

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB EDINBURGH SHOW 15 4 23 FORREST MEDAL *Androsace vandellii* Shown by Cyril Lafong



PERFECTION Forrest Number 62

Cyril Lafong proved once more that his plants set the standard for first prizes and medal wins at our shows. His plant of *Androsace vandellii* was unanimously acclaimed the winner of the George Forrest Memorial Medal. 'Unbelievably' several of Cyril's other entries were in contention for the top award. I wrote 'unbelievably' but anyone who is familiar with Cyril's perfectly grown and presented plants will find that quite believable.

His immaculate cushion of *Androsace vandellii* gleamed in the spring sunshine which streaked through the hall windows. The Fairmilehead church hall walls and ceiling, which are now painted in shiny 'Dulux White', enhanced and seemed to reflect the plant's beauty.

Androsace vandellii is quite widespread along the European mountains from the Pyrenees, along the heights of the Apen-

nines to the Alps. It also occurs in the Sierra Nevada of Southern Spain and across the Mediterranean where there are populations in the Atlas mountains of Morocco. It grows in sheltered crevices as well as open sites. Out of flower its cushions are silver domes. It is a popular plant often entered in classes for cushion plants or for those with silver foliage.

The fact that it is widespread means that it is amenable to cultivation in a Scottish alpine house. The tricky bit is growing tiny young plants into big ones. The pictures on the next page show the beautiful white, yellow eyed flowers on Cyril's fine plant.



