a deep, narrow cavity. Flesh dull yellow, firm, very juicy, rich, and vinous, with an agreeable acid flavour, and adheres slightly to the stone. This excellent Plum is suitable for the dessert as well as for pastry, and ripens from the middle to the end of August.

The trees are healthy and excellent bearers; young shoots smooth, of a purple hue; foliage crumpled; produces remarkably fine fruit where the advantage of a wall is given.

It is an American variety, originally from Long Island, United States, and I believe as yet it is not generally known in this country.
I have seen it under the name of Early Orleans. However, it is a variety distinct from other Orleans, and cannot well be mistaken.

*Frogmore.*

J. Powell.

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**ON CULINARY VEGETABLES.**

(Continued from page 151.)

Secondly, have the varieties been improved by careful cultivation and hybridisation to the extent they are capable of?

This is a question that opens a wide field for examination. We know much has been done to bring our most useful vegetables from their wild and worthless state to their present perfection; but there is still great room for improvement. By improvement I would not wish it to be understood to mean a mere increase of bulk (although in some cases that would be an object to be desired), but of other qualities of much greater importance—as flavour; quickness in attaining mature growth for use; hardiness, so as to be able to sustain the rigours of winter without material injury, and their capability for forcing.

The effects of good culture have undoubtedly greatly improved vegetables; but we are chiefly indebted for their improvement to a judicious selection of accidental varieties. Cross-breeding, or hybridising by manual assistance, has rarely, if ever, been adopted for the purpose of blending the superior qualities of one variety of culinary vegetables with those of another; but it will not admit of a doubt that it might in numerous cases be done with very considerable advantage. We see the results of accidental variation; what may we not expect from careful cross-breeding? How valuable would be an early and quick-fruiting pea, having the excellent flavour of some of the late and hardy-fruiting ones; of a hardy winter Broccoli, with the colour and delicacy of the Cauliflower; of a hardy winter Lettuce, with the excellence of the Paris Cos. All this, and more, may and will eventually be done. An error too frequently fallen into by gardeners is that of preserving and saving seed from an accidental variety, having nothing to recommend it but its large size. This is more particularly the case with Broccoli. The last few winters have passed without much severe frost, consequently Broccoli has not been much injured; but we may again be visited by severe winters, when the utility of increasing varieties having the character of Knight’s Protecting will be recognised.

For private establishments, quality should be placed as a chief point of excellence in saving seed from new varieties. Good culture has, of course, much to do with the quality of vegetables, as it not only thereby increases their bulk, but adds flavour and tenderness, and sometimes alters their form and colour; and which may, I am inclined to think, by a few trials I have made, be rendered permanent, by saving seed from such plants.
There is a great want of knowledge as to new or old seed producing the best and finest vegetables. My experience leads me to believe that old seed of many of the species of cultivated vegetables has the superiority in every respect, the Legumes perhaps being the only exception. New seeds unquestionably germinate more quickly than old ones; but if the latter are carefully kept, there is little danger of a crop. By good cultivation, and a judicious selection for seed of individual plants having useful qualities, of which some may be found in almost every crop, and by cross-breeding, we might obtain varieties possessing qualities far surpassing those we now possess.

Lastly, do we make a judicious selection from the varieties of cultivated vegetables we have already?

I unhesitatingly answer no: we are all more or less to blame for the catalogue of names in the seedsmen’s lists. One person is anxious for all the new varieties; which induces seedsmen to procure every thing with a new name, and which at the same time may possess no merit whatever. Another person repudiates every thing new, and determines upon selecting varieties which should have been discarded years since. Seedsmen would be but too glad to discard from their lists three-fourths of the varieties of some species; but while they are asked for certain sorts, be they good or bad, it must naturally be supposed that they would endeavour to accommodate every one of their customers. Seedsmen may certainly greatly assist every one in selecting seeds, if they would publish descriptive catalogues instead of a long list of names only, which is the general rule, the exceptions being few. If the descriptions were given faithfully by competent persons, it would go far to rectify the evils so much complained of by purchasers of seeds. I would most strongly recommend every purchaser to deal with respectable and well-known seedsmen; this is a warning I would particularly impress on gentlemen who are purchasers of their own seeds, and who are, I believe, the chief sufferers by cheap, quack seedsmen.

H. C. O.

[We trust that these excellent remarks will receive that attention from the public, both buyers and sellers, which they demand. For ourselves, we shall be but too happy to do all that we can in furtherance of our correspondent’s views, which, if uniformly carried out, we feel assured could not possibly fail to promote the interests of all parties.—Ed.]

NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

July 28.—A certificate was awarded to Mr. Turner for Picotee Ariel, a full-sized rose-edged kind, of good substance, purity, and smoothness. Certificate to Verbena Triumph, from Mr. Smith, a reddish crimson sort, with a cheerful light eye, surrounded by heavy rose. Label of commendation to Phlox Madame Celeste, from Mr. Salter,
a white kind, with a pale purple eye. Ditto to Antirrhinum Constance, from the same raiser, a kind having a pure white tube and crimson lips, the throat inside being pale yellow.

Aug. 4.—First-class certificates to Verbena Incomparable, from Mr. Bragg, pips delicate lavender, with a small greenish yellow eye. To Mr. Smith, for Verbena Islington Rival, a bright rosy scarlet variety. To Messrs. Paul, for Hollyhock Glory, a very long spiked sort, with rosy flowers, having a smooth guard-petal and well-filled compact centre. Label of commendation to Carnation Phaeton, from Mr. Headley, of Stapleford, Cambridge; it is a bright scarlet flake of good colour and marking.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. These will have drawn root since their repotting. Keep the frames open as much as possible, and give plenty of air at the sides during bad weather. The plants should be kept growing by watering when required; the soil should not be allowed to get green on the surface; to be kept clear of green-fly and dead foliage. If any start for bloom, pinch off the buds only, when above the fcliage.

Calceolarias. Repot seedlings, and pay the greatest attention to both young and old plants, to keep them clean of aphides.

Cinerarias. The first-struck plants will now require a shift, using moderately rich soil. Continue to pot off those that are struck in stores as they are ready, and put in cuttings of choice kinds that it is desirable to increase largely, as well as for late bloom. Seed may still be sown for the same purpose.

Carnations and Picotees. Prepare soil for potting off for wintering, which should be done the end of the month. If the stock has been layered early and are now rooted, they may be taken off and planted in raised beds, similar to Pinks, but so arranged that pit or frame-lights may be placed over them in case of excessive wet; or by raising the bottom of the pit they are usually wintered in, and placing a sufficient depth of fine good soil to plant them in, will answer exceedingly well. They may be allowed to grow here till the end of October, when they should be carefully removed into 60 pots, one plant in a pot of the finest plants, the remainder in pairs. This plan should not be adopted unless they are fit to remove early from the stools.

Dahlias. The plants generally will have done their work. Protecting the blooms for exhibition if grown for show, or enjoying their gay colours and noble form, if cultivated for decorative purposes only, will be the principal work of the month. In shading for exhibition, avoid doing so more than five or six days before the show. It spoils the richness of the colour, and also causes many
varieties to quill. They do not so freely develope, or grow into their true character, when confined from the air in too young a state; secure them, notwithstanding, from friction against the foliage in rough weather. For late work, the plants will require to be managed as directed last month. Save seed, not only from good kinds, but from fine blooms of the best varieties.

Fuchsias. Those that have flowered may be placed in a cool corner, and kept tolerably dry, when they may be wintered under the Geranium-stage, and put to work in January or February, according to the season they are required to flower.

Hollyhocks. Propagating choice kinds from cuttings, selecting seedlings to be tried again, and procuring seed, will be the principal work of the month. If the seed is sown as soon as ripe, and pricked off into thumb-pots, one in a pot, they will be ready to plant out in April, and will flower well the following August and September. Fertilised seed is the most effectual method to procure new varieties.

Pansies. The end of the month, those intended for pot-culture may be potted up; a bed should also be planted to succeed them. The remainder of the stock should be potted up in stores at a later period. Early-sown seedlings should be planted out; but the principal will not be ready before next month.

Pinks. Plant out into beds for blooming towards the end of the month, that have been prepared as directed; a good spit of rotten manure should be dug in the last time the beds are turned over. The plants should be about six inches apart, in raised round beds, so that the plants may not suffer from too much wet in autumn and winter. A number should also be wintered in small pots, either for filling vacancies in the beds, or blooming in pots similar to Carnations, in which manner they lace beautifully, and come early.

Pelargoniums. These should now be housed. It is dangerous to have them either out of doors or in damp pits, excepting for a short time, and then in fine dry weather; cold and damp is the foundation of the spot. All will have been shook out by this time; if not, it should no longer be delayed: those first done for May blooming will have filled their pots with roots, and should have their final repotting towards the end of the month. The first-struck cuttings should be stopped to make strong bushy plants, and the young stock generally will require much care and attention.
Pelargoniums.
FANCY PELARGONIUMS.

Our Illustration this month consists, as will be seen, of three varieties of the above charming plant, of distinct, bright, and lively colours, and of the most beautiful form. We have not presented our readers with a representation of this universal favourite—for it is equally esteemed at home and at the exhibition—since we gave a plate of Fancies in our volume for 1851, page 54, to which we beg to refer our readers, in order that they may judge for themselves, whether or not there has been an advance towards perfection, and whether the labour of the hybridiser has been thrown away. Dandy was produced by the very successful raiser, Mr. Ambrose of Battersea; it is a good grower, and the flowers are perfectly circular. The other two, Loveliness and Bonnie Lassie, are from the prolific establishment of the Messrs. E. G. Henderson and Son, St. John's Wood, and are of that lively pink shade of colour, so much admired in fancy Pelargoniums.

As this month is the proper season in which the young Fancy Pelargonium should be started, as a plant for decorative purposes in the ensuing spring, or for exhibition in the course of next season, a few remarks may be of use to those who cultivate this now popular flower, which we may truly name the perpetual Pelargonium, flowering as it does, with proper treatment, the whole of the year round. It has been called the ladies' Pelargonium; and well it deserves the name, seeing the profusion of many-coloured flowers it produces, varied as the colours in the rainbow; added to which, its sweet foliage renders it indispensable in the formation of the bouquet; and there is not a doubt that it will yet be a general favourite for the flower-garden, as it becomes hardened by careful hybridising with the Cape varieties, whose colours are brilliant, though deficient in form. In fact, there are already in cultivation examples which prove that such must be the result.

It is not long since we had but a few starry things, such as Sheppard's Queen Victoria, Anais, and the like, which were considered pretty, but were condemned by the old school as being weeds, flowers for the day, in which no improvement could be made; let them now look to the fine form which has been obtained, surpassing the most beautiful of the large show varieties. However, each class is equally beautiful and handsome when "well done."

It may not be out of place here to enumerate a few of the
many fine varieties now in cultivation, for the guidance of the amateur and others, who may not know their general character and colours:

**Advancer**, a fine robust grower, of a purplish mulberry suffused with rose.

**Argus**, lilac ground, with maroon top-petals, under ones spotted with crimson; good in constitution, and adapted for show or bedding.

**Cassandra**, a flower of fine quality; colour a rich crimson, with white belting.

**Caliban**, as a show-flower this must stand pre- eminent, being bold and clear in its markings; a rich mulberry, with white.

**Celestial**, the finest rosy lilac yet out; of fine habit; should be in every stand for exhibition.

**Defiance**, distinct from any thing yet out; colour a rich glossy velvet.

**Empress**, a pure white, with lilac spots; good habit.

**Formosissimum**, a plant of fine habit, and flower of fine form; colour rosy crimson and violet.

**Gipsy Queen**, good habit, free, good for early exhibition; colour pure white, with mulberry top-petals spotted the same.

**Jenny Lind**, a plant of good habit, free flowering, very early; colour rose and white, with spots.

**Lady Hume Campbell** (Turner), rich crimson violet belted with white, lower petals rose and white.

**Mirandum**, a very distinct veined rosy salmon; good habit; free and early.

**Magnum Bonum**, mulberry; fine habit and form.

**Nerê**, very dark; good habit, very free; form moderate.

**Odoratum punctatum**, good dwarf habit, fitted for show or bedding; very sweet.

**Richard Cobden**, very dwarf habit; dark velvet and crimson; fine for exhibition.

**Resplendent**, fine crimson and scarlet, with white; good show plant.

**Superbum**, good habit, early; purple maroon, fine form: with a number of others that are showy, but of second-rate form.

The Fancy Pelargonium has this advantage over the old show variety, that it will stand almost any amount of heat, and open its flowers freely, *i.e.* if the plants are properly ripened for the process, for which a few should now be selected, taking care that they are good healthy plants, and not such morsels as are generally sent out under the name of such. When you receive them from the nursery or other place, from which their transit has called for packing, it would be advisable to place them in a warm house or close pit for a day or two previous to potting, to induce a reaction of the roots, and restore the bleached leaves to their proper colour. When potted, the following compost will be found to suit well (taking care to first well drain the pots with charcoal and broken oyster-shells), equal parts turfy loam, peat, and well decomposed cow and horse-dung, adding silver-sand freely.
CARNATIONS AND PICOTEEES.

There are two or three radical rules in the cultivation of these flowers, which I am convinced are not yet half understood. In establishments in the midland counties, and among the Florists of the North, I have seen them plant for blooming a pair of diminutive plants in a pot 20 inches across; and for wintering I have seen the same pair, or in many cases a solitary plant, in 5 and 6-inch pots. The result of this procedure is, that the plants are surrounded through the period most critical in their existence by soil more or less sour and stagnant, and the inevitable consequence from its enforced feeding on crude material, and an almost total absence of fresh, invigorating air—the sweet breath of Heaven,—is an unhealthy, debilitated growth; a severe prostration of its vital powers; in many cases a thorough disorganisation of its general functions, and—death. Sap stored up in such circumstances can but produce miserable, diminutive, malformed flowers; and it is not in the least surprising that, after a few experiments of a like nature, such cultivators give up the flower in disgust, despairing of ever attaining a successful issue.

Radical rule number one requires the plant to be completely rested throughout the winter; and to obtain a fine bloom, radical rule number two requires the growth to be matured. Both of these conditions are incompatible with the circumstances I have described, and hence the failure. Rest to the plant in winter is almost impossible so long as it is surrounded with a mass of dead soil (dead because unoccupied and vivified by the plant), subject to every and the most extreme alternations of heat and cold, drought and moisture,—now curtling the current of its life with cold, and now exciting it anew to gorge to repletion. Again, maturity of growth is inconsistent with the existence of a body of unoccupied and highly-exciting soil. As well might we expect fine sugary fruits from the gross growth of our Apple, or Pear, or Plum trees, as fine blossoms from plants subject to such conditions. In truth, both are amenable to the same law, and it cannot be violated with impunity. Does the Pelargonium or the Fuchsia produce a fine and abundant head of bloom with the pot half filled with roots? Certainly they do not; and quite as certainly the Carnation will not.

As a rule, the plants should be placed for the winter in such a sized pot only as it can comfortably occupy with root before the fogs of late autumn fall upon us, such indeed as will admit the plant to feel the sides freely, which will at first gently check its growth; and, secondly, secure a thorough drainage. Let no one, however, suppose from this that the pot must be filled and bound with roots. That would be avoiding Scylla to be wrecked upon Charybdis. The sides of the pot should be freely felt by the root, and no more.

And so for the bloom: the growth must be matured before the bloom can be fine; and the growth will not mature until the whole of the soil be permeated with root. Choose, therefore, a pot of such a
size as will produce this result; and rarely is it that a size exceeding 10 inches is required. The best and most successful cultivators, indeed, occupy this with three, and sometimes (when small or weakly) four plants.

I have jotted this down, Mr. Editor, because I want to see this good old flower, "the fairest o' the season," more understood and more cultivated, not as I have so often lamented, singled out simply for a persecution more intolerable than any recorded in Fox's *Lives of the Martyrs*.

Popular enough indeed it is, in the sense of being prized and delighted in by almost all; but how few there are who understand its simple requirements, or understanding, render them! How many of our great establishments are there boasting of a passable collection? and yet well done, what flower is there to excel its manifold beauties? Coming in during the heat of summer, when the conservatory and greenhouses are denuded of all their glory, in the hands of an intelligent gardener, it should be regarded as a godsend (as assuredly it is); but how few, alas! avail themselves of its advantages. When these are pointed out, what is the too frequent reply?—"Yes, you can do it; you can do it; but it is past us."

Another evil arising out of this erroneous mode of cultivation is found in the lateness of the bloom from plants so treated. How frequently is the complaint made by Florists not so circumstanced as to warrant the remark, "We cannot bloom our plants with you; our bloom is so late." Late! assuredly it is; and how can they expect to reach the goal—starting a century in the rear—with competitors of the present day?

Experience has convinced me there is not half the difficulty in blooming the Carnation, nearly at the same time, even in widely-separated districts, as has been so generally assumed. A case in point occurred during the past season, when, on my return from the National Exhibition at York, some days after the 3d of August, I called, in Derby, on Mr. Dodwell, and, much to my surprise, found his collection only just rising into bloom. I then learnt, in answer to a remark of mine, that the whole of his flowers shown at York were cut from some sixty or seventy pots, which, from planting-out time, had been standing in the frames, and which from that circumstance were full a week before the others. Not more than a dozen of the pots of plants so circumstanced required any forcing to be ready for the exhibition, though the general bloom was not on before the 10th or 12th August.

What has been done may be repeated; and now that the "National" offers to honourable effort distinction previously unknown, I urgently invoke all lovers of the flower, whether amateur or professional, fairly to support its claims to regard, to which very desirable end a simple attention to my "radical" rules will very materially conduce.

Z.
ON THE CULTIVATION OF JAPAN LILIES.

These noble autumnal flowering plants form at this season objects of the greatest beauty, either in the greenhouse, drawing-room, or flower-garden; for they will be found to succeed well planted out in the open borders or beds. I have no doubt that they will shortly become general favourites for out-door work. The situation that should be selected for planting them in the open ground should be somewhat sheltered by shrubs or other means, in order to protect them from heavy winds, which are very injurious to the flowers and foliage. The best season for planting them in the open ground is February. At the time of planting examine the soil where they are intended to be placed, and if found wet, put some potsherds at the bottom for drainage. Then place on these some rough fibrous peat and sand well mixed together, covering the bulbs eight inches deep. If the bulbs are strong, they may be planted a foot apart each way, if intermediate sized bulbs, nine inches will be sufficient.

About the latter end of March, or the beginning of April, they will appear above ground. Should the weather at this period be cold or frosty, place some rough pieces of peat around their stems, and keep them covered with it until there is a favourable change. This will be found the best protection for them at that season, as well as adding to their strength and vigour when they are in a more advanced state of growth, as it will induce them to throw out their strong fleshy roots into the peat with the greatest freedom, and often cause them to form fine bulbs round the stem. Should the summer be hot and dry, some manure-water would be of the greatest benefit to them. It should be prepared from sheep or cow-droppings, but not over strong, as it can be applied more frequently if given them in a moderate state.

When they have done blooming in autumn, and shew a disposition to rest, take them up, and put them in some dry mould, to keep them from shrivelling, placing them either in a room or shed until planting-time arrives next season. It will be found that an over supply of water while at rest is the principal thing that will injure them; and after such an unusually wet season as the one just past, I would always advise all bulbs to be taken up in winter, as I have seen numbers of fine bulbs completely destroyed by too much wet.

Should fine specimens be required in pots for decorating the greenhouse or conservatory, prepare some fourteen-inch pots; well drain them, and use the same compost as before recommended, selecting three of the largest bulbs for each pot, and covering them the same depth with the soil as in the open border. When potted, place them in a cold pit or frame, giving them plenty of air, but no water until they shew their stems above ground, when water may be applied very sparingly at first, increasing the supply as they advance. When they have made growth from twelve to eighteen inches long, place round their stems some large pieces of rough peat, which will cause them to throw out fine strong roots in great profusion, and
invigorate their growth amazingly. In the month of April they may
be placed in the open air in some rather sheltered situation, where
they can be liberally supplied with manure-water.

Should any portion of them be required for decorative purposes
at an earlier period, they may be removed into the greenhouse, to
forward them into bloom; but if not required early, they may remain
out of doors until they bloom, and then taken to the place where
their beauty is required to be seen.

I have no doubt that shortly some very fine hybrids will be
brought into general cultivation, as I have in my collection from
twelve to twenty distinct varieties varying in shape and colour, some
of them very robust in their growth, with a clear white ground, dis-
tinctly spotted with rich crimson; others of a pinkish ground, beauti-
fully spotted; some with beautiful stripes and blotches upon white
grounds, while others are of a delicate pink ground finely spotted,
with very broad petals, and beautifully reflexed. These have been
produced by hybridisation; and I have no doubt that many other
cultivators of these beautiful plants have been trying their skill in
the same way; and I hope ere long to see our present collection
enriched by their perseverance and attention.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell.                      William Barnes.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A POT-ROSE.

CHAP. II.

GENERAL CULTURE—PRUNING—MANETTI STOCK—PREPARATION
FOR FORCING.

Throughout the winter months I gave very little trouble, although
I received every attention that was necessary. The soil about my
roots was kept rather dry; sometimes I did not receive any water
for a fortnight together, for John the gardener knew well that, as
my roots were in an inactive state, such a stimulant would prove
injurious rather than beneficial. When the weather was fine, the top
of the frame was pulled off, so that I was fully exposed to the sun
and air; and if wet, it was so tilted, that a circulation of air was
admitted, though the rain was excluded. When the weather was
frosty, the frame was kept closely shut, and sometimes at night
a straw mat was drawn over the glass. Thus I passed my first
winter, in company with other plants; and when the spring ar-
ived, my powers were so invigorated by the rest I had received,
that I felt prepared to grow and blossom with unusual vigour.
Early in March I was pruned. I had seven shoots, four strong
ones placed at about equal distances, and three weaker ones rising
between the former. The latter were cut off close to the main
stem, and the remaining four were shortened to two eyes each, so
that I might produce eight blooms in June, which was considered enough for my strength. After this I was placed in a larger pot, of the size called 48, in the same soil as last used, and plunged on the top of a dung-bed, without any frame. The warmth thus generated about my roots stimulated them to feed and grow, and the increase in the size of my branches was proportionately great. Eight flowers was the number actually produced; and I need not say that I received a liberal supply of weak liquid manure from the commencement of growth till their development.

When the flowers were over, the supply of water was again diminished, which was quite in accordance with my feelings; for after so much exertion I required temporary rest. I remained inactive for about three weeks, when I was again potted into a larger pot, this time No. 24; again freely supplied with water and stimulated by bottom-heat to a new growth; and I produced in September no less than twenty flowers, which, if of smaller dimensions than those of the summer growth, were pronounced superior in shape and colour. I now saw that my master began to grow proud of me; he brought all his friends to see me, and when he found them interested in my appearance, he gave them my history in brief or detail according to the humour of the moment. Some I saw smile at the earnestness with which he spoke of various matters; and one young gentleman, a philosopher I think they called him, said gravely, shaking his head, that it was monstrous for a reasonable man to occupy himself so earnestly with such trifles, that "the proper study for mankind was man."

My master, who was a man of most amiable and even temper, smiled, and calmly replied, that it had never been the business of his life, but only his recreation, and as such it had yielded him an amount of health and calm enjoyment which he would not have exchanged for the purple of an emperor or the riches of the Sacramento. As my master's garden was celebrated for many rare and fine things, it was often the resort of certain savans of horticulture. The gardener John was not himself of that class. He was a plain, practical man, honest and skilful, not dogged and avers to new things or new schemes because new, but averse to replace old by new before testing the latter by experiment. I often heard some well-fought battles between John and the savans; and while the savans seemed to know most of logic, it seemed to me that John knew most of gardening. Of this I felt sure, after hearing John argue one night with one of these célèbres, a miller, to whom my master appeared to pay great deference on the subject of Rose-growing. A new stock from Italy was the subject of discussion, I think they called it Manetti. John was told this stock was to surpass all other stocks. When budded on it, Roses were to grow twice as fast as on any other, and never to spawn or sucker; the most shy and delicate were to become free and robust even on the poorest soils; and, in fact, the sooner every other stock and stool was rooted out of the garden and replaced by this the better. As the miller spoke of his own experience, and was wholly disinterested in the matter, my master became a convert. I trembled, when John quietly said, "Let us try this stock first, and
if it prove equally good on our soil, we can then replace our other Roses with it." My master seemed to think this course reasonable, and adopted it; and that he was well pleased with his decision the sequel will sufficiently shew.

This has led me to a rather long digression. To return. My September flowers had fallen, and I learnt it was the intention to "force me"—that is, to change my seasons, so as to develop my first blossoms in March instead of June. To this end the pot in which I grew was laid on its side, so that I might get no water naturally or artificially, but sink rapidly into a state of rest. This I did, and was pruned and conveyed to a cold pit, there to wait till the first week of January, which was the commencement of the forcing season. The operation of pruning this year seemed much more difficult than before; I had a great number of branches, some weak and some strong, some well and some ill placed. It was evidently a puzzle even to John what to do for the best; and he walked round me, and looked at me some time before he could make up his mind to begin. At last he seemed to have decided which shoots should remain; and he began removing the others carefully one by one till only twelve were left,—one tall shoot in the centre, and the others disposed around it at about equal distances. The shoots were then shortened; on the strong ones were left about five eyes, and on the weak ones two or three, and I was pronounced pruned ready for forcing. My appearance when pruned, at the end of my second year's growth, was something like that represented above.

William Paul.

THE BRIGHTON EXHIBITION.

The horticultural world may very aptly adopt the cricketer's phraseology, "Sussex with Spary against all England," for truly the Floral and Horticultural Exhibition held in the Pavilion at Brighton, on the 14th and 15th of the past month, may well rank
as equal to any similar fête; and was, in truth, a gathering of all England to do honour to the liberal and spirited invite of our Sussex neighbours, under the superintendence of Mr. E. Spary of the Queen’s Graperies, aided by a most influential and zealous committee; and highly were they rewarded, for as a legitimate display of garden produce it will ever be considered as a triumph; and meeting, as it did, so fair a share of public patronage, may, we opine, argue favourably for a series each year, and be held as one of the necessary adjuncts to a Brighton season. The band of the First Life Guards under Mr. Waddell, enlivened the scene, otherwise gay, during the afternoons of each day, and was as attractive as usual; a local band also aided at intervals.

The receipts we learn amounted to a trifle less than 500l., while the prizes awarded rather exceeded half that sum; it is expected that after the expenses have been liquidated, the two exhibitions will realise a profit of 100l., which sum, more or less, is to be handed over to the funds of the County Hospital; such a philanthropic resolve cannot but enlist the sympathies of all benevolently inclined. There was but one regret, and that the absence of Mr. Turner from the scene of action, who, by severe indisposition, was held so far north as Edinburgh.

Although rather exceeding our usual bounds, we cannot refrain from giving in extenso the general awards; the censors being, for Fruits, Messrs. Keynes, Sheppard, and Solomons; for Dahlias by amateurs, Messrs. Neville, Sealey, and Black; for Dahlias and Hollyhocks by dealers, Messrs. Robinson, Cook, and Perry; for Stove and Greenhouse collections, cut flowers, Orchids, &c. Messrs. Ivison and Edwards.

*Orchids*: 1st, Messrs. Rollisson and Son, the best of whose being Dendrobium formosum, Cattleya Aclandiae, Miltonia spectabilis, and Burlingtonia venusta; 2d, Mr. Cole, his best were Vanda tricolor, Cattleya Harrisonii, and Oncidium lanceanum. *Stove and Greenhouse collections*: 1st, Mr. Cole: Dipladenia crassinoda (very fine), Erica retorta, Ixora salicifolia (a plant ill adapted to tell in a collection), Erica infundibuliformis, Pleroma elegans; 2d, Mr. Over: Dipladenia splendidens and crassinoda, Allamanda grandiflora, and a nice Leschenaultia; 3d, Messrs. Rollisson and Son: Ixora alba (fine), Clerodendron Kämpferi, and Pleroma elegans: we have but given the best of each group. From the same establishment came a nice Nepenthes Hookerii, with a well-varied collection of variegated or foliage plants, Cissus discolor, being prominent. *Ericas*: 1st, Mr. Cole; 2d, Mr. E. A. Hamp, the leading plants being Cerinthoides coronata, Savilleana, Retorta splendidens, Everana, Clowesiana, Retorta major, and Infundibuliformis. *Fuchsias*: eight collections were staged; 1st, Mr. Knight: Princess, Gem of the Season, Pearl of England, Prince Arthur, Don Giovanni, Bianca, Voltigeur, and Clapton Hero; 2d, Mr. Parsons: Princeps, Fair Rosamond, Magnifica, Psyche, Pendula, Lady Dartmouth, Comte de Beaulieu, Splendissima; three other collections were rewarded.

Of specimen plants a dozen were staged: 1st, Mr. Cole; 2d,
Mr. Dobie; 3d, Mr. Hamp; 4th, Mr. Cameron; 5th, Mr. Over, Ericas and Clerodendrons forming the principal subjects: Achimenes, Scarlet Geraniums, Verbenas, Balsams, Ferns, &c. were all numerously and tolerably well done. We now turn to the feature of the Show, viz. Dahlias, the entrance-money alone, 10s. each stand, amounting to over 30l.; the well-known liberality of the Dahlia growers secured a hearty response to the donation by the Railway Company's 10l. silver cup; yet we must suggest that, to test their zealous enthusiasm, this entrance-fee was to Dahlias only appended, why, it is not for us further to comment upon, when the same was most cheerfully paid. Dealers' classes, 24 varieties: 1st, Mr. Keynes, with Robert Bruce, Miss Chaplin, Negro, General Faucher, Primrose Perfection, John Edward, Frederick Jerome, Duke of Wellington, Lilac King, Sir C. Napier, Fearless, G. Glenny, Essex Triumph, Plantagenet, Una, Yellow Standard, Exquisite, Douglas Jerrold, Malvina, Sir F. Bathurst, Rachel Rawlings, Fanny Keynes, Triumphant, Magnificent; 2d, Mr. Turner: General Faucher, Mr. Seldon, Miss Spears, Triumphant, Duke of Wellington, Essex Triumph, Mr. Herbert, Rembrandt, Malvina, Sir C. Napier, Fane, Amazon, Edmund Foster, Sir R. Peel, Plantagenet, Exquisite, R. Cobden, Rose of England, G. Glenny, Sir F. Bathurst, Queen of Whites; 3d, Mr. Sealey: Duke of Wellington, Mrs. Seldon, Negro, Queen of Whites, Robert Bruce, Mr. Seldon, General Faucher, Andromeda, Brilliant, Annie Salter, Bob, Sir R. Peel, Malvina, R. Cobden, Sir C. Napier, Lilac King, Sir J. Franklin, Queen of Beauties, Fearless, Nil desperandum, Nepaulese Prince, Goliath; 4th, Mr. Kimberly.

18 Fancies: 1st, Mr. Keynes: Charlotte, Mrs. Hansard, Miss Compton, Topsy, Rembrandt, Mrs. Willis, Mrs. James, Gloire de Kain, Striata, Lady Grenville, Empereur de Maroc, Flora Mc Ivor, Triumphant, Attraction, Uncle Tom, Wonderful, Seedling, Phaeton; 2d, Mr. Turner: Laura Lavington, Miss Compton, Claudia, Gloire de Kain, Empereur de Maroc, Wonderful, Duchess of Kent, Elizabeth, Jenny Lind, Mrs. Wells, Highland Chief, Claude, Reine de Fleur, Phaeton, Princess Helena, Flora Mc Ivor, Kossuth, Attraction; 3d, Mr. Sealey: Miss Compton, Empereur de Maroc, Elegantsissima, Mrs. Wells, Miss Ward, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Jeannette, Cricket, Admiration, Mrs. Hansard, Rainbow, Gloire de Kain, Spectabilis, Flora Mc Ivor, Wonderful, Triumphant.

Thesiger, Triumphant, Sir C. Napier; 3d, Rev. C. Fellowes: Miss Caroline, Mr. Seldon, Model, Queen Victoria, Plantagenet, General Faucher, Negro, Duke of Wellington, G. Glenny, Princess Radziwill, Sir F. Bathurst, Edmund Foster, Morning Star, Mrs. Seldon, Fearless, Sir J. Whittington, Amazon, Agincourt, Malvina, Sir C. Napier, Queen of Lilacs, Earl Clarendon, Sir R. Peel, Queen of Beauties; 4th, Mr. Sladden: Miss Caroline, G. Glenny, John Davis, Niobe, Queen of Lilacs, Mrs. C. Bacon, General Faucher, Mrs. Seldon, Mr. Seldon, Duke of Wellington, Annie Salter, Shylock, Plantagenet, Essex Triumph, Gem, Beauty of Thanet, Sir F. Bathurst, Nil desperandum, R. Cobden, Fearless, Blanchfleur, Bob, Triumphant, White Standard; 5th, Mr. J. Edwards; 6th, Mr. Holmes; 7th, Mr. James; 8th, Mr. Higgs; 9th, Mr. Bush. There were thirteen collections staged in this class.

12 Dahlias: 1st, Mr. Holmes: Duke of Wellington, G. Glenny, General Faucher, Sir F. Bathurst, Mr. Seldon, Fearless, Malvina, Shylock, White Standard, Sir C. Napier, Annie Salter, Louisa Glenny; 2d, Mr. Prockter, jun.; Queen of Lilacs, Mrs. C. Bacon, El Dorado, R. Cobden, Mrs. Seldon, Edmund Foster, Fearless, Annie Salter, General Faucher, Louisa Glenny, Shylock, Wm. Penn; 3d, Mr. Robinson: Essex Triumph, Duke of Wellington, Thames-Bank Hero, Mrs. Seldon, Exquisite, Sir F. Bathurst, Absalom, Red Gauntlet, Triumphant, Morning Star, Sir C. Napier, Shylock; 4th, Mr. White: Essex Triumph, General Faucher, Mr. Seldon, Duke of Wellington, Queen of Whites, Fearless, Sir R. Peel, Annie Salter, Sir F. Thesiger, Triumphant, Louisa Glenny, Gem of the Grove; 5th, Mr. Hunt; 6th, Mr. Higgs; 7th, Mr. Perry; 8th, Mr. James; 9th, Mr. Edwards. Fifteen collections staged in this class.

12 Fancies: 1st, Mr. J. Edwards: Mrs. Willis, Miss Compton, Rachel, Mrs. Hansard, Elizabeth, Claudia, Laura Lavington, Phaeton, Unanimity, Gloire de Kain, Kossuth, Zebra; 2d, Mr. Sheppard: Lady Grenville, Mrs. Hansard, Reine des Fleurs, Arc-en-ciel, Flora M’Ivor, Elizabeth, Kingfisher, Harlequin, Spectabilis, Miss Compton, Gloire de Kain, Mrs. Willis; 3d, Mr. White; 4th, Mr. Hunt; 5th, Mr. Robinson.

Six New Flowers: 1st, Mr. Prockter: Beauty of the Grove, Plantagenet, Exquisite, Lord Byron, Sir J. Franklin, Lilac King; 2d, Mr. Robinson: Amazon, Beauty of the Grove, Miss Caroline, Duchess of Kent, Bob, Plantagenet; 3d, Mr. White: Lord Nelson, Amazon, Robert Bruce, Bob, Plantagenet, Beauty of the Grove; 4th, Flowers taken away; 5th, Mr. Edwards. The above classes, together with the seedlings, made a total exceeding one thousand blooms duly staged for competition.

Hollyhocks, 12 spikes: 1st, Mr. W. Chater: Comet, Safranot, Mr. C. Baron, Triumphant, Rosy Queen, Mulberry Superb, White Perfection, Brilliant (a bright rose seedling in the way of Meteor), Rosea grandiflora, Joan of Arc, Walden Gem, Sulphur Queen; 2d, Mr. Turner: Mr. C. Baron, Meteor, Margaret Ann, Eleanor, Victor, Comet (improved), Queen of Denmark, Lady Dalrymple, Hector, Sir J. Wedderburn (improved), Safranot, General Bem; 3d, Messrs.
Paul and Son: Rosea grandiflora, Flambeau, Comet, Lizzie, Triumphant, Sir R. Peel, Laura, Glory of Cheshunt, Enchantress, Sir D. Wedderburn, Agricola, C. Baron.

_Hollyhocks_, 24 blooms: 1st, Mr. Turner; 2d, Mr. Paul; 3d, Mr. Chater, containing the above varieties.

The _Roses_ were in high perfection. 1st, Mr. Mitchell; 2d, Messrs. Paul; 3d, Mr. Clark; 4th, Mr. Young. In the first two collections were fine examples of Lady Shelly (Mitchell), Auguste Mie, Augustine Mouchelet, Baronne Hallez, Caroline de Sansal, Diodore, Eugene Sue, Géant des Batailles, General Castellane, Isocrate, General Lamoricière, Joseph Decaisne, L'Enfant du Mont Carmel, Le Léon des Combats, Louise Peronnet, Noemi, Prince Leon Kotschoubay, Queen Victoria, Reine des Fleurs, William Griffiths, Acidalie, Edouard Desfosses, Prince Albert (Paul), Souvenir de la Malmaison, Safranot.

_Verbenas_ in 24 bunches: 1st, Mr. G. Smith; 2d, Mr. Atkins; 3d, Mr. Stewart; 4th, Mr. Bragg. In these, and no less than twelve other collections, were to be found the best varieties out.

The _Asters_ of Messrs. Paul and Son were 1st, Mr. Atkins 2d, Mr. Bragg 3d, Mr. Stewart 4th, and were all of good average merit.

The boxes of cut-flowers were excessively fine, the first and second being such as we seldom see. Mr. Cole was 1st, Messrs. Rollisson and Son 2d, Mr. Hamp 3d, Mr. Atkins 4th, Mr. Young 5th. Models for flower-gardens, devices, and such like subjects, were freely distributed, and tended in no small degree to diversify the monotony consequent on the order and regularity of continuous rows of Dahlias, &c.

The certificates awarded to Seedlings were, First Class, to _Dahlias_, Rachel Rawlings (Keynes), John Keynes (Dodds), Mrs. Rawlings (Rawlings), Ringleader (Holmes), Ariel (Alexander), Fanny Keynes (Keynes).

Second Class: Magnet, Leader, and Beauty of Slough. We also noticed a very promising flower named Glory.

First-class Certificates to _Verbenas_: Islington Rival and Caliban, both the property of G. Smith.

Fruit was in abundance, and some good examples staged. The 10l. Cup was awarded to Mr. Jarvis; 2d, Mr. Young; 3d, Mr. M'Kewan; 4th, Mr. Gad. _Best Pine_: 1st, Mr. Gooday; 2d, Mr. Fleming; 3d, Mr. Bray. _Black Grapes_: 1st, Mr. Fleming; 2d, Mr. Harrison. _Cannon Hall Muscats and Peaches_: Mr. Fleming. _Peaches and Nectarines_: Mr. M'Kewan.

The entire of the foregoing was open to all exhibitors; while a separate class for most of the same things was only open to the county growers.

_John Edwards._
A NOSEGAY DISTRIBUTED.

To her Majesty . . . . Crown imperial.
" the Sultan . . . . A Turk’s cap.
" Priests . . . . Monk’s-hood.
" Heroes . . . . Laurels.
" the Chancellor of the Exchequer . . . . Pennyroyal.
" those who love Kissing . . . . Tulips.
" the Lady Mayoress . . . . London-royal.
" Lawyers . . . . Honesty.
" the Poor Lover . . . . Mary-gold.
" the Lasses . . . . Lad’s-love.
" Bankers . . . . Stocks.
" Subalterns . . . . Convulvulus major.
" the Vain . . . . Coxcombs.
" Beauties . . . . Venus’ Looking-glass.
" the Satirical . . . . Blackthorn.
" the Spiteful . . . . Brier.
" the Wounded . . . . Balsam.
" the Afflicted . . . . Heartsease.
" the Industrious . . . . Golden Moss.
" Housewives . . . . Thrift.
" the Lovers of Fish . . . . Periwinkle.
" Banditti . . . . Deadly Night-shade.
" your Husband . . . . Yew.
" Mary . . . . Sweet William.
" the Nervous . . . . Valerian.
" Perfumers . . . . Jasmine and Violets.
" Writing-masters . . . . Jonquils.
" the Low-spirited . . . . Lavender.
" the Precise . . . . Prim-roses.
" the Learned . . . . Sage.
" Dairy-maids . . . . Buttercups.
" Spinsters . . . . Bachelor’s-buttons.
" the Frigid . . . . Snowdrops.
" Triflers . . . . Catchfly.
" Peacemakers . . . . Everlasting.
" Masons . . . . Wallflowers and Stone-crop.
" Betty . . . . The Heath.
" the Highwayman . . . . The Birch.
" an idle Boy . . . . Forget-me-not.

THE LATE HENRY WARD OF WOOLWICH.

It was our intention to have offered this tribute to the memory of our deceased friend in the Sept. No. of the Florist; but at the last moment circumstances prevented its accomplishment. During the interval, we have learnt that, as a Florist, Henry Ward, or as he was familiarly called ”old Harry,” commenced his career some twenty-five years ago, his companion, Joseph Creed, for some years the gardener at Wace Cottage, Holloway, claiming to have been the first to start him in that pursuit, in which of late years he
was so respected and true a follower. H. Ward departed this life at the early age of forty-five, but had been for years considered an old florist; he was truly so, and, as ourselves and others can testify, few growers excelled him in the getting up of a collection of 24 Carnations or Picotees, the former in particular; and, as if to maintain the familiarity of “old” his friends had attached to his name, he made his stronghold that of producing old varieties in such extraordinary perfection, that occasionally but few could be recognised. His stand of 24 Carnations shown some few years since at Chiswick, beating both his neighbour Mr. Norman and Mr. Turner, then of Chalvey, is so vivid in our mind, that we venture to affirm a better has never since been produced. Within a few days of his death the flowers of his growth were staged at the Stamford Hill Exhibition, the Carnations receiving the highest award, while that of second place was assigned to the Picotees (ourselves being first). Even closely following his interment, which took place in Woolwich churchyard, was his growth victorious in competition at the last Royal South-London July show.

As a raiser of seedlings, his name will doubtless be long remembered, associated with Sarah Payne, a first class P. P. B., nor is his Fireball, S. P., without merit.

In occupation, the subject of this notice had been for twenty years in the Government Arsenal at Woolwich, in the harness-making department; whether in that capacity or as a florist, Harry Ward merited and received the kind word and friendship of all. By his loss is formed a void ’twill be difficult to fill.

J. E.

MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

Where Begonias are cultivated, B. xanthina will be found a very valuable acquisition. It is one of the most interesting of the whole genus. It has a dwarf, close habit, with good moderate-sized rugose leaves, of a darkish green, tinged with bronze on the upper surface, and purplish-red beneath, and it has rather close cymes of yellow flowers. It grows from about nine inches to a foot high, and associates well with Umbilica, Rubro venia, Thwaitesi, Albo coccinea, and a few other dwarf-growing kinds. It is at present in flower here in one of the small stoves. B. Martiana is likewise a species that merits cultivation. It is a greenhouse or frame species; flowers very copiously throughout the latter part of summer and in autumn. Several plants of it here are now in great perfection. It grows about two feet high. The flowers are of a rose-colour, very showy, and many of them are three inches in diameter.

The Lapageria rosea continues to thrive well here in a north cool house. It is planted out and trained against the back wall, where it is now making vigorous growth. Although but a smallish specimen, it has about a dozen flowers upon it. This is decidedly the best of
all the greenhouse-plants at this season of the year. It is growing in a light compost of sand, leaf-mould, and peat, and is not kept at all wet; for it is planted on an artificial rock-work, raised four or five feet above the level of the floor, and where the water can drain freely away. On the front shelf in this house is a magnificent specimen of Odontoglossum grande, with nearly thirty expanded flowers on it, many of them measuring fully seven inches across.

In a small stove here is Amaryllis reticulata, one of the prettiest of the tribe. The leaves are about a foot long; of a good substance, dark velvety green on the upper surface, with a strip of clear white in the centre, which runs the whole length of the leaf; the flower-scape is fifteen inches high, with six flowers on the apex, each from three to four inches across. The veins and upper half of the flowers are strongly marked with a rich rose-colour, shading off to a whitish ground.

In the out-door department is a new Gladiolus, which was received this last season from France, and which promises fair to eclipse all the others that we had previously in cultivation. At all events, it is by far the largest both with regard to foliage and flowers. It is exceedingly showy, and is one that no doubt will soon be in every collection. Whether a species or an hybrid, I am unable to decide. It is named M. Blouet. The stem is five feet high, with two or three branches each, with nearly a dozen expanded flowers, and others progressing, each flower measuring from three to four inches across, and of a rich red outside, but paler within. It grows freely in a light dry soil, with the same treatment as other Gladioli.

Cedronella cana is a new plant in gardens, allied to a Monarda. It is perfectly hardy, and is a good border-plant. It grows about two feet high, and is of an erect bushy habit, with flower-spikes eight to ten inches long on the apex of the stems. The flowers are abundant, and of a purplish-red colour, and they are in perfection in September and October.

Lobelia siphilitica is now in full bloom, and is a very handsome border-plant. It grows two feet high, and has very showy flowers of a bright blue. Backhousia myrtifolia, a hard-wooded shrub from New South Wales, with the habit of the common Myrtle, has stood out here against a north wall during last winter. It is now in flower; the blooms very much resemble those of the Myrtle, and are creamy-white.

Escallonia macrantha, E. Montivedense, and one or two other kinds, are now flowering here against a south wall. The former is a robust-growing kind, with dark-green foliage and red flowers.

Anemone vitifolia and A. hybrida are valuable at this season. They form large tufts when planted in a light dry soil, the former having large white flowers; in the latter, they are light, tinged with purple, and are three inches across. These two, with A. japonica, are beautiful objects for the flower-garden; but they should be planted in a rather sheltered situation, on light dry soil. They are all at present flowering here in great perfection.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. Houlston.
3. **Victoria**.

**Synonyms:** La Victoria; Queen Victoria.

The Victoria is the hardiest and most prolific of all Plums, and altogether an excellent kind; when grown as a standard, or trained to a wall, a failure is of rare occurrence, which alone is sufficient to recommend it.

It is said to be an old variety brought out under a new name; if so, it must have been but little known previous to its being sold under its present title. I have never met with a Plum myself precisely the same; the nearest I have seen is Sharp's Emperor, which certainly bears a very close resemblance to it.

Fruit large, oval, of a lively red on the exposed side, salmon colour in the shade; at times quite pale, with numerous imbedded specks, and covered with a thin bloom. Stalk half an inch long, inserted in a small even cavity, with a faintly marked suture extending to the apex. Flesh pale yellow, tender, juicy, very sweet, and moderately rich, with a pleasant flavour; separates freely from the stone, which is long and flat, rough at the edges, and has a remarkably thin shell, ripening from the beginning to the middle of September, and lasting in season about three weeks. It is a fine table fruit, and excellent for pastry or preserving. Any wall aspect is suitable for this Plum, or it may be advantageously grown as a standard.

4. **Fotheringham**.

**Synonyms:** Grove House Purple; Sheen.

The fruit is of the middle size, obovate, slightly compressed near the stalk; the suture is strongly marked, and extends from the stalk to the crown. Skin dark purple, fading off to red where shaded, and covered with a thick violet bloom. Stalk an inch long, quite slender, and set without depression. Flesh pale greenish yellow, juicy, sugary, and rich, combined with an agreeable acid flavour. A dessert Plum of great excellence, ripening the end of August; the fruit, if allowed to hang on the tree, becomes shrivelled, in which state it is delicious. Stone long, acute, and separates from the flesh. The trees
are hardy, and bear well as standards; young shoots brownish, acid, smooth, and slender, with small crimped foliage. This is an old English variety, originally from Sheen in Surrey.

5. **Royal de Tours.**

Fruit middle size, roundish, a little flattened at the crown. Skin dark purplish red on the sunny side, bright red on the shaded parts, and spread with a thin bloom. Stalk three-fourths of an inch long, strong and wiry, and set in a small even cavity, with a very slight suture. Flesh greenish yellow, very tender, sweet, and luscious; adheres slightly to the stone except when thoroughly ripened. In season about the middle of August, and it will only hang a few days on the tree. It is an excellent early dessert Plum, and well worthy of cultivation. It should occupy a place on an east or south wall.

6. **Washington.**

Synonyms: New Washington; Franklyn; Bolmar; Bolmar’s Washington.

Few Plums surpass this variety either in size, beauty, or flavour. It is certainly not equal to the Green Gage in quality; but as regards that point, all other Plums as yet must give place to the Gage.

The fruit is large, very handsome, and of a regular roundish oval figure, with a faintly marked suture, which is deepest near the stalk. Skin yellow, mottled with green on the shaded parts; but when fully exposed and well matured, it has a pale crimson blush and numerous obscure grey specks, the whole spread with a thin bloom. Stalk about half an inch long, stout, tapering towards the fruit, and set in a moderately deep cavity. Flesh yellow, solid, very sweet, juicy, and rich; parts clean from the stone, which is rough and pointed. It ripens in the beginning of September, and will hang a fortnight on the tree. The Washington is an American variety from the state of New York; it is one of the finest of our dessert Plums, and merits a place in every
collection, however small. The habit of the tree is very strong, and remarkable for its dark-green glossy leaves; it bears well as a standard; but if trained, an east-wall aspect should be given, and the branches kept thin, to give room for its ample foliage.

_Frogmore._

(To be continued.)

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NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

_Aug._ 25.—At this, one of the most interesting meetings of the season, being largely supplied and numerously attended, the following awards were made:

First-class certificates to Verbena, Fair Rosamond, a bright lilac; from Mr. Bragg, Slough. To Hollyhock, Lizzie, a noble spike, with flowers of good form and fine substance; colour delicate pink; from Messrs. Paul and Son. To ditto, Isaac Walton, colour French white, with chocolate ground; of medium size and good form; from G. Holmes, Esq., Norwich. To ditto, Beauty of Cheshunt, colour bright rose; in every particular first-rate; from Messrs. Paul. To Dahlia, Fanny Keynes, pale yellowish buff, tipped with purplish lake; full size, and of good form; from Mr. Keynes, Salisbury. To ditto, Rachel Rawlings, colour peach; of medium size and first-rate form; from Mr. Keynes, Salisbury. Certificates of Merit to Hollyhock, Professor Dick, colour shaded buff; bold spike, and good guard-petal; from Messrs. Paul and Son. To ditto, Eugene, spike good, flowers close and compact; guard-petal first-rate; pale saffron shaded pink; from Mr. Wm. Chater, Saffron Walden. To ditto, Mrs. Moulding, guard-petal smooth and good; centre neatly arranged, but somewhat flat; creamy-white, delicately shaded on the edges with rose; from Mr. Turner, Slough. To ditto, Sentinel, spike good, large, and bold; colour ruby-crimson; from Mr. Bircham, Bungay. To ditto, Felicia, spike first-rate, close, and well arranged; deep blush; from Mr. Bircham, Bungay. To Dahlia, Blanche, form and substance good, size full; creamy white; from Mr. Church, Dulwich. Ditto to Lady Mary Labouchere, substance of petal good; white, tipped with purplish-lilac, much in the way of Miss Vyse; from Mr. Turner, Slough. Ditto to Leader, form and substance good; deep lilac, ticked, and faintly striped with maroon; from Mr. Keynes, Salisbury. Ditto to Gladiolus Bowiensis, flowers large and bold; good substance; vivid scarlet, with crimson-purple bars in the throat, the lower segments of the perianth faintly barred with dull crimson; from Mr. T. Barnes, Stowmarket. Labels of Commendation to Hollyhock, Zenobia, for novelty; from Messrs. Paul and Son. To ditto, Aurantia superb, of different shade to existing varieties; from Mr. Bircham, Bungay. Ditto to Dahlia, Marvel, yellow ground, ticked, and striped with red; from Mr. Pope, Pimlico. Verbenas, Angelina, Violacea, Ajax,
and Triumphant, from Mr. G. Smith, were more or less desirable. Dahlias, Golden Eagle, Ringleader, Eva, and some others, will doubtless be reported on at some coming meeting.

Sept. 8.—First-class certificates to Dahlia, Beauty of Slough, of first-rate form, stout and smooth; blush white ground, faint mottled edging of crimson-purple; from Mr. Bragg, Slough. To ditto, Marvel, reported on at previous meeting, but shewn in much better condition at the present time. To ditto, Ringleader, also reproduced from last meeting, of first-rate outline, medium size; good depth, smooth, finely cupped; evenly arranged petals; centre somewhat low; ruby-red; from G. Holmes, Esq., Norwich. To Hollyhock, Pearl, high, well-formed centre, with proportionate and smooth guard-petal; delicate blush, with paler guard; from Mr. W. Chater, Saffron Walden. Certificate to Hollyhock, Glory of Cheshunt, primrose, with a paler guard; from Messrs. Paul and Son. Ditto to Dahlia, Margaret, canary, with a mottled lacing of rosy purple, and small greenish yellow tip; from Mr. W. Dodds, Salisbury. To ditto, Primrose Perfection, form good, with first-rate centre; from Mr. Keynes, Salisbury.

Sept. 22.—On this occasion a first-class certificate was awarded to Dahlia, Col. Baker (Dodds), a medium-sized canary-coloured flower, of good form and substance, eye prominent. Certificate of merit to John Keynes (Dodds), a full-sized dull salmon-coloured flower, of good form and tolerable substance. Ditto to Ariel (Alexander), a shaded peach-blossom coloured flower, of general good qualities. Ditto Magnet (Kimberley), a large ruby-crimson useful looking flower, with a good outline, eye rather sunk. Ditto to Golden Eagle (Holmes), a medium-sized flower, with good depth of petals and good substance, form middling. Label of commendation to Admiration (Green), a striking fancy flower, with a white ground bordered with scarlet. Ditto to Lady Emma (Hunt), a medium-sized shaded maroon flower, tipped with white; form rather flat, outline irregular. Certificate of merit to Hollyhock, Lilac Perfection (Chater), a distinct-looking flower, possessing general good properties. Label of commendation to Hollyhock, Emperor (Roake), a soft, rosy-coloured kind. First-class certificate to Verbena, Caliban (Smith), a violet and rosy-shaded flower of general good properties. Label of commendation to Verbena, Attraction (Banks), a pale lilac kind, with a bold primrose eye. Ditto to Petunia, Novelty (Kimberley), a dwarf-growing sort, with blotched lilac flowers. A Hollyhock from Mr. Roake, and a collection of Verbenas from Mr. Edmonds, of Great Ormsby, were very promising; but no particular notice could be taken of them, on account of the bad condition in which they were shown. Dahlia, Indispensable, from Mr. Barnes, is a good flower, which will doubtless be shown again.
BUDDING IN AMERICA.

"Seeing over my garden-fence," says a correspondent to the New England Farmer, "that neighbour Goodman had got George Handy, a first-rate budder, at work in his little nursery, I first slung up my hoe, and then walked round through the gate to see a little into the operation. Like many other things, it is 'very simple after you understand it.' I had read about the matter in divers books; but Handy told me what I never knew before, and I saw the thing done too.

The trees were of different sizes, from a quarter of an inch to an inch in diameter, and were all just trimmed up roughly, about two feet from the ground. George was budding. He sat on a small box the south side of the row, and had a dish of buds, all cut ready to be inserted, in water before him. I was surprised to see how short is the process in skilful hands. George would hitch along his seat with one hand, set the dish forward with the other, seize a tree and bend it down under his right arm, and then make the cuts and the opening, and slip in the buds as quick as my eye could follow him. I noticed that he selected a smooth place in the young tree near to the ground, so that the future tree should have a uniform appearance throughout, and not present an ugly jog. First he made a cut up the tree about three quarters of an inch long; then another short one across the top of the first; then with the ivory in the other end of his knife, he loosened and opened the corners of the bark at the top. He now took up a bud from the dish before him, and holding it by the foot-stalk—as he called the stem without the leaf—he again applied the ivory, raising the bark a little, and at the moment entered the bud. The top of the bud seemed too weak to admit of being forced down by the fingers the whole distance. This was quickly done by the end of the knife-blade, inserted just below the foot-stalk.

The top of the bud now stuck out at the top its whole thickness. A cross-cut with a knife exactly over the second cut made in opening the bark at first, squared off the wood of the bud-slip, so that it settled at once down into its place, close to the slimy hard wood, to which it would soon adhere and grow.

George shewed me how he cut the buds. He first selected scions of this year's growth, not rank sprouts, with soft, half-formed wood, nor, on the other hand, little peeling twigs, but good thrifty hard scions, from which buds of some body and fulness could be readily cut. As he takes these from the tree, he cuts off the leaves, as they would rapidly rob the scion of its firmness in hot, dry weather. He shewed me how he cut the buds. His knife had a thin sharp blade. He held the stick of buds with the top towards him; and inserting his knife carefully about half an inch or a little more below the foot-stalk, he brought it out as much above. The bud dropped off into the dish of water, and the knife soon sent another and another after it.
I had heard of budders cutting their germs as they went along. I told George so. He replied that 'he shouldn't think they would go along very fast then.'

I took out my timepiece to see how long the young man was in setting a bud. He seized the tree, bent it down towards him, made the two cuts, opened the bark, slipped in the bud, and off with the top, in just twelve seconds! He set four in good shape in fifty seconds! Goodman said he never saw the beat of that. I told my neighbour, that the job wouldn't last a great while at that rate. The budder said he didn't care how soon it was done, for it was a little worse for the back than the spring-tooth horse-rake.

To be sure, the budder's position is unfavourable to a comfortable spine; and ought he to follow such work many hours without change?

By this time quite a number of buds were set, and I saw the tying done. George had brought a new furniture-mat, which, cut in squares, furnished the strings. These were well wet and tucked through his left suspender. George had to down upon his knees, and bend over pretty low to get a good chance at the work. He placed the middle of the string a trifle below the upright cut in the bark, and carried the ends around and around, keeping them firmly drawn until the whole wound was faithfully covered, leaving only a grain of space above the foot-stalk for the bud, which would have more air when the foot-stalk drops away.

'Very good,' said I; 'and what is the next process with such a subject?'

'The next thing,' said George, 'is to cut off the string next spring, after the bud has started. If it looks lively, and seems disposed to grow, I cut off the whole tree down to within a few inches of where the bud was inserted.'

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ROYAL SOUTH-LONDON FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The closing exhibition for the year of this society took place at the Surrey Zoological Gardens, Sept. 6th. The exhibition was the best attended of any this season, and was in itself a great improvement on the autumn show of 1852. Each department was well sustained, the plants being numerous and exceedingly good for September. The Messrs. Fraser, Rollisson, Over, Barnes, Gaines, Hamp, &c. &c., were in their best condition; but as the Dahlia was the leading flower of the day, we give it precedence. The stands of this flower were both good and numerous; the first stands were much admired for their close, compact shape, being deep and symmetrical, well varied in colour, but not so large as we have seen them, although in our opinion much more beautiful than large open flowers. The following were the awards:

Amateurs, 24 blooms: 1st, Mr. J. Robinson, Pimlico, with Duke of Wellington, Admiral, Essex Triumph, Thames-Bank Hero, Bob,
Sir C. Napier, Scarlet King, Imbricata, Malvina, Miss Caroline, Cobden, Nepalese Prince, Sir. R. Whittington, Absolom, Red Gauntlet, Fearless, Sir R. Peel, Scarlet Gem, Mr. Herbert, Sir F. Bathurst, Annie Salter, Triumphant, Shylock, and Morning Star; 2d, Mr. James, Stoke Newington, with the following varieties in addition to the varieties named in the first stand: viz. General Faucher. El Dorado, Yellow Standard, Mr. Seldon, Sir J. Franklin, John Davis, G. Glenney, Mrs. C. Bacon, Edmund Foster, and Louisa Glenney; 3d, Mr. Proctor of Bermondsey; 4th, Mr. Weeden of Hillingdon; 5th, Mr. Edwards of Holloway. 12 Blooms: 1st, Mr. Battle of Erith, with Duchess of Kent, Sir J. Franklin, Sir R. Peel, Duke of Wellington, Barmaid, Sir C. Napier, Queen of Whites, Bob, Elizabeth, Sir F. Bathurst, Fearless, and Sir R. Whittington; 2d, Mr. Holmez, Hackney, with Sir R. Whittington, Mrs. C. Bacon, Sir C. Napier, Duke of Cambridge, Wellington, E. Foster, G. Glenney, Sir F. Bathurst, General Faucher, J. Davis, Cobden, and Mr. Seldon; 3d, Mr. Proctor, jun.; 4th, Mr. Hunt, Paddington; 5th, — Dyson, Esq., Wexham. Fancy varieties, 12 blooms in 8 varieties: 1st, Mr. J. Robinson, with Mrs. Hansard, Phaeton, Gloire de Kain, Triumphant, Duchess of Kent, Empereur de Maroc, Maid of Lodi, Floral Beauty, Laura Lavington, Flora M'ivor; 2d, Mr. Edwards of Holloway, for Mrs. Hansard, Gloire de Kain, Rachel, Laura Lavington, Mrs. Willis, Reine des Belges, Saracen, and Miss Compton; 3d, Mr. Battle of Erith; 4th, Mr. Hunt; 5th, — Dyson, Esq., Wexham.

Nurseriesmen, 24 blooms: 1st, Mr. Turner of Slough, with Bob, Mr. Seldon, Queen of Lilacs, Sir J. Franklin, Malvina, Thames-Bank Hero, Sir C. Napier, Amazon, Duchess of Kent, Miss Caroline, E. Foster, Princess Radziwill, Miss Spears, Mr. Herbert, Sir R. Peel, Exquisite, General Faucher, Fearless, G. Villiers. Rose of England, Essex Triumph, Sir F. Bathurst, Wellington, Queen of Whites; 2d, Mr. Keynes of Salisbury, with Negro, Queen of Whites, Morning Star, Mrs. Seldon, Mr. Seldon, Beauty of Kent, General Faucher, Miss Caroline, Louisa Glenney, Malvina, Douglas Jerrold, Sir F. Bathurst, Model, Queen of Yellows, Captain Warner, Admiral, Exquisite, Wellington, Magnificent, Lilac King, and Sir C. Napier; 3d, Mr. Kimberley, Pinley; 4th, Mr. Drummond, Bath; 5th, Mr. Legg, Edmonton; 6th, Mr. Gaines, Battersea.

Fancy Dahlias, 24 blooms, 18 varieties: 1st, Mr. Turner, with Gloire de Kain, Laura Lavington, Phaeton, Claudia, Duchess of Kent, Zebra, Elizabeth, Princess Charlotte, Lady Grenville, Mrs. Willis, Kingfisher, Kossuth, Le Paeon, Miss Ward, Spectabilis, Princess Helena, Attraction, Reine des Fleurs; 2d, Mr. Keynes, with Mrs. Hansard, Laura Lavington, Rachel, Mrs. James, Flower of the Day, Empereur de Maroc, Gloire de Kain, Triumphant, Unanimity, Elizabeth, Phaeton, Princess Charlotte, Duchess of Kent, Spectabilis, Nancy, Reine des Belges, Lady Grenville, and Wonderful; 3d, Mr. Drummond, Bath; 4th, Mr. Kimberley, Pinley.

In Seedlings there was a large number, the majority of which were inferior to those already out; there were, however, a few first-class blooms. Those selected by the censors for certificates were,
Fanny Keynes (Keynes), pale yellow, tipped with rosy-purple, large, and of fine form. Rachel Rawlings (Keynes), peach-lilac of a very delicate shade, and exquisite in form; Ringleader (Holmes), a deep ruby rose of the finest symmetry; Slough Beauty (Bragg), blush-white, strongly tipped with crimson; full size, good outline, but centre a little confused. There were several good fancy seedlings which also had certificates: Admiration (Green), white-edged with scarlet, is very attractive, colour well distributed, flower of full size. Leader (Keynes), a heavy striped flower, full, of good size and shape; Topsy (Keynes), white and purple, and an improvement on Elegan-tissima; Marvel (Pope), orange, striped, and mottled with red, novel. There were some other promising flowers, but which were not in condition on the day. We shall describe the Dahlias more fully on a future occasion. Fair Rosamond and Incomparable Verbenas were fair flowers; as were also Forget-me-not, Angelina, Triumph, Electra, and Nobilissima, from Mr. Smith of Hornsey. Hollyhocks were confined to a stand of seedlings from Messrs. Paul, who had beautiful examples of the following, viz. Conspicua improved, Zenobia, Laura, Flambau, Pink Model, Sir R. Peel, Lizzie, Professor Dick, White Globe, and one or two others. Why this beautiful flower was not better represented we do not understand, as the Hollyhock was very generally in bloom. 12 spikes are too many; 8 are ample, and 6 for amateurs, with a class for cut blooms: this would insure a good competition.

VALUE OF GOOD DRAINAGE.

In directing attention to the subject of drainage, which is one of the most important a gardener has to deal with, it may be observed, that its advantages are not generally appreciated, nor the manner in which it acts generally understood. True, people know that, if it is efficient, it will remove all superfluous water; but all do not recollect that by the water being removed the earth is rendered permeable to air. But air performs an active part in the decomposition of whatever fertilising matters may be in the soil, and forms in itself an important element in the food of plants; hence, even if drainage had no other advantages than this, its importance could not possibly be over-rated. But in addition to the removal of superfluous water by its means, the earth acquires a higher temperature, which is very important, more especially with plants from more genial climes than our own, giving them a better chance of getting their wood well ripened, and consequently rendering them better able to withstand the severity of our winters; and lastly, if drainage is not attended to where required, all attempts at successful cultivation must necessarily fail. The rootlets of plants have but little power to regulate the quantity of water they take up; and therefore in wet places they often im-bibe more than their leaves can elaborate and assimilate, nor can the leaves part with it quick enough by evaporation; hence it remains in the system, producing disease, and often death.
HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. They may remain for another month in a northern aspect, when they should be removed to the south. Clean the glass to give them all the light possible, which, with plenty of air, will keep them in good health. Water sparingly.

Calceolaria. Repot young stock into good rich soil, containing plenty of silver-sand. Seedlings should be used in a similar manner.

Cinerarias. Select plants intended for exhibition, and winter them in a frame or pot near the glass, shifting them as they require. The general stock will also winter much better in a pit than in a greenhouse. Seedlings for early blooming should have their final repotting. If mildew appears, dust with sulphur; and fumigate to keep down green-fly.

Carnations and Picotees. Potting up for wintering should be completed without delay. Those that have drawn root and the first potted plants should be hardened by keeping the lights off as much as possible; and the whole stock kept perfectly clean from dead foliage.

Dahlias. Secure seed, which should be tied up in small bunches, and hung up to dry; when it begins to turn brown it should be picked to pieces, spreading it out thinly. Dahlias should be allowed to remain in the ground for some time yet, particularly if the frost has spared them. Pot-roots may be housed under the greenhouse stage.

Fuchsias. These will now be quiet; unless it is propagating some scarce new kind, nothing will be doing. Seed may be saved yet.

Hollyhocks. Save seed of choice kinds, which should be sown under name, as numbers of them come the same as the parent. Continue to put in cuttings. Hollyhocks can be propagated all the season, the only difficulty being to get cuttings; when produced they are easily rooted.

Pansies. Pot up the principal of the stock, if not already done, as the wet of last autumn has taught us, there is no certainty of wintering them in the ground. Keep them open as much as possible, those that are in frames, tilting the lights at night.

Pelargoniums. The May plants should have had their final shift some time, and should now be fast making their growth. The June plants will soon require the same treatment, as the plants ripen their wood much better, thereby throwing a finer head of bloom if they are forced. There should not be too much left for them to do in the spring. Plants for July require different treatment. Seedlings will require attention, giving them but little water. Dry the houses occasionally by putting on a fire, when they can be opened.

Tulips. Prepare bed, occasionally turning the soil after it has been made, ridging it up, to throw off heavy rains.
Gesneria Donkelaari
GESNERIA DONKELAARI.

This charming continental variety originated, we believe, with M. Donkelaar, late of Brussels, the fortunate raiser of the well-known Camellia which also bears his name. A glance at our plate will be sufficient to show that it is one of the most distinct and beautiful kinds belonging to the genus, and one which cannot fail to become universally admired. Our drawing was prepared from a plant which flowered this autumn, for the first time in England, in the nursery of Messrs. E. G. Henderson, of Wellington Road, St. John’s Wood. It is a striking variety, of robust habit, and with a deep-green handsome foliage. When in blossom, its numerous long richly-tinted flowers, with their white throats, are extremely attractive, and contrast well with the more common forms of the genus. Indeed, looked at from whatever point of view one may, it must, we think, be regarded as a great acquisition.

As respects the cultivation of Gesnerias, like Achimenes, they increase sufficiently fast, by means of their under-ground tubers, to render artificial propagation unnecessary, at least in the case of ordinary growers. If it is desired to have flowering specimens in autumn and early winter, the tubers should be carefully separated from the soil in which they have been wintered about the beginning of March, and planted rather thickly on the surface of well-drained pots or pans, filled to within about three inches of their surface with any light peaty soil, from which it will be easy to separate the roots without injury, and covered two inches deep. Give a gentle watering, to settle the soil about the tubers, and place them in a warm growing temperature of about 65° or 70°. Until the plants appear above the soil, no more water should be given than may be necessary to preserve the soil in a moist, healthy condition. As soon as the plants are from an inch to two inches high, they should be separated and repotted. Use shallow 8-inch pots, and place five plants in each; but the number of plants to a pot should be regulated by the taste and convenience of the cultivator. With proper management, one plant in a pot will form a very fine specimen; but to effect this, more care and time are required than when five plants are put into a pot, and the latter form larger specimens than it is possible to obtain by having only one plant. After potting, keep the atmosphere close and moist, and give very little water at the root until they start into growth. When the pots are moderately well filled with roots, shift into the flowering size. For single specimens 10-inch pots will be
sufficiently large; when three plants are used, 12-inch pots will be necessary, and 13-inch pots in the case of five plants. Keep close and moist, and carefully avoid over-watering till the roots can penetrate the fresh soil. A high temperature during summer is rather injurious than beneficial in the culture of this plant; 50° or 60° at night, allowing it to range 10° or 15° higher with sun-heat, will be most conducive to strong vigorous growth and the production of handsome specimens. The plants should be placed near the glass, so that they may receive as much light as can be afforded them; but it will be found necessary to shade them slightly during bright sunshine, and the atmosphere should be maintained in a thoroughly moist state. Still, this must not be effected by excluding air and close shading, otherwise the plant will assume a sickly, drawn appearance, and the foliage will be thin and ill-coloured. The shoots may be neatly staked, as soon as they are high enough to be liable to be broken. The stakes used may be cut off at the height of about fifteen inches, which will be sufficient for the support of the plants; the flower-spikes will require no support, and if the plants are kept near the glass, and frequently turned round, they too will probably need no staking to cause them to assume the desired form. Some plants have a tendency, under high cultivation, to produce flower-spikes at the axils of the leaves, and they generally form more showy specimens in this way than if stopping is resorted to; but when only one plant is used as the foundation of the specimen, it may be advisable to stop once, when about four inches high. An occasional watering with clear manure-water will tend to promote vigorous growth; but this will be unnecessary till the plants have pretty well filled their pots with roots.

When the blossoms begin to be developed, the plants may be removed to the conservatory or greenhouse; but they must be gradually prepared for the change. Great care should be used to prevent their sustaining any check, and they should be guarded from currents of cold air after their removal. A temperature of from 45° to 50° at night will be necessary during the blooming season, if the plants are expected to increase in size and beauty for some two months.

When they show symptoms of decline, water should be gradually withheld; and when the foliage and stems die down, the pots should be placed in a situation where they will be free from damp and frost; unless the tubers are well ripened, they should not be placed in a lower temperature than 45°. A rich friable soil is essential to the production of fine specimens of Gesnerias. We find light sandy turfy loam, rich fibry
peat, and thoroughly decomposed cow-dung, in about equal portions, adding a sufficient quantity of sharp silver-sand, to insure the free percolation of water through the mass, to suit well. The loam and peat need not be broken up into very small pieces; but the dung should be passed through a fine sieve, to catch the worms which it contains. Of the beautiful G. zebrina we ought to state that there are two varieties in cultivation; one having thin ill-coloured leaves, and in every way much inferior to the other; therefore beginners should take care not to purchase the worthless variety, which, however, is not very common.

STOCKS FOR ROSES.

The floricultural world will doubtless remember a rather warm discussion which, a few years since, caused no small amount of inkshed, and produced a few lively skirmishes, amounting almost to a state of actual war. An eminent cultivator, whose character and position combine to render him a high authority, having received from abroad a new Rose called Manetti, conceived the idea that it would form a better stock than the wild brier for many, if not all the numerous families into which the queen of flowers has been (somewhat arbitrarily, in my poor judgment,) divided and sub-divided. Having first tested its properties, he propagated it extensively, and in due time offered it to the public, speaking of it, generally, in terms of unqualified praise. It is perhaps only natural that a parent's eye should discern more readily the good than the bad qualities of a favourite child, and we may therefore afford to make some little allowance on this head. Nevertheless, Master Manetti, coming before the world with such a character, so endorsed, experienced no difficulty in finding numerous friends. But there are two sides to every question, and two opinions concerning every thing in this world, be it good, bad, or indifferent. And so it turned out, that before the stripling became, as it were, firmly established, he found his path a little more thorny than it had appeared at first sight. To drop metaphor, the Manetti stock, so highly recommended by one authority, was disparaged and condemned, in no measured terms, by others, whose pretensions to form a judgment in the matter were indisputable. Thus stood the case. A says, "I have a new stock for Roses to submit to your notice, good public. I have tested it, and find it to possess certain excellent qualities. I therefore strongly recommend it as deserving your notice." B and C exclaim, "Pause awhile, dear public, before you commit yourself too decidedly to this vaunted stock of A's. Be assured it is a mere crotchet, a delusion, an ignis nefas, that will only lead you astray."

"Who shall decide, when doctors disagree?"
This, said I, is a subject for the consideration of those grave coun-
sellors, **Time and Experience.** To them, therefore, will I refer it.

It so happened that at the period when this "war of the Roses" was at its height, I had determined to plant some thirty or forty beds in my flower-garden with autumnal-blooming varieties, worked on short stems, some 800 plants being required for the purpose. As I could better afford to wait patiently than to purchase on so exten-
sive a scale, I came to the conclusion of working the plants myself, being somewhat of an enthusiast as regards Roses, and having all the leading varieties, up to that time, already in my possession. Here was an opportunity of testing, to a certain extent, the capa-
bilities of different stocks, of which I resolved to avail myself. In due time my plans were matured, and my determination carried out. The lapse of a few years has enabled me to realise the effects of the experiment.

My first consideration was the selection of the sorts I proposed to include in the trial. Those decided on were chosen more, I believe, because I happened to have a sufficient quantity of them ready for my purpose than for any better or more philosophical reason. They consisted of the following:

- **a.** Common Dog Rose.
- **b.** Blush Boursault.
- **c.** Crimson Boursault.
- **d.** Manetti.

- **e.** Plants raised from cuttings of the stronger-growing Bourbons, as Splendens, Madame Desprez, Bouquet de Flore, and the like.

With strong thriving plants of the above, in equal proportions, each bed, having been previously well dug and manured, was planted in November. Three summers elapsed before they were all budded. They have bloomed in perfection through two succeeding seasons, and I have derived no small amount of pleasure in watching their progress. My problem was, to ascertain the best stock or stool for autumnal Roses; and my requirements were chiefly these—

- **1st.** Free growths.
- **2d.** Fine blooms.
- **3d.** Immunity from suckers.
- **4th.** A prolonged season, in which the operation of budding may be performed.
- **5th.** Facility in procuring the stocks themselves.

Let us now briefly inquire in what manner the five sorts with which the experiment was made answered to these several require-
ments, and we shall then have some guide towards forming a correct estimate of their respective merits.

1. **Growth.**—There is no room for choice on this head. The whole of them grew with remarkable freedom; and, had time per-
mitted, might all have been worked early in the summer succeeding their planting. We may therefore assume that in this particular the five varieties are about equal in point of excellence.

2. **Blooms.**—In this respect the cultivated varieties obtained a complete victory over the wild stock; the flowers produced on the
former were larger and of finer form. I am unable to decide between
the claims of Manetti, Bourbon, and Crimson Boursault; these must
be pronounced equal. Blush Boursault was a good fourth, and the
Wild Brier last.

3. Suckers.—Not one of the five has been free from these pests.
They have all thrown up suckers in great luxuriance. In this respect
Manetti has failed to realise that which was promised for it by its
sponsor. Bourbon has rather the advantage here, the others being
on a par.

4. Period of budding.—Here again the cultivated sorts are much
superior to the Wild Brier. Often, very often, in hot, dry weather,
when the bark of the latter would not "run," there has been no
difficulty in working the former. Perhaps the Crimson Boursault is
fit to receive the bud more days in the year than either of the others;
but I have not found the operation succeed so frequently on this as
on the rest. I have experienced fewer failures in operating on the
Manetti than on any stock I have hitherto manipulated. The
absence of spines in the Boursaults renders them very pleasing sub-
jects to handle. I would recommend them to ladies especially on
account of this quality. The Dog Rose is undoubtedly the roughest
customer to tackle. Bourbon is a good stock for budding; it is
generally in a fit state, and the operation usually successful.

5. Facility of procuration.—Again I must consign our old friend
the Wild Rose to the place it most affects—the shade. It is not
pleasant to be obliged to ransack your neighbour's hedges, and to
receive every now and then a significant hint about trespass. And
even when, after much toil and tribulation, we have procured a supply,
how many of the number do we find with large, hard, woody roots,
nearly destitute of fibre, and of which we can make nothing! I
would counsel those who still pin their faith to the Dog Rose, if they
are endowed with the virtue of patience, to raise their stocks from the
suckers produced in their own gardens. All the other kinds may be
raised from cuttings, which succeed best when taken towards the
end of September. In the facility with which these make roots,
there is, however, a striking difference; and here Manetti has a
declared advantage. My own experience gives me the following pro-
portions which the plants raised bear to the cuttings put in:

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<tr>
<td>Manetti</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blush Boursault</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bourbon</td>
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<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crimson Boursault</td>
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<td>24</td>
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It must be confessed the cuttings have been taken and planted in a
rough, unworkmanlike manner; but I attach no great importance to
this circumstance, as all the sorts fared precisely alike.

I forward this paper for publication, hoping it may interest some
of the readers of the Florist. They can form their conclusions from
the evidence I have adduced. I refrain from giving my own, as my
purpose is more to narrate facts than to draw inferences; and I have
no desire to appear dictatorial, or to speak as "one having authority."
These trials have been made with autumnal-blooming Roses only—hybrid perpetuals for the most part; and it is by no means improbable that in other localities different results might be obtained. My situation is near the south-eastern coast; my soil a rich adhesive loam, resting on a sub-stratum of undrained retentive clay. Will any amateur take up this interesting subject, institute fresh experiments, and give the floricultural community the benefit to be obtained by the publication of the results?

I subjoin a list of the varieties with which the beds are now filled, and from which I am still enabled (Oct. 11) to cut a handsome bouquet every morning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hybrid Perpetual</th>
<th>Pius IX.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auberon.</td>
<td>Reine des Fleurs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auguste Mie.</td>
<td>Robin Hood.</td>
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<td>Augustine Mouchelle.</td>
<td>Sidonie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baronne Hallez.</td>
<td>Standard of Marengo.</td>
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<td>Baronne Prevost.</td>
<td>William Jesse.</td>
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<td>Caroline de Sansal.</td>
<td>Bourlon.</td>
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<td>Comte de Montalivet.</td>
<td>Acidalie.</td>
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<td>Comtesse Duchatel.</td>
<td>Ceres.</td>
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<td>Dr. Marx.</td>
<td>Dupetit Thouars.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duchess of Sutherland.</td>
<td>George Cuvier.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Géant des Batailles.</td>
<td>Henri Lecoq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacques Lafitte.</td>
<td>La Gracieuse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Reine.</td>
<td>Madame Margat.</td>
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<td>Lady Alice Peel.</td>
<td>Menoux.</td>
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<td>Louis Buonaparte.</td>
<td>Souchet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madame Aimée.</td>
<td>Souvenir de la Malmaison.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madame Guillot.</td>
<td>China.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madame Laffay.</td>
<td>Mrs. Bosanquet.</td>
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<td>Madame Pepin.</td>
<td>A. S. H.</td>
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<td>Madame Trudeaux.</td>
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SLOUGH AMATEUR DAHLIA SHOW.

Sept. 26.—As many varieties continue in perfection much longer than others, it may be interesting to know the names of the winning kinds at this late season. Late planting will not prolong the beauty of some sorts, Sir F. Bathurst for instance; on the contrary, the second and third crops of blooms are the best of very full flowers. The first and second stands on this occasion were equal to any we have seen this season, Mr. Robinson’s being exceedingly neat. The second stand contained a large full flower of Alice, shown in the back tier. There is no question as to the quality of this variety when caught, or of its uncertainty generally.

12 Blooms.—1st. Mr. J. Robinson, Pimlico, with Plantagenet. Triumphant, Wellington, Morning Star, Mr. Seldon, Sir C. Napier, Queen of Lilacs, Absolem, Shylock, Standard of Perfection, Alice, Red Gauntlet. 2d. Mr. Jeffrey, Hedgerley, with Mr. Seldon, Whittington, Alice, Plantagenet, Mrs. Seldon, Amazon, Bob, Malvina, Essex Triumph, Wellington, Edmund Foster, R. Cobden. 3d. Mr. Prockter, Bermondsey, with Sir R. Peel, Mrs. Bacon, Red Gauntlet, Queen of Lilacs, R. Cobden, Mrs. Seldon, Wellington, Fame, Lilac King, Morning Star, Wellington, Bishop of Hereford. 4th. — Dyson, Esq., Stoke, with Sir C. Napier, Yellow Standard, Queen of Whites, Queen of Beau-
ties, Malvina, Mr. Seldon, General Faucher, Sir R. Peel, Wellington, Bob, M. Miquet. 5th. Mr. Weedon, Hillingdon, with Malvina, Edmund Foster, Roundhead, Grand Duke, Nil Desperandum, Princess Radziwill, Miss Caroline, Bob, Wellington, Absalom, Geo. Villiers, Sir C. Napier. 6th. Mr. J. Cook, Notting Hill.

Fancies, 6 Blooms.—1st. Mr. Jeffrey, with Kossuth, Gloire de Kain, Elizabeth, Rachel, Mrs. Willis, Claudia. 2d. Mr. Robinson, with Duchess of Kent, Phaeton, Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Hansard, Mrs. James, Maid of Lodi. 3d. Mr. Prockter, with Miss Compton, Flora M'ivor, Gloire de Kain, Flower of the Day, Elizabeth, Mrs. Hansard. The Duchess of Kent, shown by Mr. Robinson, and Kossuth, by Mr. Jeffrey, were models in shape and perfectly marked.

Seedlings.—These were not numerous. Mr Collier, of Bethnal Green, however, showed several blooms of his King of Yellows in fine order, and obtained a first class certificate. It is a pure yellow, with smooth broad petals, without the least ribbiness or lines. petals close, with compact centre. The following received certificates of the second class. Miss M. Clayton (Jeffrey), rose-lilac, large and full; Beauty of Slough (Bragg), white and crimson; Admiration (Green), a good fancy; Marvel (Pope), striped fancy of good form. Prockter’s Mosquito was shown, and is a promising rose of new shade.

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DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

PLUMS.

(Continued from p. 234.)

7. Kirke’s.

Synonyms: Kirke’s Fine, Kirke’s Hâtive.

This is a superb-looking fruit, which, combined with excellent qualities, renders it one of the best of our dessert Plums.

Fruit large, of a roundish oval figure, and very even in outline, the suture being scarcely visible. Skin dark purple all over, dotted thinly with golden specks, and covered with unusually thick azure bloom. Stalk three-quarters of an inch long, not very stout, and inserted without a cavity. Flesh approaching to green, very rich, sweet, and juicy, and parts clean from the stone, which is broad, much compressed, and furrowed on one side. Ripening from the beginning to the middle of September. The trees make slender shoots, which are brownish red and smooth, with glossy foliage, suitable for an east wall, or as a standard.
8. Goliath.

Synonyms: Steer's Emperor, Saint Cloud, Caledonian, Wilmot, Late Orleans, Nectarine (of some).

Fruit very large, rounded oblong, and slightly flattened at the ends, and enlarged on one side of the suture, which is strongly marked, and extends from the stalk to the apex. Stalks three-fourths of an inch long, stout, and set in a deep hollow. Flesh orange, coarse-grained, but juicy and sweet, with an agreeable acid flavour, and adheres to the rough side of the stone. Ripens at the end of August, and soon decays.

The Goliath is considered a coarse Plum; but still it is a useful kind both for pastry and preserving. The trees make strong downy shoots, with large crimped foliage, and bear well as open standards.

9. Reine Claude de Bavay.

This new Plum was introduced from France about eight years ago, and was reported to be equal to the Green Gage. Although it does not prove so rich as that variety, it nevertheless is equally valuable in a collection, owing to its lateness in ripening and hanging a long time on the tree. The fruit is a little above the middle size, roundish, having a slight suture near the stalk. Skin clear pale yellow, shaded with green near the base, and thinly dusted with pale bloom. Stalk varying from half to three-fourths of an inch long, and set in a small even cavity. Flesh yellow, tender, juicy, and rich, and if well matured, parts freely from the stone. A dessert Plum, ripening the end of September, and will hang a month on the tree; it thrives remarkably well as a standard, but the fruit is much improved by having the advantage of a wall; it will also hang longer on the tree, more particularly if the aspect of the wall is opposite to that of the prevailing rains of autumn. The trees are of strong and healthy habit, with large, broad, dark-green, glossy foliage, and brownish-red smooth shoots,—very hardy and fruitful even in a young state.

10. Royal Hâtive.

Synonyms: Miviam, Early Royal.

Fruit below the middle size, of a roundish oval figure, narrowing towards
the stalk. The suture is faintly marked, and extends half-way down the fruit. Stalk half an inch long, quite stout, and inserted without depression. Skin purplish red, spread over with large brown specks, and covered with a pale thin bloom. Flesh dull yellow, very sweet, rich, juicy, and luscious; separates clean from the stone, which is small and oval. This is a beautiful little dessert Plum, ripening about the middle of September, and will not hang long on the tree. An east wall is suitable for this variety.

_Frogmore._

J. Powell.

[In p. 233, top line, for _acid_ read _red_.]

(To be continued.)

TOWN-GARDENS AND PARLOUR-WINDOWS.

If the discernment, appreciation, and love of the beautiful in nature or art be a healthy sign of moral improvement and elevated sentiment in a people, then have we some ground, I think, for congratulation that the inhabitants of large towns in general, and London in particular, are progressing in the right direction.

That a man or a class of men should naturally and voluntarily turn with looks of admiration to the beautiful in floral nature is a strong presumptive proof that in his soul there exists an inherent principle which may, nay must, work,—gradually it may be, but surely,—great good, in training that portion of the human family of which he is a member towards the highest paths in which it is ordained for civilised man to tread. Cold-hearted utilitarianism—that bane of the present day,—will be discarded from the mind of a man familiar with the sublime, as being of too narrow a character to be consistent with the breadth of view and harmonising influences he drinks in with every draught of nature's bounteousness; the very constitution of the mental faculties becomes changed from the mere association; and is it to be supposed, that while an individual is striving after perfection among his flowers, he can rest content that the grossest disfigurements shall characterise either himself or his fellows? Can he admire harmony on the one hand, and encourage the want of it on the other? Can he be satisfied with resplendent beauty here, while the ugliness of vice in every shape confronts him there? In short, can he feel his every-thought elevated to a better sphere of action, and look around content to see a large proportion of his fellow-mortals grovelling in the dust? And upon the truth or untruth of this does it depend whether we have reason to congratulate ourselves or not, as I have said.

But I may be asked for reasons for my ground of hope; may be called upon for data for my facts; may be told that my theory, if
pleasing, is unsound, and that I seek to arrive at a great and magnificent result from a very inadequate and insufficient cause.

Let us see, then, what can be said by way of attempting a reply to these objections.

In the first place, then, as to the increasing appreciation of the beautiful, as displayed in an extended and extending love of flowers. The proof of this might easily be found by simply looking round us. But I will go further, and say, Find me the man or woman at the present day of any thing approaching to decency of life, who does not desiderate a garden to the house in which he or she may live, or, failing that, a flower to grace the parlour-window with,—find them, and if they care not for these things, then shall they be numbered with the ichthyosaurus and megatherium of the olden days. Or, if you will, go lower still, and dive down among the "people,"—among those who as yet must live in dank, unwholesome "city pent;" and even there the spirit strives for utterance, and the window-sill provides what the paved back-yard denies. And where that love has gratified itself as best it may, then rest assured that other virtues are not wholly dead, but, like the smoke-dried plant itself, their presence is gainsayed because unseen. But give them each the scope they want,—give them the fresh air of heaven, for lack of which they mutually pine,—give the one the pure water for which it craves, and the others the social light for want of which they die; and the flower and the virtues shall grow up—the one tending to the nurture of the other—and produce blooms which shall cast around them fragrance, beauty, holiness, and love.

Again, let the doubter throw his memory back some ten years or less, and state what was the condition of our gardens then, as compared to those at present cultivated. Will he be bold enough to say, that neither in taste of arrangement, class of flowers grown, and above all, the amount of perfection to which the flowers are cultivated, has the public taste progressed? And if he deny my position, then I would refer him, as the latest instance which has come under my own observation, to the beauty of growth of the Dahlia, as displayed in so many of our people's town-garden borders. And this, in the great majority of instances, in spite of great difficulties and disappointments,—without pits, heat, or greenhouse, with nothing but their love of the pursuit to urge them to success, and, too, a success which they achieve. And is not this achievement in itself sufficient proof that the love of the beautiful, as exemplified in floral culture, is progressing and taking deep root in the hearts of the people, and that we may congratulate ourselves on so pleasing, so pregnant, so encouraging a fact?

And now as to the results that may accrue from our town-gardens and parlour-windows. The first that strikes us as the most important, because of wider influence and more national interest, is the correctness of taste that the subjects under consideration may induce, by attuning the eye, so to speak, and elevating the understanding to a better knowledge and appreciation of the higher orders of the art, as exemplified in sculpture, architecture, and painting. May we
not fairly infer that the eye and taste, once educated to beauty of
form and symmetry of outline in a flower, will not be found to
tolerate the opposite when seen elsewhere? And this is by no
means carrying the argument beyond the bounds of probability; for
are not many of the most beautiful designs,—the pride of olden Greece
and the glory of the modern world,—the results of studying the wavy
outlines of the floral gems? To what do we owe the elegant, chaste,
and classic Corinthian capital, but to the graceful falling of the
Acanthus leaves? Is it then improbable that a wide and general
diffusion of this taste may not result in something near akin to
this?

The next effect which we may hopefully look forward to see
realised is scarcely of less consideration than the first; I refer to a
better tone of moral feeling than at present prevails. I think it some-
what more than likely that a man following up a pursuit such as we
are considering, for the love of it, as distinct from the purely merca-
tile view, must imbibe some ideas and feelings far more in unison
with those which should be entertained by the creature to his Maker,
than if he were wholly unacquainted with those beauteous offsprings
of his Creator's hands. A religion must and will grow out of it, less
dogmatic than that of the schools perhaps, but not less true, less
holy, less worthy of the last long glorious home to which we hope it
leads.

And growing out of this latter feeling, what a number of virtues,
if not blessings, are poured forth upon the sons of men! Cleanliness,
akin to godliness, springing from the town-garden,—may it not
enter the home, and plant neatness and order where carelessness and
negligence had reigned? Nay, more; may it not, spreading in ever-
extending circles, like the pebble thrown upon the bosom of a lake,
reach those black and dismal dirty dwellings of the poor, and bring-
ing in its track light and beauty, help at least to chase from their
strongholds the demons of misery, filth, and vice?

But in reply to all this it may be said, that it is too sanguine in
its character, and blind enthusiasm has superseded cool, deliberate
reason,—that amusement only will account for all in the way of im-
provement that has been done, and that without any portion of a
love of beauty entering into the pursuit. A correct reply to this
would be a flat denial on all the points; but in detail it may be
urged, that to be sanguine on the continued success of a thing
which has already progressed, and is continually progressing, so fa-
vourably, can hardly be termed the result of blind enthusiasm; and if
enthusiasm have a share in the hope that all this good may come,
surely that is a better ground on which to found that hope than cold
and calculating reason, which falters in doubt at every step, and allows
the good that might be done to fall to nought, while wondering if it
will "pay," or some such worthy argument. And as for amusement,
why, know you not, my icy friend, that within the soul of every man,
debased and hidden though it may be, there still is a nobler, better
feeling in existence. Is not the savage worshipping the sun a proof
thereof? Is not the exclamation, even from the untaught child,—
"Oh, what a beauty! oh, get me that sweet flower!" the original exponent of it? And with the aid of town-gardens and parlour-window flowers, may it not be nurtured into life, and breadth, and excellence, instead, as it would without them, of becoming blunted, deadened, and decayed? Is it for amusement only that the lonely widow in her one small room tends with never-flagging hand the single flower that cheers her lonesome toil? Or is it not because she gathers from it some remembrance of sweet associations long gone by perhaps, and sees in its present beauty a reflection of the past, a brightness in the future? Does the little orphan, with her tiny hands, plant flowers on her mother's grave for pastime only, too? Or does she not, in her innocence and innate love of beauty, wish still to associate the fondlest image of her mind with that which she considers fittest as the emblem of her holy love? and while they bloom and flower upon the turf, there is still a link which binds their souls together,—a little flower of earth bears her young heart high up to holy thoughts of heaven and her mother. No; amusement is one thing, but following an ennobling pursuit for the pleasure it affords, the instruction it gives, the soothing influences it induces to the best aspirations of the mind, is somewhat different, I most humbly beg leave to think, and more, enjoy the thought; and if any of your readers should find fault with this, then they will please to accept the apologies for this intrusion on their patience by

**Kingsland.**

J. St. Clement.

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**NATIONAL FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

Oct. 6th.—This meeting may be said to have virtually closed the present season's proceedings; for a few Chrysanthemums are all that can now possibly be expected. The very unpropitious weather for out-door flowers has not, apparently, checked the supply of subjects for adjudication, or the interest of those connected with floriculture; for during the whole season the meetings have been exceedingly well attended. It is but justice to acknowledge the good which this society has effected, through the exertion of its officers, and the impartial yet onerous duties of its censors. On the present occasion a first-class certificate was awarded to Dahlia, King of Yellows (Collier), a medium-sized flower of good outline and petals, which are well defined and smooth, colour bright yellow. Certificate of merit to Verbena, Mrs. D. Tysson (Robinson), bluish, with a bold, decided crimson eye, and good habit. Ditto to Fuchsia, Dominiana (Veitch), a hybrid between F. spectabilis and serratifolia; it was well covered with large crimson-scarlet Spectabilis-like flowers, which were set off to much advantage by an ample glossy foliage. It is certainly the best of all the Peruvian race of Fuchsias. Label of commendation to Dahlia, Mount Alexander (Skynner), a rich deep yellow of good outline, but ribbed in the petal and rather low in the centre. Ditto to Fuchsia, Telegraph (Smith), a useful kind, with crimson-scarlet tube and sepals, and purple corolla. Dahlia, Guido (Skynner), was shown, and would probably have obtained an award had more than two blooms been produced. It is a rosy salmon, of apparently good general qualities.
PHENOCOMA PROLIFERUM.

This beautiful, hard-wooded, and almost continuous-blooming greenhouse plant is well worthy of all the attention which can be bestowed upon its growth; for when it attains the size of a nice specimen, few plants make more display in a collection, as it will bloom in perfection five or six months at a time; and even after the flowers are removed from the plant, being what are termed Everlastings, they will remain in beauty for a number of years, provided they are kept dry.

In commencing its culture, procure at first a nice dwarf bushy plant, and keep it in the greenhouse on a dry airy shelf until March, when it should be examined at the roots; and if they are found healthy, and the pot full of them, prepare some light fibrous peat, to be used in a rough state, and mix with it half the quantity of sharp gritty sand, and a liberal portion of small pieces of charcoal for shifting material; if the latter cannot be conveniently obtained, some potsherds broken small will do as a substitute, but the former I prefer. Mix these well together, and prepare a nice, clean, well-drained pot to receive the plant. When potting, press the soil down with the hand moderately firm, bearing in mind not to bury the collar of the plant; on the contrary, rather elevate it than sink it too low in the pot. When the potting is finished, place some small sticks round the pot for the purpose of drawing the branches out, with a view to allow the air to penetrate into the middle of the plant; when the sticks are introduced, your young specimen can be brought to whatever shape may be considered best by the grower. It may be trained either pyramidal or flat; the former by selecting the longest shoot for the middle, tying it up to the stick, and then equalising the others around it, so that a proportionable plant may be obtained to start with. When tied up, it may be placed either in a quiet part of the greenhouse or in a cold pit, not exposing it to cold currents of air for some few weeks after potting.

When the plant begins to show that it is established in its new pot, perform the operation of topping, which should be done in a regular manner—first, by topping the shoot selected for the middle; not merely pinching out the top, but cutting it well down to where you can be certain it will furnish itself with other wood. Then take the outside shoots, cutting off their tops also the length you can see will leave your plant, when finished, well formed and regular all round, leaving the middle shoot rather longer than the outside ones, so as to construct a pyramid, bearing in mind, as it advances in size, always to keep your middle the highest. It will soon be perceived, after the upright shoots are removed, that the small side branches gain strength amazingly, and soon furnish the centre of the plant with abundance of fine wood. If the plant does well after it has been fresh potted, it will require another shift about the middle of June,
which should be considered the final one for the season; this will give sufficient time for the pot to be furnished with roots before the season is too far advanced, will retard its growth before winter, and bring it into a proper condition for resting. After it has become well established in its pot, it may gradually be exposed to more sun and air, and should the weather continue settled, it may be placed in a partially shaded situation out of doors; but if heavy rains and winds occur, it should be immediately removed to a place of protection, such as a cold pit or Cucumber-box, the latter being raised upon flower-pots, to allow a free circulation of air from below, keeping the lights on, in all unsettled showery weather, to throw off the water. It may remain here until the time has arrived for housing all kinds of greenhouse plants, which is generally in September, earlier or later according to the weather; for leaving out greenhouse plants too late in the season is a very great evil, more especially if the weather continues wet and dull, as their foliage becomes brown and unhealthy in consequence of always being kept cold and damp. When removed to the greenhouse, select a nice dry airy situation for it, where it will be exposed to the full sun, and where there will be a free circulation of air around it all through the winter, keeping it often turned to prevent its growing one-sided, and paying great attention not to allow it to be too bountifully supplied with water during the dull months.

When March has arrived, it may again be potted, treating it precisely as before, bearing in mind to keep it regularly topped each time after it has recovered from the effects of potting. By paying attention to this point, there will be no difficulty in procuring a fine, even symmetrical plant; but should one part happen to show a disposition to grow more rapidly than another, top it in closer, leaving the other only slightly topped, which will bring it to equal dimensions all round. If it advances satisfactorily, it will require another potting in June; this should, again, be considered its final shift for the season; and after it has got re-established from this shift, top it regularly all over, and should it be required to bloom the following summer, this must be considered its final topping, as late topping and late potting will cause it to grow too long in the season to insure a fine and regular head of bloom the following summer. But by early potting, and allowing it to become well established after its last shift, before the topping is performed, it will be found that the young wood it makes, if well ripened by winter, will produce in the following summer abundance of fine bloom, which will continue from June till December if required, and will afford a bountiful supply to cut for bouquets, as no plant is better adapted for this purpose than the one under consideration.

When the plant has become of sufficient size to allow it to bloom, some stimulating material judiciously applied will be found of the greatest benefit; for this purpose I have found Potter's guano answer admirably, taking two or three good pinches of it in the hand, and shaking it upon the soil when dry, using a small stick to stir it in. Upon this apply some soft water. Repeating this process three or
four times through the summer will invigorate the growth, and cause the foliage to become more intensely green. Always after applying this stimulant I have seen a decidedly favourable change take place, which has been quite perceptible to the observer even two days after application.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell.

William Barnes.

SHOW-BOARDS.

The Florist, Fruitist, and Garden Miscellany being popular, and its conductor highly respected by the Florists of Oxford and neighbourhood, I venture to give a few hints founded on my visit to the closing exhibition of the Royal Oxfordshire Horticultural Society this year.

The title chosen for the head of this article will be sufficiently explanatory of the subject selected; and I feel convinced, from the reception given me on the occasion referred to, that any remarks I may make will be received in the same spirit in which I venture to offer them, simply with the view of effecting an improvement in the general tout ensemble, so desirable, as was not only evinced, but on all hands acknowledged, at the exhibition in question. I allude to the tube or skeleton stands supplied by the Society for the use of its members; examples were numerous of the sorry appearance such a style of stand makes by the side of a well-painted flat-surfaced board, the flowers on which being just so much elevated that the back petals, of say Dahlias, escape touching the stand. Uniformity is much to be commended, hence I assume that the Society originated a universal stand; but such improvements have been made, that but few of the old-fashioned principles exist, and the abolition of these scaffold-like contrivances should be the next step of the management of the Society, and the reproduction of a new stand at once determined on and carried out. I will not here further consume the valuable pages of a most invaluable work on gardening matters—in truth the work—but rest content with having thus drawn attention to the subject, relying that the same will meet with every and just consideration from the properly constituted authorities.

Although these remarks are special for my Oxford friends, their application is truthful with many existing societies, which it may be mine to touch upon in the coming pages of the National Garden Almanac and Horticultural Trade Directory for 1854.

Holloway.

John Edwards.
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A POT-ROSE.

CHAP. III.


Heigh-ho! Where am I, and what has been the meaning of so much bustle, of which I have a somewhat indistinct though certain recollection? Ah! now I understand it all. I have been half asleep, and am only awakened to a state of thorough consciousness by the playing of a shower of milk-warm water over my naked branches. It was a frosty morning in January; my winter had already passed; I was in the forcing-house; John was using the syringe, and a moist genial warmth rose from the pipes as some few drops of water fell upon them. The wind was blowing keenly from without, and the snow was trying hard to find some crevice through which to enter, as if seeking shelter from the driving blast. But in vain. John held the maxim that "what was worth doing at all was worth doing well," and he saw with satisfaction from within that he had proved more than a match for frost and snow,—they were excluded, and I was safe.

Not to mislead my readers, or lay myself open to a charge of egotism, I may perhaps be allowed to say that I was not alone; my companions were various: there were the bashful Moss, the sturdy Hybrid Chinese, the fragrant Hybrid Perpetual, the clustering Noisette, the ever-blooming Bourbon, and the delicate-coloured Teascented, of various shades, all ready to spring into life and beauty; but as it is enough to tell one's own tale, I shall merely relate what pertains to myself. It was still winter (January) with the Roses out of doors, but spring had commenced with me; the temperature of the forcing-house in which I had been placed was 50° by day and about 40° by night. It was not, however, suffered to remain long at this point; gradually the heat was raised 10°, and the syringe was used every morning, sparingly if the weather was damp, and freely if sunny; and in some rare instances, if the day happened to be calm and genial, a little air was admitted for an hour or so. When my first leaves expanded, I was indulged with a little weak liquid manure, and this was increased in strength and quantity as my leaves grew and multiplied. The house was swept out at least twice a week; for another of John's maxims was, that "cleanliness was next to godliness;" and every thing around me was so neat and comfortable, that I began to think I had arrived at the summit of plant-happiness, when suddenly there came, from where I know not, a minute insect, the colour of my leaf, which caused me great
pain and annoyance. At first I looked upon her as a mere visitor, attracted hither by the warmth and comfort of my dwelling, and though it was irritating enough to have her stalking over the still delicate membrane of my leaf, this I might have borne on account of good nature. But, alas, I soon found that not only had she made up her mind to dwell on my leaves, but also to live on my juices! Puncture after puncture was made with rapid succession, and soon a host of young ones rose to join in the attack. A few days only had elapsed since the appearance of the first of this numerous race; but their voracity was so great that my roots could not meet the demand thus made on them: in vain I twisted my leaves; the more languid the supply the more violently did they suck my juices, and my health began to decline, when one day the door opened, and John, whom I had not seen for some time, came hobbling in with a stick. With a single glance of the eye he saw how the case stood, and forgetting his rheumatism, he dropped his crutch and hopped out of the house, shouting, "Jacob—green-fly—tobacco!"

Dire was the commotion; for when John spoke he was heeded, and soon a young man entered the house with a pair of bellows and a flower-pot, filled with something from which ascended a great smoke, and as it curled and twisted around my leaves, these marauders gradually relaxed their grasp, and tumbled into the abyss below. Oh, what a relief to me! The next morning I was syringed more freely than before, and the sensation I experienced was more than ever delightful. I cannot say that I liked the tobacco-smoke of the preceding evening, though I heard the young man who was puffing it with the bellows say it would do me good; I believe, however, that it did me no harm, and it was a cheap riddance of so dangerous an enemy. All now went on well for a time, when I was subjected to a fresh annoyance. Owing to the damp, cold weather, John could not give me enough of fresh air, and the atmosphere of the house became rather humid. As a consequence, a parasitical plant called mildew fastened on one or two of my young leaves; but he was soon put hors de combat by being smothered in sulphur. Again and again did fresh generations of green-fly attempt to gain a footing; but John, who was now well again, and ever on the watch, quickly dispersed them with a few whiffs from his tobacco-pipe. Thus I passed safely through the trying season, and grew and flourished. March had now arrived; my spring was merging into summer, and I was a pyramidal plant covered with flower-buds, the sepals just parting and showing the brilliant tint between the segments of green. I had before only excited John’s praise, but now the house resounded with exclamations of delight; and to speak the truth, I believed every good word that I heard said of me.

I became a great favourite with the young ladies of the establishment, and they one day brought their drawing-master to see me. My oeaity and symmetry so delighted him, that he obtained permission to take my portrait, which he said he would send to the Editor of the Florist; and so thoroughly was I impressed with myself at this epoch of my duration, that it is a small effort of the
memory to reproduce it here. This, then, was my form and stature at this stage of my existence:

But to return. I was again in bud, I blossomed, and my flowers once more strewed the ground. My seed-vessels were cut off, and I was left in the same house, only more air was now admitted. I was watered frequently and fumigated occasionally as before; the surface of the soil in the pot was sometimes loosened, and I flowered again early in June. My branches were now perfectly ripened and my pot full of roots; and as my master suggested that I should be exhibited the following year, I was shifted into a larger pot in rich coarse soil. I was now carried out of doors, the pot plunged half its depth in the ground in a situation freely exposed to sun and air, where I grew vigorously, and was ready to lay up for winter by the end of October.

Well-a-day! None of us young pot-Roses know for what great purposes we may be intended. I, an obscure cutting, destined to become an Exhibition-Rose! to bide 'neath gay and party-coloured tents, to blossom in the presence of royalty! Impossible! yet such is really the intention. A bright sunny morning gives John an unusual flow of spirits, and I hear him so communicating with himself while sharpening his knife preparatory to pruning me for the purpose.

William Paul.
SHACKLEWELL, STOKE NEWINGTON, AND HACKNEY FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Sept. 1st.—The following were the awards of the judges:

Nurserymen, 24 dissimilar blooms of Dahlias.—1st. Mr. Keynes, Salisbury, with Essex Triumph, Triumphant, Douglas Jerrold, Nonpareil, Miss Chaplin, Mrs. Seldon, Model, White Standard, Malvina, Louisa Glenby, Morning Star, Yellow Standard, Amazon, Sir R. Whittington, Plantagenet, General Faucher, Sir F. Bathurst, Magnificent, Lilac King, Exquisite, Negro, Fearless, Sir C. Napier, Duke of Wellington. 2d. Mr. Legge. 3d. Mr. Walker.

12 Fancies, Nurserymen. — 1st. Mr. Keynes, with Gloire de Kain, Mrs. Hansard, Empereur de Maroc, Princess Charlotte, Laura Lavington, Lady Grenville, Flower of the Day, Duchess of Kent, Attraction, Mrs. James, Wonderful, Nancy. 2d. Mr. Legge.

12 Dahlias, Amateurs.—1st. Mr. James, Stoke Newington, with Duke of Wellington, Sir F. Bathurst, Yellow Standard, Miss Caroline, Queen Victoria, Sir C. Napier, General Faucher, Fearless, Admiral, Mr. Seldon, Shylock, Louisa Glenby. 2d. Mr. Holmes, Hackney. 3d. Mr. Edwards, Holloway. 4th. Mr. Robinson, Pimlico. 5th. Mr. Weatherall. 6th. Mr. Hopkins, Brentford. 7th. Mr. Cook, Notting Hill. 8th. Mr. Procker, Bermondsey. 9th. Mr. Pope, Chelsea. Messrs. Dyson, Windsor, and Shrimpton also exhibited in this class.

6 Fancies. — 1st. Mr. Robinson, with Flora M’Ivor, Motley, Elizabeth, Maid of Lodi, Gloire de Kain, Laura Lavington. 2d. Mr. Edwards. 3d. Mr. Weatherall. 4th. Mr. Battie, of Erith.

24 Bunches of Verbenas. — 1st. Mr. Smith. 2d. Mr. Lochner. 3d. Mr. Holmes.

Fuchsias, Dealers.—1st. Mr. Fraser, Leyton. Amateurs.—1st. Mr. Holmes. 2d. Mr. Bullock. 3d. Mr. Allen.


Cut Blooms.—1st. Messrs. Paul.


Extra Prizes.

Best 6 Dahlias sent out by Mr. Turner. — 1st. Mr. Robinson, with Sir J. Franklin, Shylock, Duchess of Kent, Queen of Lilacs, Bob, Morning Star. 2d. Mr. Procker. By Mr. Burgess, for 3 blooms of Beauty of the Grove. — 1st. Mr. Cook. By Mr. Allen, for 12 Dahlias grown within 12 miles of London. — 1st. Mr. Heath. By Mr. Fraser, for 6 Fuchsias. — 1st. Mr. Allen. 2d. Mr. Holmes. Single specimen. — 1st Mr. Fraser. 6 Scarlet Geraniums. — 1st. Mr. Holmes. Lilium lancifolium. — 1st. Mr. Fraser. Verbenas in pots. — 1st. Mr. Fry.

In addition to the subjects for competition, C. Palmer, Esq., the president of the society, contributed a fine collection of Cacti; — Odell, Esq. sent an interesting collection of variegated stove-plants; Mr. Bunney of Stratford furnished a pretty collection of Ferns, also a fine group of Japan Lilies; Mr. Fraser sent a noble example of Allamanda cathartica, and a fine collection of Asters, as did Mr. Batten.

The following seedlings received certificates: — Rachel Rawlings (Keynes), first class; Topsy (Keynes), first class; Leader (Keynes), first class; Eva (Keynes), second class; Prince Alfred (Wyness), first class; Marvel (Pope), second class; Lady Emma (Windsor), second class.

Three fine blooms of Pope’s Gem of the Season were also exhibited, but no certificate was awarded, the Society requiring six blooms. A first-class certificate was awarded to Mr. Robinson for a seedling Verbena, named Mrs. Tyssen, which is one of the best we have seen, blush, with deep crimson centre, smooth, and of good form.
FLOWER-GARDENING. No. I.

In a work entitled Spectacle de la Nature, the eighth edition of which, "illustrated with copper-plates," was published in 1757, there is a number of plates of "Parterres," several of which, for intricate and appropriate design, would put to blush many of our modern innovations. We have the "Parterre of Embroidery," so elaborate, and yet so pretty, that to plant it with flowers we should imagine would mar the effect entirely; and we fancy we can see the wry face a gardener of the present day would pull, if told to provide plants to fill such a garden. Indeed, the plans fully realise an Hybernicism frequently expressed of geometrical flower-gardens, that they never look so "well filled as when quite empty," and neatly finished off by a tasty workman. Then we have a "parterre intermixed with embroidery and turf," and adjoining it a "parterre after the English manner;" a good, substantial, solid-looking thing, which a friend of mine, who had resided sufficiently long in France to imbibe French prejudices, pronounced, when he saw it, to be "purely English."

Now while we willingly admit, in fact it cannot be denied, that these embroidered gardens, when planted with dwarf Box, and the beds and walks filled with various-coloured soils and gravel, and very trimly kept, have a very neat appearance. Yet we must confess our own prejudice, in a gardening-point of view, is for a good solid bed and plenty of breadth of walk.

Time was when gardens, flower-gardens at least, were more admired for their form than for the plants or flowers which they contained; for to give a well-known garden as an illustration, we first extirpated the tall, gawky, rugged herbaceous plants from the flower-garden of the Duke of Devonshire at Chiswick House. That is now nearly twenty years ago; and then those narrow beds, which thousands have annually admired of late years, filled with Verbenas, Calceolarias, Petunias, &c., then contained a goodly array of Achilleas, Asters, Paeonies, and similar coarse-growing things, some of them six or seven feet high, and which flowered in huge bushes, and then were a bundle of rubbish the remainder of the season. There the now all-prevalent "grouping system" was just struggling into existence, and its advocates were looked upon as "not a little daft," by their brethren of the old school, for introducing a plan which never could be carried out, except in a "wee bit garden," and which even then must entail "no end of work" on those who undertook to illustrate its principle. We must confess that when the list of plants for the garden was drawn out, and the number necessary for each bed attached, the "tottle of the whole" presented, for those days, a rather formidable array of figures; but the attempt was made, and with yearly improvements, the result is now annually exemplified, through the kindness of the noble proprietor, to thousands who attend the Chiswick July fête.
Now one of the chief beauties (apart from the appropriateness of the design) of this garden, and we notice it as illustrating an important principle, is the breadth of feature imparted; that is, the beds are not huddled together, as is too frequently the case; but there is a sufficient breadth of grass and gravel intervening to admit of the whole design being fully comprehended and appreciated, even when each bed is filled with flowers.

The want of taste in a designer or gardener cannot be more fully exemplified than to see a plot of ground laid out in large beds and narrow walks; such a garden, whether the beds be filled with flowers or quite empty, will always look inharmonious; that is, the beds will want the relief of the broad grass or gravel walks, the flowers will lack their necessary contrasts, and the eye will seek in vain for its natural resting-place, the green turf. Such a plan cannot please; and though every person may not know the reason, they have only to study what we have stated above, to get at the principle of testing such designs. "Oh! but," remarks some lady-gardener, "I must have a bed of this, a bed of that, five or six each of Verbenas and Petunias, as many of Pelargoniums and Calceolarias; and then there is the delicious Heliotrope, those darling variegated and sweet-scented Pelargoniums, and many more things which I cannot think of. And how are all these things to be got into this man's plan of half a dozen or half a score beds?" Nothing more easy, my good madam. We will practise a little matrimony upon them, and make more appropriate unions among the families of plants than the lords of creation make in the genus *homo*. We will marry the light to the dark, and *vice versa*; and we will make each shine conspicuously by the brilliancy of its neighbour's light.

"But pray, sir, how do you propose to get breadth of walk in gardens laid out in gravel?" By means which bring us to the subject of our first illustration.

The annexed plan, simple though it looks, is very appropriate for a panel, or immediately associated with the straight lines of an architectural section. It was first laid down in the garden of James Cook, Esq., at this place, and we think we may say it has been admired by every person who has seen it. The beds at the first were edged with Box; but as it did not grow well, it was very appropriately replaced with imitation stone-edging. This edging is formed of the best yellow deal, one inch and a half thick, properly and thoroughly seasoned, painted stone colour, and dredged with sand while wet. An edging of this kind fixed, complete, with charred oak posts, and painted, would not cost more than 5l. or 6l., while the same extent worked in stone could not be fixed for less than 50l. or 60l.

For all work of this kind, especially where exposed to the friction of rollers, or the tools of careless workmen, are best formed of wood, as it is almost impossible to injure it, and if injured, reparation is soon made. The walks are three feet wide, of the best gravel, and inside the edging there is a line of gravel or yellow sand two inches wide, and then a strip of close turf, six inches wide, kept very closely and neatly cut. This edging of grass has a very neat and unusual
appearance; and, in addition to affording contrast for the flowers, has also the property of imparting breadth of feature to the walks, as taking in the grass on each side, there is a walking space of upwards of five feet and a half. These additional lines of the edging-gravel and grass also harmonise admirably with the lines of the mouldings of the building, and hence connect the garden and building, as a terrace-garden ought always to be connected. The idea of turf, in addition to the usual architectural edging, originated with Sir R. Westmacott; in fact, it was in a garden designed by him that we first
heard of the plan being adopted. The same plan might be carried out with dwarf Box; but it would be much more expensive, though less troublesome in the keeping.

But we must draw to a conclusion for the present; and, with an arrangement of plants for autumn planting, will say farewell until next month, when we will enter into a detailed account of the various plans upon which the beds may be cropped.

ARRANGEMENT FOR AUTUMN PLANTING.

No. 1. Hyacinths: a patch of Waterloo (red) in the centre, then a zone of L'Ami de Cœur (blue), another of Grand Vainqueur (white), a third of Porcelain Sceptre (blue), and a final edging of Cloth-of-gold Crocus.

2. Early Tulips, arranged in colours, edged with a zone of Blue Crocus and Lilac Primrose, intermixed.

3. Polyanthus Narcissus, intermixed with Nemophila insignis and maculata, and a final edging of White Crocus and Crimson Primrose.

4. Anemones, arranged as before, and edged with Cloth-of-gold Crocus and Snowdrops, intermixed.

5. Ranunculuses, the Scarlet, Yellow, and Black Turban, edged with Blue Crocuses and Winter Aconites, intermixed.

In planting bulbs there is no better plan than to take off the surface-soil of the beds to the depth of two or three inches; then dig the subsoil a spit deep, and put on a good coat of decayed cow or hotbed dung; on this arrange the bulbs; then give a thick dusting of soot, and return the surface-soil. This manuring will support the bulbs, and lightly forked up, will give a good start to the bedding-plants in the spring.

This garden is well adapted for a rosery; and we should be glad if Mr. W. Paul or Mr. Wilkinson would favour us with an arrangement of the more modern Tea, China, and Bourbon varieties.

Brooklands Nursery, Blackheath. Wm. P. Ayres.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Auriculas. The weather having been so mild of late, the plants may remain facing the north for a time, so that they are elevated some distance from the ground; a very little water will now suffice. Keeping them tolerably dry and cool prevents the plants from throwing up flowers at this time to the injury of the spring bloom. But do not run into the other extreme by allowing the soil to become dry through the ball. Air to be given on all occasions, except during cutting frosty winds.

Calceolarias. Seedlings of the first sowing will now require a good shift, repotting into large 60-pots, with good rich soil. Plants of named kinds from cuttings do not grow so vigorously at this
season as seedlings, which must not be over potted, and watered but sparingly.

Cinerarias. Plants intended for exhibition should have plenty of room. If crowded there will be no vigour in them to throw up the numerous heads of flower-stalks sufficient to form a good head of bloom. The general stock should be taken out of the pit on a fine day, clean them and replace them, removing a few that are throwing up early flowers into the greenhouse, giving the remainder of the plants the benefit of the room. Fumigate occasionally.

Carnations and Picotees. The autumn has been even worse for these plants than that of last year; two such seasons in succession will prove very injurious to the stock in general. Glass, plenty of it, and good glass too, free from drip, will be the only thing to save the stock and keep the plants healthy. With this convenience it is only necessary to give all the air possible in fine weather, by pulling the lights off, keeping the plants raised near the glass, and tilting the lights in wet weather. Water sparingly, and keep the plants clean.

Dahlias. Store away pot roots when dry, and take the first opportunity of lifting ground-roots, drying them in an airy shed before storing them for the winter. Drain any water there may be in the stem by standing them crown downwards for a day. Secure the remainder of the seed. The pods of the first gathering will now be ripe enough to pull to pieces, spreading the seed on canvas to dry.

Hollyhocks. Pot up the old stools of choice kinds; they will winter along the side of walks, in the houses, or in pits and frames. It is the wet which prevents their wintering out of doors. Cuttings can also be taken from them in January and February, which will bloom in September. The plants struck in summer would now be benefited by repotting into a size larger, using tolerably rich soil. These are best wintered in cold pits or frames, near the glass, giving plenty of air. Late-struck plants will require a little heat.

Pansies, having been potted as directed last month, will only require plenty of air and keeping clean.

Pinks. These should have been planted for blooming some time past. If the weather has prevented this being done, care should be taken in doing so not to disturb the roots, but to plant them with a good ball of earth. If the ground cannot be caught dry, it would be better to pot them; pairs in a small pot, and turn them out early in March.

Pelargoniums. There will not be much to do to the plants this month, but the state of the houses must be attended to. Go where we may, we invariably find the houses damp and cold, instead of warm and dry, as they should be at this season. A fire two or three times a week this damp weather would do good, opening the houses at the time.

Tulips. Plant immediately if the soil is in good condition; many plant in October, which is the proper time for offsets.
1. Virginia.
2. Regalia.
THE PELARGONIUM.

The two varieties figured in our present Number were produced by Mr. Hoyle of Reading, the successful raiser of Magnet, Mochanna, Medora, Colonel of the Buffs, Basilisk, Astrea, Zaria, Leonora, and several other fine kinds which are well known to the public. Regalia and Virginia first bloomed in 1852, and were grown on trial, and exhibited during the past summer. Virginia is a flower of the Virgin Queen class, but smoother, with a much darker spot on the top petals, and a better-defined and much narrower margin of white. It is a short, strong grower, something of the habit of Exactum. The National Floricultural Society awarded it a first-class certificate in June last. Regalia was not submitted to the censors of the National, but it was successfully exhibited at the Botanic Society's Exhibition in Regent's Park, where it obtained the medal for the best scarlet. A single flower of this variety much resembles Incomparable, but it has a larger spot on the top petals. Its superiority, however, consists in being a good grower and free bloomer. It is equally adapted, and will be very effective, either on the home-stage or exhibition-table.

The time is fast approaching when the growers of this universal favourite will begin to take great interest in the probable results of the season of 1854; such interest, in fact, as few but those who grow for our great Exhibitions have even a faint conception of. We shall hear of beautiful Rosamonds, Magnets, and Optimums, at one place; sturdy Mochannas and Enchantresses at another; and wonderful Magnificents, Constancies, Rosas, &c. at a third; with Fancies growing like water-cresses at Mr. Forcum's. This excitement goes on increasing until the 13th of May, 1854, the opening day of the season, when all our expectations and doubts will be confirmed one way or other.

Many, we know, when reading the accounts of our great shows, are surprised at the names of the winning Pelargoni-ums, and ask the reason why so many, particularly in May, are old varieties. The reason is evident enough to those who attend the Exhibitions, and easily explained to such as have not that advantage. A plant, to be in good condition early, must be an old one, with well-ripened wood; and this cannot be the case with a new variety. There cannot be a doubt of the policy of showing a good Rosamond, Gulielma, or Alonzo, however old, compared with a plant of modern and better kinds not in condition, and such as will undoubtedly displace them.
in time. The best plants at the first Exhibition last spring were Gulielma, and at the second Rosamond. The most remarkable and attractive perhaps was Colonel of the Buffs. When we get into June, flowers of finer quality are to be seen, such as the beautiful Enchantress and the noble Optimum, and other fine flowers of the same age.

As regards the first Exhibition for 1854, the following will not be far from our collection, let their position be what it may: Magnet, Magnificent, Mochanna, Rowena, Colonel of the Buffs, Gulielma, Constance, Rosamond, Medora, Pearl, Basilisk, and Ariadne. It will be observed that many of these are still very old kinds; but they possess one of the greatest points of excellence for exhibition-plants, viz. profuseness of bloom. It will undoubtedly be an improvement, and a great one, when Regalia displaces Basilisk; Lucy and Duchess of Wellington, Constance and Gulielma; Attraction, Mochanna, and Virginia, Pearl, &c.; but this we cannot expect to see before another season.

The improvement in the Pelargonium is going steadily on, some seasons being more prolific in producing finer varieties than others; and we hope to be enabled another season to report that seedlings have met with more encouragement at our great Exhibitions than they have hitherto done.

THE OLD SUPERINTENDENT TO THE READERS OF THE "FLORIST."

As I look over the volumes and loose numbers of the Florist now lying before me, it is with unmixed gratification that I measure the progress and value of a work in which I was so long interested. All that was projected in its establishment, and announced in its original prospectus, has been faithfully carried out; and if not to the extent that was, and is still desired, it has been simply because the circulation, though large, has not warranted the additional expense which would have been thereby incurred. I allude more particularly to that staff of paid correspondents in various districts of the country, it was hoped at one time might be established and maintained. It is well for us to remember what was the general character of floral literature when the Florist made its appearance. It was, in a word, discreditable to the pursuit. The principal illustrated monthly magazine consisted in the main of extracts from other publications, and not of original matter. The correspondence of Florists was too much of it personal; and this was fostered and promoted by a writer, whose talent seemed to lie in that direction alone. It was some
months before the character of our publication was known; and then the fault was discovered that of the early numbers not one half of the required quantity had been printed. They were put again into type, and again the same error was committed; and the consequence has been, I dare say, that very many of the present subscribers cannot make their set of volumes complete. I had myself once the gratification of seeing the first 12 Nos. sold at public auction for 21 shillings, which had been purchased for 12. Well, one year more, and it will have served its apprenticeship of seven years; and I would suggest, that in the coming year the present proprietor should ask for, and receive, suggestions for any alterations that would effect an improvement.

It would be worth while to consider the propriety of enlarging the paper, so as to give more room for the plate, which at present seems to me rather confined. Coloured representations of fruit, too, might judiciously be added, particularly of new varieties. I would also suggest that parties requiring their novelties to be figured, might be allowed to do so upon payment of a reasonable sum, and its being clearly understood that the conductor was to be answerable for the fidelity of the representation. By this means we should get more illustrations; and I am quite sure it would answer the purpose of all parties; for a good coloured plate, and particularly if it can be relied on, is the best of all advertisements. I trust your readers will pardon my intrusion upon your pages. Since my pecuniary interests in the work have ceased, I have been too closely engaged in other occupations to bestow much time upon floriculture; but I have never ceased to feel a warm interest in its advancement; and whilst I write I feel myself again in the midst of those kind friends who so ably supported me in my efforts, and to whom alone belonged the merit of my success. May we all continue to be animated by a determination to maintain the Florist in its present excellent condition, and by endeavouring to increase its circulation, add thereby to the ability of its present conductor to increase its merits and claims on our support.

Edward Beck.

PLEROMA ELEGANS.

This lovely autumnal blooming greenhouse plant is well worthy of all the attention which can possibly be bestowed on it. The season at which it comes into bloom, and the length of time it continues in beauty, quite entitle it to rank among first-class plants. Although we rarely find it in the splendid collections which adorn the tents of our great metropolitan exhibitions, still it is my belief that it will yet be brought into bloom for that purpose at a much earlier season than we have been accustomed to see it: this may be accomplished by a certain kind of winter treatment, which I will presently endeavour to explain; but first let us commence by furnishing ourselves with a small bushy healthy plant, and after the turn of the days, say
the middle of January, place it in a moderate heat, ranging from 50° to 60°, where it will soon become excited into growth. When such is found to be the case, examine its roots, and if they are in a healthy, vigorous state, and the pot full of them, prepare for potting the following compost, viz. fibrous sandy loam and peat mould in equal proportions, half the quantity of well-decayed leaf-mould and sharp sand, and some pieces of charcoal or broken potscherds. Mix these well together and prepare a nice clean pot by well draining it. When potting, press the soil down moderately tight; be very cautious not to sink the plant too deep into the fresh mould, keeping it well up, so that when the potting is finished the old ball may be barely covered with the fresh earth.

When potted, place a few small sticks neatly round it for tying it out into shape, spreading out the branches as wide as can conveniently be done without injury, for the purpose of opening the middle of the plant; this will encourage it to break and throw out young shoots, with which to form the specimen as it advances in growth. When this is performed, remove it into the house from which it was taken, and in a fortnight it may be considered sufficiently established in its new pot to admit of its being regularly topped, to which every shoot that has two joints should be subjected; this will cause it to break regularly all over, and furnish itself with young wood close to the pot.

About the month of April it will require another fresh potting, which should be given rather liberally, not merely removing it from one size plant to the next, but giving it one three sizes larger than the one it is now in, as it will be found to be a plant of very vigorous growth, if properly treated. The same compost should be used as before, but in a rougher, coarser state. After this is accomplished, put it back into the place it previously occupied; and in a fortnight or three weeks it will be in a proper state to bear the operation of regular topping, which should be performed on every shoot, removing the tops of the short branches but little, while the longer and more robust ones should be topped back two or three joints as circumstances may require, bearing in mind to have your plant of a nice, even, regular shape, and keeping it spread out by tying all the outside shoots to small sticks, opening the middle, as it will always furnish itself with abundance of wood. After it has broken regularly all over, and made about one inch of growth, it should be removed to a cooler house, which should be a greenhouse, making choice of a place in it where it is not exposed to draught or cutting winds, and where it may remain until the middle or latter end of June, when it may be taken to a cold pit, where the lights can be removed and air gradually given it, but not exposing it too suddenly, as this may give it a severe check, and cause the leaves to become brown and unhealthy. It may remain here until the proper time arrives for housing all greenhouse plants; and after it has become inured to this kind of treatment, the lights may be removed from it altogether on very fine days, never allowing it to be exposed to heavy rains or storms. If it progresses satisfactorily, it will require another shift about July;
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this should be the final one for the season, bearing in mind to top it after it has recovered from the shift.

When the proper time has arrived for housing all greenhouse plants, should the plant in question be required to come into bloom at an earlier period than the latter end of June or beginning of July, make choice of a warm, sheltered part of the greenhouse for it in winter, where it is away from all cold cutting winds when air is given, and as close to the glass as possible, keeping the top lights closed all the winter, and at the same time well exposing it to all the sun it can have, which will ripen the wood more perfectly and forward its blooming amazingly. Watering through the winter must be attended to with care; keep it in a moderate state, never allowing it to get too dry, nor giving it an over supply at one time.

Should it not be required to bloom before its usual time, it may be placed in any light airy place in the greenhouse during winter. A little weak manure water will be found of great benefit to this plant, if judiciously given when it has arrived at its blooming season.

Camden Nursery, Camberwell. William Barnes.

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THE STANWICK NECTARINE.

There are few people, perhaps, in the horticultural world who have not heard or read, within the last three years, something about the Stanwick Nectarine, more especially when we recollect that it was sent out under the auspices of a leading gardening journal, and with such a high character of its merits, that but few who had the means could refrain from buying it, although it was let out at an enormously high price. Of that, however, few, I imagine, would have complained, if the article itself had satisfied the expectations of its purchasers. It has now been sufficiently proved, in several establishments, to enable some of us who first bought it to offer an opinion of its merits—myself being among the number. I propose, therefore, to give your readers my experience of it, so far as I am at present acquainted.

I have fruited it these last two seasons. Last year I fruited it in a pot, in a peach-house without fire-heat (with the exception of a few dull cold days in the spring and autumn, when a fire was put on). I ought perhaps to state, that I fruited two plants under precisely similar conditions. It was very late in ripening, fully three weeks, at least, later than an Elruge under the same circumstances. The fruit commenced cracking four or five weeks previous to being ripe; and by the time it was ripe it was very much spoiled in appearance. In some cases it was split to the stone; in fact, it was not in a state fit to send to table. The fruit was full-sized, and in flavour rich and excellent, but rather dry.

After gathering the fruit last season,—to give it, if possible, a better trial, I planted both the trees out in the same house—a span
roof one—and trained them to a trellis near the glass. I have had some fruit again this year; but they have not done so well with me this season as they did last, which I think may be accounted for by the fact, that it will not ripen under glass, in such a dull season as this has been, without the assistance of much fire-heat. I used a little fire-heat, in the dull days of autumn, again this season, as I had done the previous year; but with this in its favour, the Stanwick never ripened with me this season: all the fruit half decayed and dropped off not ripe. I gathered good ripe Elruge Nectarines from the same house, and under similar circumstances, full five or six weeks before the Stanwicks dropped off unripe; and allow me to say, that the Stanwick had the advantage of the sunny side of the house. All the rest of my crop of Peaches and Nectarines, from this house, were cleared off well ripened fully three weeks before the Stanwicks dropped off not ripe.

As far as my experience goes with this Nectarine, it will not ripen under glass, in such a dull season as this has been, without a good deal of fire-heat, and unless the cracking, which it seems peculiarly liable to, can be got rid of. Whether it is worth growing at all or not is a matter to be considered; it certainly will never be worth trying against a wall out of doors. I had one so planted, but I have taken it out again, as well as one in the peach-house; I have potted them, and intend trying them next season in an earlier peach-house, which is forced. I think probably it may do better under this treatment; at any rate, I do not wish to throw it away without thoroughly proving it.

At the present time (November 15th) a tree of it in my peach-house retains its foliage as green as possible, while all the rest of the trees in this house have not got a leaf on them.          H. C.

NEW PLUMS.

The three varieties of new Plums—Angelina Burdett, Standard of England, and Black Gage—figured in this Number, were raised from seed about ten years ago by Mr. H. Dowling, Woolston Lawn, Southampton. These plums have been in a fruiting state for several years past, and have been submitted and approved of by the most competent authorities. We were also favoured with specimens of them during the first week of September last; and, notwithstanding the unfavourable season for out-door fruit, they were of a very excellent flavour. We can only present our readers with their portraits, which are executed with Mr. Andrews' usual fidelity. Mr. Dowling informs us that they are good growers and prolific bearers.
1. black Gage
2. Standard of England
3. Angehna Bardett
Among the flowers noticed in the pages of the *Florist*, the lovely Rhododendron seems to be very much disregarded, though, from the number of beautiful garden varieties now existing, it may almost claim a share of the Florist's attention. Can too much be said of this magnificent tribe of plants, of which it is almost impossible to exaggerate the value in a gardening point of view, and the interest, even while out of flower, of the various habits and foliage of the species and garden hybrids? In those fortunate situations in England, where the true Arboreum, and its tender varieties, can flourish in the open air, the effect of masses of the scarlet blossom is rich and gorgeous beyond description, and what can be but little imagined by those who have merely seen a plant or two in flower in a conservatory. Thanks, however, to the Messrs. Waterer, Standish, and Noble, &c., we have now in the colder portions of the kingdom some most lovely sorts, of every colour and size of truss. The beautiful rich scarlet-crimson of John Waterer, the fresh bright pink of Antonio, the spotted bells of Leopardi, and the brilliant white of many, both in pure and spotted varieties. What can be more lovely than the pyramidal truss of the lovely blush Regina, or the glowing crimson of Brayanum? And now, thanks to Dr. Hooker, we may hope to possess a colour new to the hardy branch of the family in Wighti, which is of a bright yellow with red spots.

The foliage alone of the Sikkim Rhododendrons is worth the trouble of growing them; but when we say that they vary in every shade of colour, from the deep blood-hue of Thompsoni and Fulgens, through the pink of Hodgsoni and yellow of Wighti to the snowy white of Falconeri, and the foliage of every size and character, from the heathlike Lepidotum to the gigantic leaf of Falconeri and Argenteum, we may well say that we feel enthusiastic in their behalf; and will none of our energies be bestowed in trying to hybridise the bright Apricot-colour of the Javanicum with some of the hardy varieties both of white and scarlet, so as to attain a near approach in richness of tone to the original Java species? We are promised before long the yellow-flowering species from Borneo, named Brooki, which may also assist us in obtaining this much-desired tint; and perhaps it may prove of a more hardy constitution than the Javanese plant, of which many complain they can make nothing, though I feel convinced that many owe their failure to too much kindness, and that if they would neglect it, by turning it out of the house, under the shelter of a north wall, during the season they are free from frosts, better success would attend them. There is a garden variety which fully deserves mention to be made of it, called Hibbertii; the foliage strongly shows that it claims Campanulatum as its parent, and the flowers, for size and shape, are not to be surpassed even by the tender Dalhousia; each flower is nearly the size of a coffee-cup, and of French white, much speckled with crimson; and from not opening until the end of May, it generally escapes being nipped by the spring
frosts. By whom this splendid sort was raised I cannot say. I bought it accidentally with some others of Messrs. Knight and Perry of Chelsea; and I am happy in finding that Mr. Veitch, jun., has still a fine stock of plants at the Exotic Nursery. I would advise all who love the hardy varieties of this family to possess at least a plant of it.

Treverbyn.

[If our correspondent will kindly turn to page 65, vol. v., and page 146 of our present year's volume, he will find that the Rhododendron has not been forgotten by us. On the contrary, we are always happy to put on record any thing of interest regarding this charming shrub, the value of which can hardly be overrated. The great fault of high-coloured Rhododendrons has hitherto been their not flowering sufficiently late to be out of the reach of frost, which in severe springs have invariably destroyed their blossoms. But now, as "Treverbyn" remarks, thanks to the skill and perseverance of those who have given attention to the raising of hybrids, flowers not more remarkable for their brilliancy of colour than for their fine shape have been put upon plants which bloom sufficiently late to escape early frosts. We may, therefore, henceforth expect that this showy evergreen will become even a greater favourite than it ever yet has been; and our correspondents may rest assured that we shall be but too happy to give any thing of interest connected with the genus a prominent place in our pages.—Ed.]

STOKE-NEWINGTON CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.

Nov. 17.—The Seventh Annual Exhibition of this Society was held at the Manor Rooms, Stoke Newington. The meeting was most successful, both for flowers and company, the day being exceedingly fine—quite an exception for November.

We have seen a few stands a trifle superior to any exhibited on the present occasion; but there were no bad ones; and, on the whole, we consider it the best exhibition that has taken place of this flower. The Anemone-flowered kinds, however interesting on the plants, are but poor subjects to show in a cut state, and do not deserve an especial prize; not so the beautiful Pompons. These are yearly increasing in estimation, and were certainly the most interesting objects of the day. Mr. Robinson's plants of the class were the best specimens of Chrysanthemum growing we have seen. These plants were clothed with foliage to the pot, and about as much through as they were high, viz. from 18 inches to 2 feet, and beautifully flowered. We give the names and colours of them below. The individual blooms were also clean and fine; and this has been accomplished in what may be termed the smoke of London. The Pompons shown in a cut state, in bunches, were also very attractive. These should be shown in three spikes, or branches, in a bunch, without reference to
the length of each branch, when they make very interesting objects. Mr. James's plants of the large-flowering kinds deserved especial mention. The following were the awards of the judges:

6 Plants, in 11-inch pots: 1st, Silver Cup, Mr. James, Stoke Newington, with Pilot, Mount Etna, Christine, Defiance, Madame Cameron, Queen of England; 2d, Mr. Scruby, Mount Etna, Defiance, Annie Salter, Vesta, Christine, Queen of England; 3d, Mr. Holmes, Hackney, for Defiance, Christine, Mount Etna, Annie Salter, Vesta, and Pilot. Pompons, in 8-inch pots: 1st, Mr. Robinson, Pimlico, with Drine Drine (yellow, very fine), Bijou de Horticulture (creamy-white, inclining to yellow towards the centre), Autumnna (bronze), Solfaterre (bright yellow), Atropus (crimson), Cedo nulli (blush white); 2d, Mr. Ivery, President, Decaisne, Solfaterre, Autumnna, Minon (blush white), Drine Drine, Cedo nulli; 3d, Mr. Scruby, Graziella, Autumnna, President, Decaisne, Model (creamy-white), Le Nain Bebe, Bijou de Horticulture. Pompons, in 32's: 1st, Mr. Robinson, Fenella (golden yellow), Minon, La Pactole (bronze-yellow), Daphne (rosy-purple), Model, Drine Drine; 2d, Mr. Holmes, Drine Drine, Autumnna, Model, Sacramento (yellow), President, Decaisne, and Fenella. A finely-bloomed collection of Pompons was exhibited by Mr. E. Spary, Brighton, trained to trellises, after the manner of trained Verbenas, lying flat upon the pot, producing a very pleasing and novel effect. These were also well-bloomed; and great credit is due to Mr. Spary for producing plants in such condition so far from where they were grown; but we give the preference to the natural style, as exemplified in Mr. Robinson's and Mr. James's plants. 24 Cut Blooms: 1st, Mr. Wortley, Queen of England, Cyclops, Madame Audry, Formosum, Dupont de l'Eure, Campestroni, Golden Cluster, Lycius, Duke, Plutus, Defiance, Rabelais, Annie Salter, Pio Nono, Vesta, Nonpareil, Rosa, Mystica, Phydias; 2d, Mr. Sanderson, Beauty, Queen of England, Golden Cluster, Beauty, Defiance, Phydias, Queen of England, Golden Cluster, Goliath, King, Alcibiades, Racine, The Warden, Vesta, Warden, Goliath, Rosa Mystica, Aristides, Formosum, Madame Corbey, Christine, Dupont de l'Eure, Admiral, Rosa Mystica; 3d, Mr. Taylor; 4th, Mr. James; 5th, Mr. Scruby; 6th, Mr. Merry. 12 Blooms: 1st, Mr. James, Queen of England, Regina, Beauty, King, Christopher Colombe, Rosa Mystica, Warden, Leon Leguay, Plutus, Dupont de l'Eure, Lysius, Formosum; 2d, Mr. E. Sanderson, Beauty, Queen of England, Clustered Yellow, Goliath, Warden, Dupont de l'Eure, Defiance, Themis, Formosum, Pio Nono, Plutus, Rosa Mystica; 3d, Mr. Taylor; 4th, Mr. Hutton; 5th, Mr. Bundel; 6th, Mr. Scruby; 7th, Mr. Wortley; 8th, Mr. Monk; 9th, Mr. Moodie, Gateshead, Durham. 6 Blooms: 1st, Mr. E. Sanderson, Clustered Yellow, Goliath, Queen of England, Defiance, Beauty, and Warden; 2d, Mr. James, Beauty, Queen of England, King, Regina, Leon Leguay, and Plutus; 3d, Mr. Hutton, Golden Cluster, Beauty, Nonpareil, Dupont de l'Eure, Madame Audry, Plutus; 4th, Mr. Bundel; 5th, Mr. Scruby; 6th, Mr. Mallet; 7th, Mr. Ferrier; 8th, Mr. Mallet; 9th, Mr. Monk; 10th, Mr. Sanderson.
Some of the cut blooms were of great size and depth. The finest specimens were Queen of England, Dupont de l’Eure, Plutus, Themis, Pius IX., Vesta, Defiance, and Beauty. We are not only pleased to see this the original Chrysanthemum Society maintain its position, but increase in importance. It is worthy of remark, that flowers were exhibited from Gateshead, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, and were exceedingly fine, considering how far north, for this late flower, they were grown.

THE NEW CRYSTAL PALACE AT SYDENHAM.

It is generally acknowledged that England possesses no example of public gardens worthy of her intelligence and limitless resources, and that in this respect she has hitherto been greatly outstripped by her neighbour France. Of recent years the Royal Gardens at Kew have been greatly enlarged and vastly improved, and now certainly occupy the first place in Europe as botanical gardens. But although these are tastefully laid out, their artificial decorations hardly deserve the name when compared with such examples as are to be seen in France. The reason of this inferiority on the part of England is no doubt to be found in the fact, that while the government of France has been in the habit of undertaking the execution of great public works for the people, the English government leaves all such work to be executed by the people, or by private companies; and until Sir Joseph Paxton’s happy idea of combining gardens with the Crystal Palace, no company seems to have ventured upon the formation of highly artistic gardens for the people. Now, however, the Crystal Palace Company, aided by the genius of Sir Joseph Paxton, bids fair to produce such a work as will place England as much in advance in this respect as she has hitherto been behind.

The Crystal Palace itself occupies a commanding position on the top of elevated ground some 200 feet above the Brighton Railway, which passes near the southern boundary of the park. The central portion of the building, rising to the airy height of some 220 feet, will be a striking object for a vast distance around; and from the palace will doubtless be one of the most extensive and certainly the richest views in England; for, besides looking down upon the gardens, rich in all kinds of decorations, the eye will sweep over some forty miles of country.

The gardens occupy the south front of the Palace, sloping down a gentle declivity towards the railway above alluded to, and although a great portion is still in an unfinished state, sufficient progress has been made to enable visitors to form some idea of what the effect will be when the whole of the works connected with those matchless gardens shall have been completed. The narrow slope between the basement of the palace and the level of the first terrace is covered with a close verdant turf, and the terrace itself is in a very forward state. This terrace is supported by a handsome wall, running its
whole length, or 1700 feet, faced with Bath stone, and crowned by a massive and elegant balustrade. Several flights of broad steps lead from this down to the second terrace, which is to be laid out in flower-beds in grass, intersected in various directions by gravel-walks. The basins for the numerous fountains with which it is to be ornamented are excavated, and will soon be completed. Two conspicuous looking objects, in connexion with the palace, are the towers for affording a fall for working the fountains. These are placed one at each end of the building, and will, we believe, be carried some 280 feet in height.

The main central walk, leading from the principal transept through the two terraces, has been put into shape as far as where the first great fountain in the park is to play; and the balustrading along the top of the lower terrace-wall has been continued down the sides of this walk as far as it is raised, and round the fountain, till it terminates in two neat piers a little below the latter. The slopes from the base of the stone-work down to the level of the surrounding ground have been turfed, which has the effect of setting off the white stone with which the terrace-walls are formed to great advantage. All along the terrace-walls the little piers, which are 24 feet apart, are to be surmounted by vases filled with flowering plants; and we understand that beds of sweet-smelling flowers are to be scattered plentifully along the grassy bank below the first terrace, so as to yield an agreeable perfume to visitors looking over the wall on the magnificent gardens below, with their delightful groups of ornamental shrubs, flowers, and fountains. A large tract of ground lying between a natural knoll, or little hill, on the west side of the first great fountain in the park, and the front of the terrace-gardens, has been laid down in turf, or sown with grass-seeds, and completed; and the walks in this part of the grounds have been made and rough gravelled. Various well-arranged clumps have also been formed and planted; and altogether this side of the park, with its finely undulating surface and broad glades of grass, begins to assume an interesting and finished appearance. We observed that, in the planting, advantage had been taken to place the clumps around trees which had previously been growing upon the ground, thus giving the whole a more established appearance than it could otherwise have had. On the top of the eminence, or little knoll, just mentioned, we understand that it is purposed to erect some kind of ornamental conservatory; but its shape or construction, we believe, is not yet determined upon. A number of various-shaped flower-beds have also been formed along the sides of the walks in the finished part of the ground; and we are informed that the whole of the margins of the walks are to be ornamented in this manner, which, when they shall have been completed, and covered with bright flowering plants, cannot fail to produce a charming effect. Before leaving this part of the grounds, we may mention that the palace station, into which the railway from London Bridge is to run, is being formed close on the western boundary of the park, at a little distance from the palace, between which and the station there is to be a glass covered way, so that the contents of the build-
ing may be inspected without inconvenience, during all kinds of weather. The railway itself is in a very forward state.

If we pass down the line of the great central walk which is to lead to the bottom of the park, decorated, as it is intended to be, on the side, with flowers and shrubs, and alive with fountains and waterfalls, we find great operations going on; but little here is at present finished. True, broad gravel-walks and green sloping banks are beginning to make their appearance, and the basins for the great lakes and fountains, on either side of the main walk, are in a comparatively advanced state; but nevertheless, upon the whole, it is as yet difficult to form a correct idea of the grandeur and magnificence which it is intended that this portion of the grounds, when finished, shall display. Of the kind of fountains with which the lakes are to be furnished, we may mention that the centre column of water will rise 230 feet in height; around that will be four fountains, each 120 feet in height, and these, again, will be surrounded by sixteen others, each 72 feet in height. Nor is this all; there are other groups as grand, besides multitudes of smaller jets of a similar character, which in themselves will doubtless be worthy of Sir Joseph Paxton's experience in such matters.

On the shores and islands of the lake, at the end of the main central walk, are to be dispersed "models of the extinct and singular monsters of the wealden and neighbouring periods. Huge Cheloniens are to bask upon the banks; the Plesiosaur, with its reptile form and bird-like neck, is to rest in the mud; the Megalosaur, the most gigantic of lizards, is to rear its portentous form among the rushes; and the enormous Iguanodon, half elephant half crocodile, measuring 100 feet from his snout to his tail, is to exhibit himself as the true prototype of the dragons of antiquity. We have seen these models, and we are glad to bear witness to the admirable skill with which Mr. Hawkins is investing Portland cement with the similarity of these hideous giants of a former world."

It will be gathered from the above hasty glance at this great garden, that much—very much—has yet to be done before all that is contemplated shall have been completed; and notwithstanding the immense number of labourers employed, we doubt whether the Company will be able to fulfil its promise to have everything finished by May next. Surface-work is soon forwarded; but here the great bulk of the labour lies in moving immense quantities of soil, and carrying it from one part of the grounds to another, in order to raise mounds and carry out the levels. This, therefore, is a work of time; and unless the winter should be favourable, it cannot be conducted with advantage during that season of the year. We will, however, from time to time, furnish our readers with such accounts of its progress as we shall hereafter think may prove interesting to them.
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FRUITS.

PLUMS.

(Continued from p. 249.)

11. White Magnum Bonum.

Synonyms: Egg Plum, Wentworth, Yellow Egg, Yellow Magnum Bonum, White Holland, White Egg, White Mogul, White Imperial, with several others, mostly French.

The fruit is of the largest size, oval, tapering a little at the end; the suture is strongly marked, and extends from the apex to the stalk. Skin golden yellow, dotted with grey specks, and covered with a thin pale bloom. Stalk an inch long, stout, and set without depression in a slightly raised border. Flesh yellow, coarse grained, moderately rich, and adheres considerably to the stone, which is long and pointed. Ripens in the beginning of September. This plum is mostly used for preserving and pastry; and for those purposes it certainly is one of the best. The red variety is also excellent for the same uses, and is generally a better bearer than the white, especially as a standard; but it is not advisable to plant either kind as such, both being heavy fruits, and liable to be blown down before they are ripe: the best situation is an east or west wall, otherwise as an espalier.


Synonyms: Coe’s Plum, Golden Gage, Bury Seedling, Fair’s Golden Drop, New Golden Gage, Coe’s Imperial.

This valuable autumn Plum is an English variety raised by Mr. Coe, a fruit-grower at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk; it stands pre-eminent as a late kind, ripening in September, and it will keep fit for use up to the middle of November, provided the weather is favourable.

The fruit is large, oval, slightly compressed near the stalk, and has a distinct suture, which is deepest near the apex, and more swollen on one side than the other. Stalk from half to three-fourths of an inch long, and set without depression. Skin yellow, sometimes tinged with
red, and generally dotted with dark purplish red spots of various sizes. Flesh yellow, juicy, sweet, and luscious, slightly adhering to the stone, which is long and pointed. The trees are hardy, and will bear as standards; but its proper place is an east or west wall.

Perhaps it may be as well to mention here, that, in the management of trained trees of this variety, care should be taken to secure a supply of young short shoots, annually removing those in the winter pruning that are becoming unproductive. This insures a crop, and keeps the trees in a good bearing condition, which it is somewhat difficult otherwise to effect, as the spurs are so liable to die off, leaving the branches bare. The finest fruit is also produced from two years' wood.

13. Reine Claude Violette.

Synonyms: Purple Gage, Violet Gage, Violet Queen Claude.

Fruit medium size, round, slightly flattened at the ends; suture not over deep, but distinct. Stalk an inch long, and inserted in a small even cavity. Skin deep violet, dotted with golden specks, and traces of green at times near the stalk, the whole covered with a thin pale bloom. Flesh yellowish green, very rich, juicy, and saccharine, resembling the Green Gage in flavour; and although perhaps not quite so rich, certainly second to no other Plum. It has, however, an advantage over the Gage in other respects, i. e. it does not crack when ripe, will hang much longer on the tree, and generally proves a better bearer even as an open standard. The fruit ripens the end of August, and will usually keep good till the middle of October; but should the autumn be dry, its season may be extended to the end of the month, especially if grown on a north-east wall, to which aspect, as well as west, it is admirably adapted.

This is undoubtedly the best of all the purple-fruited kinds, and well deserves a place in every garden where four varieties are cultivated.

Frogmore. J. Powell.
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A POT-ROSE.

CHAP. IV.

I AM PRUNED FOR EXHIBITION—CONVEYED INTO THE EXHIBITION-HOUSE—TIED DOWN—EXCITED TO GROW—TIED OUT—SHADEDBLOOMED—VISITORS—MANETTI STOCK.

And John did prune me; for he said, as he cut quite half my branches away, and shortened those he left to two or at most three eyes, that I was one of that sort that required close pruning. But when he had finished me, I saw him pass to my neighbour, who was of a looser and more diffuse habit than myself, and with him, after thinning out, he left from four to seven eyes on each shoot. As we both grew and flowered well at the same time, he was no doubt right in thus varying his practice.

No sooner was I pruned, than I was carried with the rest into the exhibition-house, a beautiful new structure reared expressly for our use. There were twenty-four of us, for although only eight were required at the show, I heard John say it was necessary to have a large number, to make sure of eight being in full bloom on the show-day. I was not a little proud of this improvement, in my position; the house I now inhabited being so much finer than the one in which I had lived the year before. It was a span-roofed house, the faces looking towards the east and west. A double row of hot-water pipes ran all round the interior; the top-lights on one side slid up and down, and all the side-lights were movable, to command a free supply of fresh air.

It was early in December, about a fortnight after I had been pruned and brought into the house, that the first signs of winter appeared: it snowed very hard, and this brought John in-doors, not that he cared for a little rough weather, but that he considered he might, under such circumstances, be more usefully employed within. He had a skein of bast in his hand, and began work by tying a strong ligature of this material beneath the rim of the pot in which I was. He then tied the ends of my strongest shoots, and brought them down from the perpendicular position in which they grew to a horizontal one, fastening the bast to that passed beneath the rim of the pot. This operation wrought a curious change throughout my whole system. The sap, which was just rising, and flowing strongly towards the tops of my leading shoots, to the impoverishment of my lower ones, was now more equally distributed, and I felt the benefit of the change. As the winter proved unusually mild, no fire-heat was applied till the first week in February, when it was thought time to begin, in order to bloom me early in May. Hitherto I had received abundance of air and but little water, that I might continue in a state of rest. John came in one morning soon after artificial heat was begun, and wrote up something in the interior of the house, which almost every body who came in afterwards had the curiosity to
read; it was: "N. 45°; D. 55°; Chis., May 8," signifying that the
night temperature was to range about 45°, and the day temperature
55°, and that we were to be exhibited at Chiswick on the 8th of May.
The former was for the guidance of Jacob, who attended to the fires;
the latter for his own, that time might not slip away unnoticed. The
treatment I henceforth received was almost the same as that of the
previous year, only the temperature was some degrees lower. Thus
February, March, and the first half of April, passed away, and my
flower-buds were just showing colour. I had grown remarkably tall
and handsome, and became a flourishing young plant. My next
neighbour but one was already in bloom; but the others were
still, like myself, only children of promise. Such of our master's
friends as had seen our progress of late (I can no longer speak of my-
self as disconnected from my companions) had spread our fame
abroad, and it was rumoured that numerous applications would be
made to see us. One of John's friends, who had been accustomed
to win the gold medal at the exhibition, called about this time, and
frankly owned himself beaten, saying good-humouredly that he
should try hard to recover his position next year. Notwithstanding
the excitement arising as the show-day drew near, John "kept the
even tenour of his way," knowing well the prize was not his till won.
As the buds prepared to expand, he drew a thin canvas shade over
the glass, to break the sun's rays, and syringing was now dispensed
with.

Time passed on, and it wanted but two days to the show, and it
was the last day of receiving company, as my master did not admit
visitors to the garden the day before the show, because John was
too much occupied in getting us ready to pay them proper attention.
I have said it was the last day we were to be seen prior to the show,
and the company was thronging to and fro from morning till night.
Among others, I was not a little delighted to recognise my old friend
the miller, who, two years ago, had counselled our destruction in
favour of the Manetti. Oh, how often I had wished that he would
come and see us now! He brought his gardener Simon, a young
man, with him; and I listened attentively to the conversation that
took place, hoping to hear something of my rival. But in vain. John
spoke, the miller spoke, and Simon spoke, but not a word fell from
any of them concerning the Manetti stock. After examining us
individually, my master and the miller quitted the house, while John
and Simon were left standing opposite to me. Each looked signifi-
cantly at the other for some time without speaking. John, as I
afterwards inferred, waiting his opportunity to inquire of Simon the
success of the Manetti stock, while Simon was wishing to draw from
John the principles of culture by which he had developed such mag-
nificent plants.

Simon at length broke silence, and the following colloquy took
place:—

Simon. Wonderful! I couldn't have believed it; though, to be
sure, everybody in Pottletown has been talking about 'em for weeks;
and Mr. Leek, the nurseryman, said it was a horticultural triumph.
They say "it is better to be born lucky than rich;" and you, no doubt, have found out some wonderful manure, or some secret, which you will keep for your own use, and I don't blame you.

John. Stop, stop, my young friend; not so fast: I have no faith in luck, and have no secrets.

Simon. Well, I can't understand it, then. But of course we can't expect you to tell every body, if you have.

John. Perhaps some people might call it luck, and some might call it a secret; but you see I have no Roses on Manetti stocks.

Simon. Oh, pray don't say any thing about that in master's hearing, for he has become almost tired of Rose-growing through the introduction of that abominable thing.

John. How, doesn't it grow well?

Simon. Grow well! Yes, too well. It grows so well that there is now nothing but itself in the way of Roses left in the garden.

John. But are not the young plants fine?

Simon. Yes, fine the first year; but seldom afterwards. With us, ground-shoots spring up in quicker succession, and ten times more numerous, than the Dog-Rose; and no amount of watchfulness on my part could prevent the exhaustion and death of the sorts budded on it.

John. The stock has been successful then, if the sorts budded on it have failed. But do they not say it is more excitable than any other stock, and that Roses break and blossom earlier on it?

Simon. Excitable! Yes. Last spring my Roses broke a fortnight earlier than other people's, and were frosted in consequence, while theirs remained unscathed.

John. Still, as they say it has no thorns, how delightful it must be to be able to bud Roses without pricking one's fingers!

Simon. No thorns, eh! Well, if I was at home my coat would testify the reverse of this, and only look at my torn fingers; why, it is the thorniest of all stocks. But, as we are going to throw them all away, if you would like to try it, I will send you some.

John. Thank you; but I must no longer conceal the truth,—I have already tried it. I wanted a confirmation or contradiction of my conclusions, and your opinions are in exact coincidence with my own.

Simon. You surprise me! But here is my master; and before leaving, "have you really no secrets in growing these Roses?"

John. None but what I am willing to communicate to any one who is willing to listen. Gardening, to be successful, must be a labour of love; and the advancement of it as an art should be dearer to us than our own.

In continuation, John explained to his young friend how, years ago, he began by reading from the most authentic sources, and worked in with his own ideas what his judgment approved. Thus, aided by close observation, he founded a complete theory on which he built his practice. That practice I have already detailed in this autobiography. "Luck and secrets, young man," added John, "are all a farce. Knowledge of first principles, experience, care, and
watchfulness, are the elements of success in every branch of culture," Simon departed, apparently treasuring in his memory these last words of John, whom he seemed to regard as a Mentor in gardening.

William Paul.

(To be concluded in the next Number.)

THE DAHLIA. No. 1.

At the close of another season we have ventured, as briefly as possible, to detail the results of our observations and experience on this flower in 1853. It will be of little interest to state that the season has been unusually wet; yet it is necessary to explain the effect such a season has on particular varieties, more especially in certain localities. The long continuance of wet weather engendered a very luxurious growth, which caused many flowers to produce coarse blooms, with petals large and open, and loose in the centre. This defect in the blooms is very much heightened by injudicious thinnings of the shoots and buds, an operation generally performed too early, and often in too sweeping a manner. Yet, generally, blooms this season have been above the average, the flowers being beautifully clean. Such a moist season naturally gave some trouble in keeping down slugs; but this was compensated for by having less earwigs, with scarcely any thrips.

At page 55, we described twenty-two varieties sent out the preceding season, and ten fancy kinds, all of which we grew in considerable numbers. Six of them we shall not grow again, namely, Toison orange, which is coarse, with low centre; Tom, a variety that quills too much, and is very late; Lizzy, too small, and only good early; Globe, very uncertain; Jaune de Passy, flat, large, and ribby; Niobe, which appears good, but is much too flat, with hard eye, and very late. Many of the remaining sixteen have very much altered their position. Annie Salter being first favourite this time last year, but which has disappointed almost every one, has been flat and coarse, with nothing but its beautiful delicate tint to recommend it; it has, in many cases, been grown too strong, with too few buds left on the plant; we shall try it another season in poor soil, and take but little from it. Malvina, which was down very low in the list, has been both constant and beautiful; this was described as requiring plenty of water, which has been confirmed by its coming so much finer the past wet season than it did in 1852: from two plants we have never been without a good bloom when required. The other varieties call for no special remark; they may all be grown again. Of the ten fancy varieties described in the same Number, we shall discard two—Nancy and Lillyput van Beyreuth; the latter produces a few pretty flowers late, but much too late for any useful purpose, and is very small. The flower at the head of the list was Gloire de Kain; in this selection we were correct; it is a beautiful
constant variey, much the best of the striped class, and well maintained its position. Kossuth has been much more constant this season, and has turned out to be the best red and white. Flora Mc Ivor has proved to be all we said of it.

Now that we are writing of the Fancies, we will enumerate those that were sent out last spring which we think worthy of retaining. It is not perhaps generally known, that from fifty to sixty varieties of Fancies find their way from the Continent to England annually, when about half a dozen only are found to suit the English taste. They are generally showy, but deficient in form and character. Commencing with flowers of foreign origin, we have a remarkably fine variety for the head of the list, viz.,

Reine des Fleurs. Soft rosy-purple tipped with white; petal smooth, stout, and well rounded; average size, general form fine. A first-class flower; requires good growth.

Josephine. Purple, occasionally tipped with white. This is a fair shaped flower, but not to be depended on.

Prospero. Purple and white; second-rate only.

Jonas. This is a very promising variety. These, with a few others, of which we have not seen enough to be able to describe them, make up the good foreign kinds of last season.

A list of those we have discarded would be too long for our pages. We have not a long list of English Fancies that are good to recommend; yet one of them is not only the best of its class, but the finest and most chaste Fancy out. Mrs. Cullum, Mrs. Hansard, and Miss Ward are all considerably beaten by the

Duchess of Kent (Knight). This is a full-sized flower, very deep, good outline and general form. The delicacy of the yellow and purity of the white, with its beautiful shape, places this variety at the head of the class, and makes it a good companion for Reine des Fleurs. Two such varieties are not often sent out in one season. The Duchess also produces a number of self yellow flowers: we exhibited it at the Surrey Show in both stands, fancies and selves.

Claudia (Lochner). Purple tipped with white, a large back-row flower, also very showy for the border. It should not be grown strong, and disbudded but sparingly.

Attraction (Jeffrey). White down the centre of each petal, with a stripe of rich crimson carmine down the sides of the petals. A neat showy flower, full, and of average form; it should have good growth and be thinned freely.

Wonderful (Keynes). Creamy yellow at the base of the petal, mottled with pink and white; a curious flower of good shape, but uncertain in the centre.

Unanimity (Edwards). A large striped variety, yellow and red; good outline, rather flat. Plants of this variety should be got out early, and allowed to carry nearly all its blooms; hard thinnings and disbudding make it coarse.

English fancy varieties, sent out last season, that we grew and discarded are, Zebra, Motley, Mrs. James, Miss Matthews, Miss Fanny Moriers, Harlequin, and Gipsy.
MEMORANDA FROM KEW.

The few frosts that have occurred lately have nipped nearly all flowers amongst out-door things, very few remaining in the herbaceous grounds, except Tradescantia virginica, Virginica alba, Ajuga genevensis, and a few others of little importance. The Saffron Crocus (Colchicum autumnale), of which there is a double variety called Multiplex, is one of the best things that flower during autumn. The blossoms are large, and several are produced from a single bulb. It grows best in a light dry soil, and has a beautiful appearance when grown in patches on the borders. The finest ornament, however, at present, amongst out-door things, is the Pampas grass (Gynernium argenteum), of which there are two or three large specimens here; but owing to its flowering so late in the autumn, the seeds do not ripen; and as it forms itself into close large tufts, it is not otherwise freely propagated. Unless, therefore, seeds of it are imported from Brazil, by which plants can be raised, it will be some time before it becomes very common.

Against the walls are Veronica Andersoni and V. salicifolia in flowers. These are valuable shrubs at this season, as they have a good foliage, and, in addition to that, they are easily cultivated. A plant of Statice monopetala, six feet high, and covering a space nearly six feet wide, against an east wall, is now coming into flower; but being so late in the season, it will prove of but little use, as it is sure to be destroyed by frost.

Some alterations are now in progress in the grounds, such as forming fresh Rhododendron clumps on the lawns, renovating others, and planting out singly several varieties of Junipers, Pinuses, Cryptomeria Lobbi, and a few other kinds of Conifers, &c.

In the tropical aquarium are some large handsome specimens of Crinium amabile and C. Asiaticum, which, though not at present in flower, are highly ornamental plants at all seasons, where they can be grown so as to have plenty of head room. Pancratium caribaebum, a bulbous West Indian plant, with an umbel (eighteen inches in diameter) of large fragrant white flowers, is here in blossom, along with Dichorizandra thrysiflora, a plant four feet high, with several large racemes of bright blue flowers. Euryale ferox, a scarce East Indian aquatic, still continues blooming here. Its leaves are similar in structure to those of the Royal Water Lily (Victoria Regia); but they are spiny on the upper surface, and are from one to two feet in diameter. The flowers are smallish, and red and blue.

In the Orchid house, the singular Scuticaria is in flower, together with Oncidium incurvum majus, a fine showy free-flowering variety, which should be grown in all collections. Pleione (Caloryne) maculata and P. Wallichii are here flowering profusely. These charming little things are some of the most beautiful of East Indian Orchids, but they are often found rather difficult to manage. They are cultivated here in shallow pans, with good drainage, and in about two and a half inches of wrought peat, intermixed with a slight sprinkling of loam. They are kept in a rather shady part of the house, near the glass, at a good moderate temperature, and are supplied rather freely with water both at the roots and by syringing over head while making their growth; afterwards they are removed to a cooler and drier atmosphere. They flower in November and December, without leaves, producing two or three flowers from a single strong pseudo-bulb. About eight or ten of them form a nice pan; and with the above treatment they grow vigorously, and flower as freely as a pot of Crocuses.

Amongst greenhouse plants, there is but little in flower at present. The most conspicuous are Chorozema flavum, Witsenia corymbosa, Polygala ligularis, Virgilia capensis, Bauera rubioides, and some Acacias. Chinese Primroses and Pomponie Chrysanthemums form, however, the principal features of attraction in the greenhouse at present.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

J. Houlston.
STOKE PARK.

All who have travelled along the once great London road between Slough and Burnham, cannot have failed to remark this white stone edifice rising up from amongst the trees a little to the north of Slough, and close to the well-known village of Stoke, in the churchyard of which lie the remains of our favourite poet Gray. Stoke Park was once the residence of the famous William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania; and it has remained in the possession of his descendants ever since, until within these last five or six years, when it became the property of the Right Hon. Henry Labouchère, M.P.

The house, a modern building, with a dome-shaped observatory on the top, and ornamented at the sides with long rows of fluted Doric columns, stands on a gentle eminence near the centre of a noble park, which is well-wooded, chiefly with Oak, and contains a numerous herd of deer. A fine piece of water winding round the valley at the bottom of the rising ground on which the house stands, with its raised stone bridge, over which the south approach passes, and little cascades half hid among trees, serves to set off the grounds to much advantage. Part of the old family residence (bearing date 1555) still stands, and is inhabited. One or two of the rooms, with their ancient furniture, are, we understand, preserved in their original state.

This fine place is gradually increasing in interest. The improvements in the park, grounds, and garden, within these five years, have been very extensive. Round three sides of the mansion a grass terrace, between thirty and forty feet in width, has been formed, with a walk in its centre fifteen feet wide, terminated at each end by a flight of stone steps, which leads to the adjoining pleasure-grounds. Between two wings of the mansion, a conservatory has also been formed, the roof of which is a ridge-and-furrow one, and the floor wood, both in the style of the late Crystal Palace.

Several acres have been added to the pleasure-grounds, and laid out in clumps of shrubs with grass vistas between them. Pines have been planted in several of these openings, and they are doing remarkably well. The soil here being gravel to within a few inches of the surface, before any thing could be planted, the gravel had to be all sifted, and good mould carted and mixed with what passed through the sieve. Nevertheless, the several specimens of Pines which are dotted through the grounds, are very promising, and have made good growth for the time. The following are the heights of a few of the principal: Picea pinsapo, 8½ feet; P. nobilis, 8 feet; P. Fraseri, 14½ feet; P. cephalonica, 13½ feet; Pinus Douglae, 26 feet; P. patula, 15 feet; P. insignis, 15 feet; Abies Menziesia, 13 feet; Cedrus deodara, 24. A few flower-beds are also scattered over the lawn; but the frost has now done its work among the plants, and preparations are making for their winter and spring decoration.
The kitchen-garden lies between five and six hundred yards from the mansion, and is not in the best of positions for a garden of the kind. By means of the alterations and improvements which it has undergone, however, under Mr. Bousie, it has been made to answer the purposes for which it is intended tolerably well. It now produces vegetables in abundance, and of the best quality. Until last year, there were no glass-houses at Stoke Park, beyond three old vineries and a few brick pits. But now two ranges of span-roofed houses, and a range of lean-to pits, have been erected by Mr. Taylor of Kensal Green: one range is 87 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and is divided into three compartments; in the centre is a path of 3 feet wide, with a stage on either side for plants. The side-lights are hung on hinges, and opened and shut by means of a horizontal rod, with arms fastened on it to the centre of each light at the bottom. In addition to these there are also wooden ventilators in the wall against the pipes, for admitting air in winter; the top-lights are likewise movable.

The other span-roofed range is of the same length, and is in four divisions; the ventilation for this is the same as in the other. This range is employed for the production of fruits and vegetables, such as Grapes in pots, Strawberries, Cucumbers, French Beans, &c.; one of the divisions is now occupied with Grapes in pots, consisting
principally of Muscat of Alexandria, just about ripe; the pots are placed on either side of the house, and the vines are trained under the ridge, forming a beautiful arch of Grapes. Of some otherwise trained, the accompanying is a representation. Another division is occupied by French Beans nearly fit for use. The boiler which heats this range also heats the lean-to; there is a flow and return pipe for each side of the houses, and stops to each division, in order that they may be worked together or separately, as may be most expedient. One of the divisions of the lean-to pits is filled with Cucumbers, now in full bearing.

In addition to these, the builder above mentioned has just about completed a range of new vineries, with offices at the back, which, for beauty of workmanship very few can equal, and they appear well designed for the uses to which they are to be put. They are on the lean-to principle, and differ little from ordinary houses of this description—except in the ventilation not being so complicated. This range is 105 feet long and 15 wide, and is in three divisions—two being 30 feet and one 45 feet long. They are 13 feet high at the back from the floor line, 5 feet high at the front, where the lights are hinged, and worked by a horizontal rod, which runs the whole length of the house. From this rod is an arm with a joint in the middle fastened to the centre of the bottom of each light; a handle 15 inches long on the end of the rod works all the lights at one time. The top sashes slide and work with cords and pulleys; and there are ventilators in every alternate light in the back wall. The front wall is built on arches, one being placed under each light. The path along the back consists of stone pavement built on arches. The whole of the inside of the house is therefore available for the roots of the vines. This beautiful range is heated with 4-inch pipes, four pipes being put along the front and two at each end; the pipes rest on neat cast-iron supports. The training trellis is made of galvanised iron, the wires being placed horizontally 15 inches apart, and the same distance from the glass, but 2 feet from the latter in the front. The studs that fix the wires in front are 18 inches long, as the vines are planted in the inside of the pipes.

Large iron tanks are placed over the boilers to receive the rainwater from the roof, and to supply the vineries with tepid water, which is drawn off from a tap in a recess inside, in the back wall of the vinery.

Among the back offices are two mushroom-houses, heated by the same boiler as the large house. The shelves are slate, and on iron bearings on each side of the path; a flow and return pipe are laid on each, with stops, to work them together or separately, as may be desired. The other offices consist of labourers' mess-room, tool-house, root-store, potting-shed, fuel-houses, &c.; they are altogether very complete, and highly creditable to the builder intrusted with their construction, as well as to Mr. Bousie for their convenient arrangement, and that of the excellent contrivances connected with them.

The annexed plan will assist the reader in understanding what we have been attempting to describe, and may form a guide for
such as may at any time be desirous of putting up a similar range of houses.
HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

_Auriculas._ The frames containing these plants should now be placed to face the south or south-east. Very little will be required to be done this month, beyond keeping them clean both of dead foliage and aphides, with just sufficient water to keep the soil from drying through; plenty of air is indispensable; if severe frost should set in, cover with mats, or the substitute _frigi domo_, at night. The plants must have no rain.

_Calceolarias._ These will be growing fast, and must not be neglected if becoming pot-bound, but have an immediate shift. Calceolarias succeed much better in a pit than in a greenhouse, unless kept near the glass.

_Carnations and Picotees._ These now will be quiet for some time, the weather having changed much in their favour; by no means use the water-pot, if it can be avoided; if wintered moderately dry, no cold will injure them, neither will the spot make head. This plague to the Carnation-grower is engendered by too much moisture during the short dark days and damp weather of November and December, and can only be resisted by keeping the plants clean, dry, and giving them plenty of air. Some plants are attacked with it much more readily than others; these should be the first potted-up for wintering, to become established and well hardened.

_Cinerarias._ Strong plants for the May exhibitions will soon require their final repotting into eight-inch pots, using rich but rather light soil. The plants should have plenty of room, and be kept near the glass; tie or peg out the side-shoots as they grow long enough. The general stock should have been finally repotted in October, and will now only require fumigating occasionally, with sufficient room to keep them from drawing. Sulphur the foliage if mildew appears.

_Cold Frames._ The present is a most trying season for such persons as have to preserve greenhouse and half-hardy plants in cold frames. Frost and damp will require to be guarded against with watchful diligence, particularly the latter. It is easy to exclude frost; plenty of clean dry straw with which to cover the glass, and a thickness of 12 or 18 inches of any nonconducting material placed against the sides of the frame, will leave little to fear from the intrusion of the ice-king; but be careful that he does not pay you a visit while you may have neglected these precautions. If a light waterproof cloth be applied to cover the straw, it will be found highly beneficial. Damp will probably prove the most troublesome and destructive agent of the two: this is more effectually guarded against by the constant application of forethought and preventive measures, than by any means which can be applied after the enemy has fairly got possession; and unless the most rigid attention has been paid hitherto to such means, the number of deaths will probably be great. Never water any plant which does not absolutely require it; water early in the
morning; and never allow this element to fall upon any plant or part of the interior of your frame which does not need it: very little water will be sufficient until the sun acquires strength. Let no favourable opportunity for giving air escape; and give it as liberally as possible. Remove all decaying leaves the moment they make their appearance.

_Dahlias._ Look over the roots of choice varieties occasionally; if rotting down the stem, it should be cut away and the part dried. Dahlia-seed will keep best in chaff, after being thoroughly dried.

_Hollyhocks._ Cuttings may still be taken from the old stools, when from three to four inches long, which will strike readily in sandy soil placed in a little heat. Damp is the principal thing to guard against at this season: in propagating the Hollyhock a moderate moist heat is the best; weak plants should also be encouraged with a little heat. The Hollyhock should have plenty of pot-room; the plant becomes stout and vigorous, instead of prematurely starting for bloom, if this is attended to.

_Pansies._ Give plenty of air to those in frames, and keep them clean both of insects and dead foliage.

_Pinks._ Look over the beds occasionally for grubs, which are very destructive at this season. Worms will also pull the plants on one side; these should be set upright when going over the beds. A few kinds that are long on the leg, such as Huntsman, should have supports—small deal sticks—to secure them in an erect position, which will also prevent their being broken by the wind.

_Pelargoniums._ See last Number. The fancy varieties will be benefited by a little heat.

_Tulips._ Keep heavy rains from the beds. There is some difference of opinion respecting this practice. We know one very successful grower who does not protect them until they are coming into bloom. We have heard another equally good grower state, that he had never allowed his Tulips to have rain without regretting it afterwards. Our practice is to avoid snow or excessive wet; but to keep them open at other times until the buds are forward enough to be injured.
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