

The Journal **OF** **The Scottish** **Rock Garden Club**



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The Journal OF The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Editor—J. L. MOWAT, University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews



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Editor's Notes

QUITE recently a conservative old gardener was heard to remark to someone, a member of the Club as it happened—"That new-fangled rock-gardening seems to be getting an awfu' craze"—without in any way realising just how true his somewhat disparaging remarks were. In an age of restlessness and unnumbered problems continually forced on our notice, when numbers of people have looked for relaxation and forgetfulness in a rush of organised pleasures and entertainments of all kinds, when noise and blatancy are everywhere about us, many are finding comfort and refreshment in their gardens and the companionship of like-minded garden lovers.

Among these garden-lovers in turn an increasing number are being attracted by the beauty and daintiness of rock plants, by the fascination of trying to meet their varying requirements, and by the wide range of interest obtainable in a rock garden even though limited to little more than a few square yards. The Club, with its fellowship of members eager to help and advise all of similar inclinations, must surely be one of the most unique and happy bodies in existence to-day. Unfortunately, as has happened with other movements before now, there is a danger that its very popularity may bring with it a possible cause for complaint.

One of the outstanding features of the Club activities has been the way in which so many members have extended the hospitality of their gardens to parties of fellow-members. It is a regrettable fact that in some cases this generous hospitality seems to have been abused. In some cases members have taken with them friends who, only "out for the run" and with no interest in gardens, showed on arrival more interest in their host's household furnishings than in his, or her, garden. Others, to the private dismay of the welcoming host, turned up accompanied by children or dogs who straightway proceeded to disport themselves over and through their temporary host's most cherished rock plants. We would ask all members to return the courtesies shown them by a corresponding consideration for the gardens so kindly made available to them. At the same time organisers of such parties should let it be understood that other people's gardens are seldom suitable places for dogs or small children.

While on the subject of visits to gardens, mention must be made of the great activity shown by the N.E. England members. A printed list received in March showed a total of twelve gardens to be visited in the course of four excursions during May and June and covering an area ranging from Alnwick to Dirleton, a distance of more than 60 miles. This is as it should be and as it is with many other areas too.

but all, particularly new members, should keep in mind that we are a Club and that, wherever we may happen to be, members are usually more than delighted to welcome their fellows as friends united by a common interest and enjoy showing their gardens and discussing their problems of success and failure. As a matter of fact more than one member has complained that no one ever looks near his garden or shows any interest in it: those in the more thinly covered areas of Club membership feel this particularly and that they are rather left out of things. On the other hand many who have overcome a certain diffidence to call on someone only known to them as a Club fellow-member have made friendships extending far beyond mere mutual interest in rock-gardening.

* * * * *

Members interested in the Awards of the Joint Rock Garden Committee are asked to note that at a recent meeting of representatives of our Club and the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society some slight alterations to rules of procedure were made.

Entries should now be sent to the **Hon. Secretary** of the Scottish Rock Garden Club at least **14 days** before the Joint Committee meets and not **10 days** as previously, when they were sent to the Secretary of the R.C.H.S.: the special forms necessary are obtainable on application from Sq./Ldr. Boyd-Harvey, our Hon. Secretary.

* * * * *

We like the following story of an amusing incident at the Club's stand at the recent Highland Show in Kelso. While Mrs. Gilroy of Yetholm Hall was left in charge of the Stand during lunch time a small child was seen gazing long and intently at the Club's display. The child greatly admired the Club Badge and, in a general conversation on clubs, badges, etc., with Mrs. Gilroy, regretted being unable to afford Club-membership. At length it leaned over the rope and said earnestly, "Are those rocks *meant* to be showing between the flowers?"

Mrs. Gilroy explained that *that was* the idea of a *rock-garden* and the child nodded wisely, satisfied but still perhaps not quite approving.

We have seen rock gardens, quite a few and recently, where one felt inclined to ask, "Are those *plants* meant to be showing between the stones?"

* * * * *

The gratitude of all is due to those whose articles and notes make up the interest of this issue; several new names appear as contributors and the Hon. Editor thanks them warmly for their response to his

appeal. Many more must have something of interest to say or the photograph of a plant worthy of being seen by fellow members. Please think about this seriously and follow a good example.

* * * * *

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1952-53

All Members who have not already paid their Annual Subscription of 10/- due on 1st September, 1952, are asked to do so as soon as possible.

Remittances should be made payable to the Club and sent to the Hon. Treasurer: STEWART MITCHELL, 1 Muirfield Crescent, Dundee, Angus.

Members can save themselves and the Club trouble and postage by use of Banker's Orders for paying their Annual Subscriptions. The form enclosed elsewhere in this Journal may be used.

The cash payment part of this form has also been found a convenience by Members, and is a help to the Treasurer when it is properly completed in block letters.

The next publication will be a Year Book for 1952-53, in which will be a List of Members according to subscriptions paid at date of going to press. This means that any who have omitted to pay their subscriptions by then may be overlooked in the issue of subsequent publications.

* * * * *

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Some Cyclamen

By J. E. STEWARD

SOWBREAD seems an uncomplimentary vernacular name to be attached to a race of plants with dainty flowers and attractive leaves, even though, presumably, the reference is to the corm and not to the leaves or flowers. Fortunately we generally refer to them as Cyclamen—a much more attractive name—though I offer no suggestion about its etymology. By whatever name we call them, it is sufficient to say that when one has succumbed to their attraction (and this is easy), they weave the spell of their charms subtly yet securely, and one is content for it to be so.

Many of them are of easy cultivation and are plants of great charm and beauty for the rock-garden. In the latter place they are best in some half-shady corner where they can be allowed to grow and increase undisturbed. The exceptions to this are, *CC. graecum*, *persicum*, *libanoticum*, *africanum* and *Rohlfianum*, which in the most favoured gardens seem to need a spot in full sun and in the majority of cases are safest in pans in a frame.

In the rock-garden, good drainage and a mixture of loam, leaf-mould and chippings with the addition of some old mortar rubble should make them happy. Then a dressing each year of leafy soil mixed with chippings will meet their requirements. I find this annual top-dressing is of great importance. Sometimes they are a bit slow in starting on the job of becoming naturalised but when once they do they seem to go on happily. Some of them, particularly *C. neapolitanum*, and its varieties, naturalise well under trees. In such cases an annual top-dressing of leafy soil helps them greatly. Where the soil is thin and poorish, as it often is under trees, the addition of a little bone meal is, I think, an advantage.

As subjects for pans, grown in frames, Cyclamen are admirable and give great joy and satisfaction grown this way. In fact, as already mentioned, with some varieties this seems the only safe way to keep them. Better still can they be enjoyed if it is possible to bring them, during their flowering period, into the alpine house, if one is the fortunate possessor of such, or failing this, into a cold greenhouse. Their flowering period is a comparatively long one and in some cases too, the leaves remain after the flowers and are very decorative in themselves. I find that a mixture which suits them when growing in pans, is equal parts of loam, leaf-mould and grit, the latter in the form of chippings or ground crocks. The addition of some old mortar rubble is very helpful as they are all lime lovers.

There is some difference of opinion as to the planting of the corms, whether the top should be just exposed or slightly covered. My own practice, both on the rock garden and in pans, is to cover them all slightly and particularly the kinds that root from the upper surface.

(*neapolitanum*) and those that root all over (*europaeum*, *africanum*). They certainly should not be half exposed in the manner of the florist's "persicum."

Almost the only way of increasing Cyclamen is from seed, which should be sown as soon as ripe, when this is possible, in pans of well drained, light soil. I generally mix some fine crock dust with the soil, as I think it helps a little in holding the moisture. The seeds in the capsule are covered with a kind of glutinous protection and I imagine that it is when this is allowed to dry that germination is greatly retarded, so that they may be a year or more before showing any signs of life.

In the previous paragraph I used the word "almost" with reference to the only way of increasing cyclamen. I believe it is possible to increase them by the careful division of a large corm and dusting the exposed sides with fine charcoal. I have never had sufficient courage to try this, particularly as the largest corms I have are of *C. neapolitanum*, which comes easily from seed. It appears that before the strains of the florist's *C. 'persicum'* were fixed, it was usual to resort to this method of vegetative propagation. Those who are interested to follow the matter further will find some illuminating data in the A.G.S. Bulletin Vol. 18, No. 2, p. 105 ; No. 4 pp. 307-309.

As the title of this article is "Some Cyclamen," so the list which follows is but a selection—not an easy matter when each member merits inclusion. I have tried to make the selection as representative as possible so as to cover the chief seasons and to include those which it is possible to secure without too great difficulty.

C. CILICICUM is autumn-flowering and often amongst the first of the autumn ones to flower. The leaves and flowers usually come together and the latter are a beautiful shade of rose-pink.

C. COUM. Its flowering period is December to February. The buds are often formed in November and for a period will lie tantalisingly upon the soil before straightening up and opening their flowers. In the summer the colour of these latter might be dismissed as "sinful magenta" and no more said ; but coming as they do, when any colour in the garden or alpine house is most welcome, we are grateful for them. The colour forms vary and it is wise to see the plant in flower if possible, certainly to see it in leaf as more than one species masquerades as *C. coum*. The leaves are distinct, being of a dull, dark green, with no white markings of any sort. There is a white variety, very beautiful, and also a pink one, but they are not very easy to come by.

Under *C. coum* may be mentioned *C. x Atkinsii*, a cross between *C. coum* and *C. ibericum* and well worth possessing. It has larger flowers than either parent.

C. EUROPAEUM is summer flowering, bridging the gap between late spring and early autumn. It continues for a long time, sending up its fragrant flowers of bright pink. They vary a good deal in colour and there is a white form, though so far it has not come my way.

C. LIBANOTICUM. In a genus where all are attractive, it is not an easy matter to single one out specially and say, "This is the best," and in any case tastes differ. But I think there would be unanimity in placing *C. libanoticum* very high up on the list, if not at the top. Despite the fact that it is not too trustworthy as to hardiness in the rock garden, yet it is well worth trying to grow. The flowers are large and as they develop, the white upper part of the petals becomes more flushed with rose. A large pan in flower is a breath-taking sight. I remember the first flowering of my *C. libanoticum*. It arrived in a small pot with no signs of life in a November. In the following January a leaf made an appearance—it was a poor sort of affair but still, a leaf. Then early in February a bud appeared and developed into a most beautiful flower, which I see from my records remained in bloom for over three weeks. Although there was at that time only the one bloom, its sheer beauty attracted the attention of any visitor. It is not too easy to establish, especially in its second and third years, and it seems to grow very slowly, but it is worth all the trouble one can take.

C. NEAPOLITANUM (*syn. hederæfolium*). This is the easiest of all to grow and in September begins to send up its flowers of various tones of pink, before its ivy-shaped, silver-marbled leaves appear. It seems to masquerade under other names, as on two occasions when I have purchased dry corms of what were alleged to be *C. europæum*, they turned out to be *C. neapolitanum*, and once it came labelled *C. repandum*, but it was still the old faithful *neapolitanum*. So now my stock of *C. neapolitanum* is fairly large, but I don't mind, as it is a very lovely thing. There is a white-flowered form which is equally beautiful and I see that the new R.H.S. Dictionary of Gardening lists a variety, *roseum*, though it is difficult to see how this can be much improvement on the type. *C. neapolitanum* shares with *C. coum* the honour of being introduced over three hundred years ago, if Johnson's Gardener's Dictionary is to be believed.

C. PERSICUM (type). I include this species as it is interesting to have, being the parent of all the large and brilliantly coloured florist's forms which flaunt their brightness at Christmas time. It flowers early in spring and the flowers stand well above the leaves. They are pink in colour, deepening to mauve at the base.

C. REPANDUM blooms in April and May and is easy of cultivation on a warm site. The flowers are a brilliant crimson and to me are the most butterfly-like of all the Cyclamen. The leaves have a definite ivy-shape, mid green in colour with markings of lighter green. They are pushed along underground so that they come up quite a long way from the corm. When they appear above ground the leaves are folded like a butterfly with closed wings and are soon followed by the buds.

This is a very brief and, I fear, most inadequate, survey of an attractive genus, but I hope that perhaps it may suggest to some who do not grow them, both the charm and the usefulness of the cyclamen.

Dwarf Rhododendrons in the Rock Garden

By E. H. M. COX

THIS IS a note not so much on the species of *Rhododendron* to use in the rock garden as on the various methods in which they can be used. Perhaps at some later date I or some more expert pen can elaborate on the various species for rock garden work, a subject that will take up much more space.

There are only a few that can be called rock plants, and by that very loose term I mean plants that with their roots well established in a pocket of good soil among rocks will follow the contour of the rocks and spread by contour and not by ordinary bush form, however minute. The obvious species that come to mind are *Rhododendron repens*, or *R. Forrestii* as it must now be called, and *R. radicans*. There is a perfect example of *R. Forrestii* following the lie of the land in the rock garden at Wisley, where it is planted in a tiny pocket at the top of a miniature dry gully. In the course of years it has followed the gully downhill. I saw it the other day and the growing tip is more than six feet below the original pocket. It has grown this distance without layering itself on the way. It has found conditions that it has liked and has followed them. Another example is certainly *R. camtschaticum*, of which there is a famous plant in the rock garden at the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh. In China there are others, larger plants, which tend to follow the contours as it were at a higher level; for instance *R. aperantum*, which will follow the flow of the ground when it is about two feet high, so interlaced and many branched that it is possible to walk sometimes for yards without falling through. But these are plants of great age, and no gardener will be able to see the result of his own planting in such a form.

For the more usual run of dwarf Rhododendrons there are three main methods. Firstly, they can be grown as background plants in positions often fully exposed. There are several examples in the rock garden at Edinburgh. In this case weather and exposure keep plants dwarfed that under more sheltered conditions might reach three or more feet. In some cases this is the nearest method that we can adopt to their natural growth in western China where they cover moorland for mile after mile, not unlike the way heather covers our own hills. The point to remember is that in the wilds there is usually ample moisture during the growing season, whereas in much of Scotland May and June are often sunny months with low humidity. The Royal Botanic Garden gets over this by automatic watering. Where this cannot be done this method is of doubtful value in gardens unless in an area of heavy rainfall, or at least a humid atmosphere.

The second method is to allow them to grow as they will. The perfect example of this used to be (and may still be) at Exbury, where

the late Lionel de Rothschild made a rock garden on a vast scale with pockets yards across made by giant boulders. This was in rather more than half shade, very necessary in southern Hampshire. These pockets which were often twelve or fifteen feet in diameter were filled to the brim with a level carpet of colour. I can recall their famous F.C.C. form of *R. scintillans*, where two dozen plants filled as if by one gigantic plant a pocket the size of an ordinary room. They were three feet high and reached the top of the surrounding rocks. In a normal rock garden such a method of planting is impossible, but I have seen many gardens on the west coast and in the highlands with nearby rocky outcrops where such treatment is quite possible. It has this advantage; that once they are planted and growing away, they can be left entirely to themselves and are an absolute economy in labour.

Under normal conditions the taller growing dwarfs, such as *R. hippophaeoides* and *R. saluenense*, which will reach three feet if grown in more than half-shade, can be grown more in keeping if they are pruned back as soon as flowering has finished and before the main growth has started.

Finally, there is the excellent method, again practiced by the Royal Botanic Garden, of using dwarf Rhododendrons in a peatery. In this case the Rhododendrons fill a definite role in an overall picture. The number of genera that like and appear natural in a peaty and semi-shaded condition is not so large as many gardeners imagine. It is almost limited to the dwarf Rhododendrons, some of the smaller *Ericaceae*, some of the sections of *Primula*, particularly *Petiolaris*, some of the smaller *Liliaceae* such as *Nomocharis*, also *Pedicularis* and a few more. Dwarf Rhododendrons fit in particularly well as a screen and help as a background for their smaller neighbours. They pull the whole conception of a peatery together. But here again the number of species which can be used satisfactorily is not large, as many of the larger species of such usually dwarf series as *Lapponicum*, *Saluenense*, *Campylogynum* and *Cephalanthum* will grow too lush under these softer conditions. It will not be too long before they look out of place and will have to be moved. The peatery is ideal for plants like *R. Forrestii*, *R. impeditum* and *R. imperator*, but not for *R. ravum* or *R. trichostomum*.

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Soldanelloid Primulas

By R. E. COOPER

MR. L. G. KINNEAR's experience with *Prim. eburnea*, Balf. f. et Cooper is enlightening.* Some years ago, I noticed that *P. Wollastonii* (another Soldanella) developed buds on roots that had run to the edge of the pot and there, on exposure to the air, had become green. (Note, by the way, that its pin-eyed and thrum-eyed flowers are differently shaped and proportioned).

Being given to experiment, I made root cuttings of its roots but did not have *P. eburnea* to play with.

The results were conclusive, propagation was good. The consideration of this faculty was fascinating. The features of other species seemed to imply that they all had it, in some degree. The story can be pieced together from the collectors' different details of their plants' habitats. It is unfortunate that the official survey† often gives a wrong idea of these. It gives the conditions under which *P. Sherriffae* grows as "on cliffs" but the originally published description gives "in wet moss overhanging cliffs in shade." I submit and can partly show that this moisture and shade are continuous features of all Soldanelloid habitats, that is throughout the growing season. This may be of benefit to those of us who venture to grow them.

Prim. sapphirina grows in areas blanketed with driving mist during its summer. It grows over mounds of humus, the frosted remains of large foot-high clumps of a rush that are common to its home. These, as is all the peaty turf of the locality, are sodden with water from the time of frost release in the spring to the fresh onset of the winter season in September-October. The Primula seems to make and send many little stems, capped with a few leaves and the flowers, about and over these clumps of humus. These many stems make a kind of netting and their stems in the continued wetness of the air and the acidity of the humus emit many thin hair-like roots, some rooting into the support, the others just sticking out as orchid roots do. I suggest (for conditions were not agreeable to close and prolonged observation !) that these stems can also branch in their turn.

In a drier environment a plant's parts become modified, but their potentiality is only suppressed. It is still there and will respond under congenial conditions. So, from the conditions under which *P. sapphirina* lives, grading through those of *P. Wattii*, *P. eburnea* and *P. Wollastonii* ; on through the rather chemically different (for although the climatic conditions are the same the rocks are not) conditions of *P. Reidii* and *P. Wigramiana* and down the mountains to *P. Sherriffae* in wet moss in the shade of overhanging cliffs and further afield to the cool boulders

*See page 93. Journal No. 10.

†Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. Vol. LII (No. 344), pp. 321-341, Oct. 1942.

in the pine forests of Yunnan where *P. nutans* grows, the plants are akin, both botanically and potentially. It is also obvious what are the common factors of environment.

But deduction is not possible unless we have the collectors' details of the actual homes of the plants to work with. Allowance must be made for the time of the year when collection took place; for the flooding waters of melting glaciers and snowfields in the spring and the rain-soaked air and earth of the seasons of the monsoon clouds give way to the late autumn of clearing skies and sun-bursts, when the plants ripen their growths and prepare for their winter's rest. The grassy rock ledges and pastures are dry then: although soon to be covered with an even temperatured and never "keen frosty" blanket of the winter's snow. This too, gives an even shade and a steady moisture. And all the time these processes that can produce leaves and flowers have their faculty embodied in them, which can be stirred to activity as conditions allow.

What would help us all is a growers' handbook which gives the fullest details of the climate of these fascinating beauties. It is doubtful if the projected "popular" work on the Genus *Primula* which we are promised will serve us in that way. The Club's Journal compiled by that most critical body—people who want to grow the plants—could do it.



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Notes on Some Introductions of 1950

By D. G. LOWNDES

IN OCTOBER 1950, I sent by air-mail from Nepal to Dr. George Taylor several small parcels of plants collected in Manangbhot, in Central Nepal, near the Thibetan border.

These had been collected at various altitudes from 9,000 ft. to 14,000 ft. They had been packed in bamboo boxes and carried about for periods up to a month before I reached Kathmandu with its Post Office. There, they were packed in such tins as I could cadge from Lady Faulkener at the Embassy.

Although the material in this small collection has not the interest of the great collection of plants sent home by Ludlow and Sherriff in 1949, their progress may be worth recording. I understand that in many cases the plants in their consignment were received in the 'turves' in which they had been growing; I—in my ignorance—was at pains to wash all earth from the roots of my plants!

Dr. Taylor distributed the plants to the following:—

1. Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.
2. R.H.S. Garden, Wisley.
3. Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay, Methven, Perthshire.
4. Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Renton, Perth.
5. Lord Aberconway, Bodnant, N. Wales.

The condition of the plants when received by the above varied considerably, reports received in December, 1950, being as under.

Wisley.—"The plants arrived in rather dry condition."

Mrs. Finlay.—"The plants were all very dry and wizened on arrival and only the two primulas showed any sign of life—but this is to be expected."

Lord Aberconway.—"In excellent condition."

In addition to the cultivators mentioned in the following notes, No. 947, *Fritillaria cirrhosa*, has been successfully grown and flowered by:—

Miss Beck, Ware, Herts.

Dr. George Taylor, Rickmansworth, Herts.

Colonel D. G. Lowndes, Ringwood, Hants.,

and was awarded a Preliminary Commendation at Chelsea this year.

Number	Name	Cultivator	Condition, etc., on arrival	Condition in June 1952
902	<i>Calanthe tricarinata</i>	1	—	One pot.
		2	rather dry	Growing vigorously, three strong growths (Presumably dead).
		3	dry and wizened	Planted in Spring, 1952. Growing very well, but not flowered.
		4	healthy and firm	Growing well and has wintered outside.
		5	growing well	
913	<i>Stellera Chamaejasme</i>	1	—	One very healthy plant in pot.
		2	rather dry	<i>One small head flowered</i> 1952. Plant looks healthy, 11 shoots on it now.
		3	dry and wizened	Planted out in semi-scrub conditions, July 1951. Covered with small piece of "window-lite" in winter. Now a good plant with 8 young shoots.
		4	dried up—looks lifeless	Planted out in Spring, 1952. Two in scree and one in leaf mould, all happy, not flowered.
		5	will grow	Good plants now, doing very well. One in open, others in pots.
917	<i>Polygonatum Hookeri</i>	1	—	One plant.
		2	rather dry	Growing well in pan and increasing. <i>Two spikes flowered</i> 1952.
		3	dry and wizened	Planted out in semi-scrub, July 1951. Not covered in winter.
		4	firm and healthy	<i>Flowered</i> at end of May 1952. One inch high. Up to five flowers. Good colour.
		5	growing well	In scree, <i>flowered well</i> , growing happily. (Presumably dead).
919	<i>Androsace</i> sp. aff. <i>muscoidea</i> f. <i>longiscapa</i>	1	—	One plant.
		2	rather dry	Died in winter.
		3	dry and wizened	(Presumably dead).
		4	dried up and lifeless	Plant died.
		5	doubtful	Died.
947	<i>Fritillaria cirrhosa</i>	1	—	(Presumably dead).
		2	rather dry	Still growing, not yet flowered.
		4	firm	Growing well in scree; has not flowered.
		5	bulbs sound	Growing in the open—flowered.

Number	Name	Cultivator	Condition, etc., on arrival	Condition in June 1952
958	<i>Saxifraga Lowndesii</i>	1	—	One plant. Failed.
		2	rather dry	
		4	very dry, only small parts green	Died. (Presumably dead).
		5	will grow	
960	<i>Saxifraga Andersonii</i>	1	—	Four pans. Failed.
		2	rather dry	
1014	<i>Oreorchis foliosa</i>	1	—	One pot. Still growing, just making two new leaves.
		2	rather dry	
		3	dry and wizened	Still in pot. Had only one leaf which died down and another came up but no other sign of life. Now plunged in open frame. Growing well in leaf mould. In pot. <i>Flowered this spring.</i> Grows well.
		4	fairly firm and in growth	
		5	growing well	
1031	<i>Primula Sharmae</i>	1	five plants, so far doing very well	Two pots. <i>Flowered in 1951 and 1952.</i> Seed saved in 1951 and germinated. <i>Flowered</i> in alpine house. Now dead—no seed set. <i>Flowered spring 1951.</i> Planted out in peat walls and flowered again this spring. Looks very well, as if it required division. <i>Flowered well outside</i> seed saved and seedlings coming along. Pots—just flowered and doing well.
		2	rather dry	
		3	dry and wizened but shows signs of life	
		4	crowns greenish	
		5	growing well	
1032	<i>Nardostachys Jatamansi</i>	1	—	One plant. Growing well, <i>two heads flowered in 1952.</i> Unattractive perfume. (Presumably dead).
		2	rather dry	
		3	dry and wizened	In scree, growing slowly, no flowers. Pots—growing — not too well.
		4	green and growing	
		5	growing well	

Number	Name	Cultivator	Conditions, etc., on arrival	Conditions in June 1952
1122	<i>Corydalis</i> sp.	1	—	One plant.
		2	rather dry	Grew at first, died in winter.
		3	dry and wizened	Yellow—attractive—quickly over. Planted in the open.
		4	green and growing	Growing in pot—has not flowered.
		5	growing well	Pots. Just alive—nearly lost in winter.
1326	<i>Allium sikkimense</i>	1	—	Put in the Rock Garden and has not so far appeared again this year.
		2	rather dry	Still alive but does not grow much.
		3	dry and wizened	Blue and lovely and with a long flowering period. A real deep blue. On the rock garden.
		4	growing	Planted in rock garden, spring 1952. <i>Now in bud</i> and looks well.
		5	growing well	Flowered on rock garden—doing well. Growing outside.
1357	<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	1	—	(Presumably dead).
		2	rather dry	<i>Now in bud</i> . Looks like <i>P. affine</i> .
		3	dry and wizened	Planted out spring 1951 in ordinary soil. Very healthy and <i>in full flower</i> .
		4	dried up—looks lifeless	Died.
		5	growing well	In the open. Doing well but no flowers.
1518	<i>Primula</i> sp.	1	two plants in quite good condition	Two plants.
		2	rather dry	Died.
		3	dry and wizened but showed signs of life	In a pan. One plant flowered—clearly not to type. Flowers very fleeting. Farinosae section.
		4		Pots—growing.
		5	doubtful	

Lautaret, 1951

By C. E. DAVIDSON

JUNE 19th: F.B., J., and I arrive at Col du Lautaret during late afternoon. F. given enthusiastic welcome by Bonabel family who own the hotel. (Delighted to learn that Madame and her two sons speak no English—good opportunity to improve deplorable French).

Explore slopes round hotel where, in short wind-swept turf are myriads of dwarf gems: *Androsace carnea*, *Dianthus neglectus*, *Douglasia Vitaliana*, *Soldanella alpina*, *Viola calcarata*, etc., interspersed with sheets of *Ranunculus pyrenaicus*. Lower down, we see acres of *Gentiana acaulis*—a blaze of blue. Return reluctantly to hotel. Excellent dinner in restaurant with enormous windows on three sides, from which we watch rays of setting sun turning mountains to rose and orange. Glass of cognac, and so to bed.

June 20th: Awake to sun and bright blue skies. Set off in direction of Briançon. The following flowers found, all within stone's throw of road: *Lilium Martagon* and *Orchis sambucina* (pink and yellow forms) in boggy places, *Ranunculus aconitifolius*, a lovely pale-blue form of *Gentiana verna*, *Alyssum tortuosum*, and a sheet of *Campanula Allionii* in full flower.

June 21st.—Very hot day. Decide to climb up to hanging valley above Pont des Alpes, and order picnic lunch. J. nobly offers to carry bottle of wine. Ascent excessively steep and rocky, sun blazing on our backs, but thought of wine keeps us going. Slope at last eases off into enchanting valley, full of *Narcissus poeticus*, scent almost overpowering.* Stop at head of valley for lunch, wine placed in stream to cool. Sit in shade of tree and remove boots. Later, on going to retrieve wine, bottle is found to have burst with force of current. Two not responsible for catastrophe nearly throw offending third into stream. After lunch ascend to 9,000 ft. Mountain disappointing botanically, but view of Cottian Alps, dominated by Monte Viso, magnificent. Notable finds of the day: *Viola biflora*, *Anthyllis montana* in quantity, and *Gentiana verna alba*.

June 22nd.—F. says snow-line abnormally low for June, and no hope of reaching *Androsace helvetica* and *A. pubescens*, which live on formidable cliffs 2,000 ft. above Lautaret. He suggests we should try to reach Galibier pass by road. Less than half a mile above Lautaret come across enormous snow-slide blocking road for several hundred yards. (These occur all the way up to pass and, in spite of roadmen with snow-ploughs working daily, road is still closed to cars when we leave on July 2nd). After heavy going, reach valley with stream, which, F. says, should be white with *Ranunculus glacialis*. Unfortunately, it is white with three feet of snow. Agree to leave ascent to pass till

*(See Fig. 1).

next week in hopes of better conditions, and turn back, taking the old road. Soon F. is, as usual, miles ahead. He travels at the speed of an express train, regardless of gradient. Exasperated by this, I suggest to J. that we should glissade down long snow slope and get ahead of F., step boldly on to snow and glissade beautifully for a short distance. Unaccountably, feet suddenly shoot forward and I continue journey in sitting position. Slope gets steeper, lose all control of speed and direction, and finally fetch up in horrible mess of melting snow and mud. F. not in sight. Wring water and mud out of clothes while waiting for J., who has wisely kept to path. On reaching home, find F. in Marie-Therèse's café, having an aperitif. He says he has been there for hours. Do not believe this.

June 24th : Weather wet and cold during week-end, which we spend working about screes and rocks in vicinity. Find *Geum reptans*, *Geum montanum*, *Daphne striata* (pink and white forms), *Daphne Mezereum*, *Rhododendron ferrugineum* in bud, *Saxifraga retusa*, and our old friends, *Dryas octopetala*, *Salix retusa* and *Silene acaulis*. Note that *Myosotis alpestris* on high rocky ground is no more than one inch high. On lower slopes towards Ramanche valley, is a glorious alpine meadow where grow *Trollius europaeus*, *Anemone alpina*, *A. narcissiflora*, *Myosotis alpestris* (here nearly one foot high), *Narcissus poeticus*, and the lovely *Aquilegia alpina*. On this sheltered hill-side also find fine form of *Soldanella montana*, among bushes.

June 25th : Weather fine again, but fresh mantle of snow on mountains. Look up bus time-table with view to visiting Mont Genève on Italian frontier, but find this cannot be done in one day ; very disappointing. Attempt to climb into hanging valley to south of Lautaret, but again frustrated by snow. However, we find *Primula hirsuta* and *P. graveolens*, growing on rocks, a wonderful sight ; also *Chrysanthemum alpinum*, an attractive plant with marguerite flowers, At dinner two Englishmen appear. One greets F. as an old friend, and on hearing of our disappointment about Mont Genève, at once offers to drive us there the next day. Invitation accepted gratefully.

June 26th : Weather perfect. Set off early in car, pass through Briançon, and turn N.E. Road winds through woodlands, climbing steeply. Here and there we have glimpses of high snow-clad mountains. Many flowers on road-side, notably *Saponaria ocymoides*, making large splashes of rose colour. On reaching Mont Genève, discover hotels are still closed, but small restaurant supplies us with lunch. During afternoon we climb high and find *Viola cenisia* in quantity on the banks of a stream. *Daphne striata* also abundant, and one plant of *D. Verlotii* is found. Gaze longingly at limestone cliffs above us, but no time left. A fine form of *Polygala Chamaebuxus* causes us to stop for a moment as we hurry down. On our return to Lautaret very alarmed to see large flock of sheep has arrived, and wonder if any flowers will be left by morning. Flock, however, appears to be well penned-in by two emaciated, but efficient, sheep-dogs. Among

the sheep wander three donkeys—father, mother, and diminutive baby. Learn that donkeys frequently accompany flocks to carry sheep that become lame.

June 27th : Thankful to see that sheep have disappeared, without doing much damage. F. finds a beautiful white *Soldanella alpina*.

June 28th : Determine to reach top of Galibier pass, and start early, carrying lunch. Snow on lower part of road has partly melted, and many flowers are in bloom. *Leontopodium alpinum* peeps from behind rocks, and lovely *Linaria alpina* is everywhere. Note that from about 8,000 ft. upwards, *Gentiana brachyphylla* replaces *Gentiana verna*. Have lunch on plateau which commands sublime views. North, the Galibier mountains tower above us. East, and far away, is the lovely line of the Cottians. South, the icy peaks of the Meige seem to pierce the sky, and the Glacier de L'Homme glows green in the sunlight. As we proceed up to the pass, the snow becomes troublesome, but here and there patches have melted and we see some plants of *Ranunculus glacialis*, a few in flower. The rare *Campanula cenisia* is also discovered, just showing above the ground. Ascend to top of pass above tunnel to admire the view. Unfortunately, clouds have come up in every direction, and the Mont Blanc range is obscured. Sociable young Frenchman appears. He tells us his wife is making tea down by the tunnel and invites us to join them. Accept with alacrity. Very chilly wind blowing, and we hasten down, urged on by thoughts of hot tea. Madame looks somewhat non-plussed by arrival of three unexpected guests and, on finding that preparations for tea have got no further than half-melted snow in a billy-can, we say good-bye and depart.

June 29th : F. says time has come to visit the King of the Alps. So excited can hardly climb, and climb is steep and hard. Wonder if *Eritrichium nanum* will come up to expectations, or be disappointing, as so many seem to find it. At last, on crags above us, we see patch of incredible blue. We gaze and gaze. Feel that curtsy would be appropriate but, standing on scree at angle of 50°, impossible to perform. As we crawl upwards, more and more patches appear, some as large as plates, and soon they are all round us, and we can examine them closely. Unquestionably, *Eritrichium* far surpasses expectations; silver foliage a perfect foil for intensely blue flowers. Clamber about crags and discover that the King does not live in splendid isolation. He keeps company with *Artemisia glacialis*, *Chrysanthemum alpinum* and many others.

June 30th : Weather wet and cold again—curious how it breaks down at week-ends. Wakened at 5 a.m. by frightful commotion outside. Look out and see scene of great activity—cars dashing up and dashing off again; excited crowds all talking hard; table with bottles of wine; Gendarme (ostensibly to control traffic, but usually to be found in hotel, flirting with pretty waitress)—in short, the Rally

Dauphine. Very entertaining ; tumult and shouting continue till nearly 11 a.m.

July 1st : Our last day ! Luckily, weather has improved, and we walk round our old haunts, collecting some plants. See *Linum alpinum*, and come across a perfect specimen of *Gentiana acaulis alba*.

July 2nd : As the bus whirls us down the spectacular—and somewhat hair-raising—road to Grenoble, reflect that we have had a perfect holiday, but that even perfect holidays fade from the mind in time. Three things, however, are unforgettable ; the blazing gold of *Geum reptans* among boulders, the first sight of *Eritrichium*, and, last but not least, the kindness and charm of the Bonabel family.

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Collecting

By "LOCUM TENENS"

IT IS CLEAR to me that to collect plants successfully you require a special technique, which I fear I have not yet mastered.

Once, I did have an opportunity of achieving fame as a collector (at least in the eyes of my wife, who knows about such things) and threw it away. We were in Baluchistan and I set out early one morning to try and shoot a species of wild goat that lives in those parts. I climbed enormous mountains, but there were no goats. I think they must have known that I was coming. But I did happen on a charming flower, just one and no more. Naturally I did not know its name, but it was like a dwarf *Delphinium*, I thought. I picked it, wrapped it up carefully in my handkerchief and put it in my pocket, so that I could show it to my wife when I got back in the evening. I doubt if I shall ever be quite forgiven. I had in fact found a rarity, if not something unique, and I had gone and picked the thing instead of digging it up.

On a later occasion, in a hot country this time, my wife and I were out in the car and we saw, at the foot of a tree, a purplish sort of flower. It was of a type which certainly I had never seen before and which she considered worthy of attention. Of course, this time, having learnt from experience, I did not pick it. It had to be dug up. The only tools were a screwdriver, a tyre lever and my pocket knife. The ground was hard as iron and full of stones. The plant seemed to be one of those that has its roots in the depths of the earth and the heat was tropical. However, I persisted and in time got down to a depth of at least two feet. My hands were blistered and my temper worse, and then, because I was in a fury with a rock that would not shift, the tyre lever slipped and I broke the plant clean off. Later I was informed that this attractive plant was one of those that grow as parasites on the roots of trees and it could not in any case have been moved, unless of course I had dug up the tree as well. The moral of this simple story is never to go plant hunting without a pickaxe.

I have not said anything about cultivating what has been collected. I know that very often the poor things will not grow in their new surroundings, but even I have had a success in cultivation, and it was an odd one. Someone told my wife a couple of years ago that if you wanted to preserve nuts for consumption at a later date you should put them in sand in an airtight biscuit tin. This she did and forgot about it. Nine months later I found the tin and looked inside. The contents had come to life. There were eight little hazel nut trees and four little walnut trees growing lustily. I seized upon them and planted them out. They have prospered greatly and now have just been transferred to their permanent quarters in some woodland, where in a year or two I shall go gathering nuts—at least I hope so.

Collecting certainly is exciting, even if it is only out of one's wife's biscuit tin. I doubt if you could give your friends and relations (provided, of course, that they are gardeners) any better gift than some choice rock garden specimen, which you have personally collected, but not, please, from somebody else's garden.

An Easy Method of Germinating Liliun and Nomocharis Seed

By A. E. SMITH

MY WIFE and I are keen on Lilies and Nomocharis, and acting on the advice given by a famous Canadian grower of Lilies, rather fearfully tried the following method, with astonishing success.

Clean screw-topped glass jars are filled about two-thirds full with damp sand. The moisture should be such that the sand if squeezed in the hand and released retains its shape, but is not sopping, just the same as seed sowing compost should be. The seed is stratified throughout the sand, and some should be against the glass sides to enable one to see when germination occurs. The screw cap is then affixed, the idea being retention of moisture. Then place the jars in a warm, dark place, as exposure to light causes growth of Algae. We place our jars on the shelves in the hot linen press—germination is good, varying, of course, according to the varieties. The jars must be frequently inspected, for once growth starts the wee bulblets must be transplanted into pots or pans of normal soil, and grown on in the normal way. We do so in a cool greenhouse or cold frames.

The advantage of the "incubation" method is that as much as a year can be saved, and in sterile sand there are far less organisms to attack the sometimes expensive and always vulnerable seeds. We have thus bloomed the admittedly quick-growing *L. formosanum* 'Intermediate Pure White' in seven months from seed and *L. speciosum rubrum* in just over twelve. On the other hand, *L. Cathayanum* took thirty months to germinate, but the imported seed was probably old. Experience has shown us mortality among very delicate seed such as *L. rubellum*, *L. japonicum*, *L. Catesbaei*, *L. philadelphicum*, etc., is reduced to an absolute minimum, and seed debilitated by age and bad storage has far more chance of life by this method.

It is just as successful with Nomocharis and Notholirion and would probably be suitable for seed of many other bulbous subjects. We have not tried it, but are informed that sphagnum moss can be used in place of sand if desired. But we find sand quite satisfactory.

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Crepis incana

ALTHOUGH the *Crepis* family as a whole can lay little claim to any great charm or beauty, many of them in fact being classed as weeds or little better, this member from Greece stands out as a very attractive and useful plant for a dry, sunny rock-garden. Silver-grey leaved, it forms a symmetrical rounded dome about 1 ft. high which in late July and August is densely covered with a mass of bright-pink, composite flowers on thin, stiff stems. (See Fig. 3).

It delights in full sun and good drainage such as provided by a light, sandy soil or a scree mixture.

“X”

Codonopsis convolvulacea

(L. and S. 19620 and 19674)

THIS LITTLE twiner, closely allied to *C. vincaeflora*, has now flowered with me and proves to be quite a worthy member of this variable species, the flowers of quite a good blue-mauve shade with a reddish-purple zone at the corolla base and fully expanded measuring an inch across. What can one say of its height? Take out every twist, wrinkle and twine, and it may prove 2 ft. and yet the flowers be only six inches from the ground.

In past days I used to place a few birch twigs round the pot or where it grew beneath my window and the shoots would disport themselves in tortuous profusion and inconceivably weird designs before providing their display of flowers. Both these species are easy to grow and if the tubers are planted three or four inches deep in good well-drained soil they should survive both slugs and spring frosts. Both, too, can be vigorous twiners if well trained and *C. vincaeflora* I have seen up strings 3 ft. high, but for effect 10-12 inch birch twigs taken from a well-worn “besom” provide the best means of support. I am not aware if this plant has any aversion to lime, but I have always provided a medium of open, gritty, “woodland” soil with good results. The young shoots are very thin, frail and easily damaged by handling or pests such as greenfly or slugs. To those who have received this plant under the name of *C. vincaeflora* I tender my regrets, but they have got a good plant and possibly a better species.

J. T. WALL,
Lanarkshire.

See Note and Illustration in S.R.G.C. Journal No. 8—1951.

Meconopsis gracilipes

THOSE INTERESTED in the various species of *Meconopsis* may have read an account of "The Poppies of the Himalayas" which appeared in *Country Life* in December, 1950. This article was written by Mr. O. Polunin after he had spent some months in the remote valleys of Central Nepal.

I was fortunate enough to receive some of the seeds which Mr. Polunin collected, and one of the numbers was No. 15. At first I thought this was going to be *M. Dhwojii*, but as it grew to maturity I saw there was a difference; it had the finely cut leaves, but there were no dark purple spots at the base of the bristles.

This year I sent a plant to Dr. George Taylor at the British Museum and he very kindly identified it for me as *Meconopsis gracilipes*. (See Fig. 2). The colour of the flower is pale lemon yellow, but the foliage is certainly one of its greatest attractions, the fine cut fern-like leaves are definitely most decorative and beautiful. I had a group of this species flowering this year in front of *M. betonicifolia* and the whole effect was very lovely. It looks as though seed of this species will be as prolific as it is from so many of the monocarpic species of *Meconopsis*.

CICELY M. CREWDSON,
Kendal.

Meconopsis sinuata

THIS *Meconopsis* is new to cultivation though it was discovered in 1896. It was found again by Ludlow and Sherriff, who brought home seed from which plants have been raised. While not a startling beauty, it is an attractive plant in a quiet way.

The leaves and flower stems are covered with bristles as is clearly shown in the photograph (Fig. 5), and the flower stems are up to 16 inches high. The flowers, four to eight of them, are carried singly in the axils of the leaves and are mauve in colour with orange-yellow anthers. The flowers open in succession from the top. The plant has a tap root and is monocarpic. As it is found from Central Nepal to Bhutan at between 12,000 and 14,000 feet it ought to prove hardy if given the correct treatment. The writer has so far only grown it in pots in a cold frame, but it would probably do all right out of doors in scree. The plants die down in the autumn and there is nothing showing above ground all winter.

It flowered 27 months after the seed was sown (February, 1950), and plants were exhibited at the Perth and Dunfermline shows this year.

M. L.

(Certificate of Merit awarded at the Dunfermline Show.—Ed.).

Daphne blagayana

Of the Daphnes so far tried this one grows best here. The garden is 500 feet above sea level. The soil is light and shallow, naturally well drained, and covers limestone. The pH is 7.1. The plant is in as full sun as a rainfall of 40 inches a year permits. Apart from layering the long shoots every spring it gets no special attention. It associates well with *Crocus minimus*. The Daphne opens before the Crocus and outlasts it ; but when they are in flower together they are worth coming to see.

D. P. L.

Giggleswick,
Yorkshire.

Primula eburnea—a postscript

THE PLANT of *Primula eburnea* mentioned on page 93 of Journal No. 10 as coming through the winter '50/'51 on a peat wall is still doing well there.

On 4th April this year signs of strong growth were noticed and on the 15th it was evident that there were three growing points where there had been one last year. These have developed strongly and it would appear that *P. eburnea* is at least reasonably perennial and can increase satisfactorily.

L. G. K.

Two Plants from Iceland

IN 1949 a friend who was a member of an ornithological expedition sent me a number of plants from Iceland by air. Amongst these were two of some possible interest.

First ; a small plant which looked like a Draba.

This plant when received bore one ripe seed head. The plant died during the following winter, but the seed, which was very fine and much more like saxifraga than draba seed, germinated and several plants were raised. These consist of a number of slightly hirsute rosettes forming a close tuft. In 1951 and again this year each rosette produced a completely sessile single white flower with a yellow centre in May.

The plant has been provisionally identified by Mr. Wilkie as *Saxifraga androsacea pygmaea*.

It is quite an attractive little thing. It seems to be happy in the scree with a sheet of glass over it in winter, or in a cold frame. The plants kept in the alpine house died.

Secondly ; *Silene acaulis alba*.

Five or six plants were received. Of these all but one were planted out in scree or near scree. All died in the spring except one which has not since flowered. One kept in the alpine house survives but has not flowered. *S. acaulis alba* appears to be much less amenable to cultivation than the type.

J. D.

Crocking

I WAS interested in the note of R.S.M. under the above heading in the last issue of the Journal. I would heartily agree that drainage in the form of chippings round the neck of many plants is most wise for that is a vital spot.

As regards crocking at the bottom of the pot, for a long time now, when potting up rooted cuttings and seedlings, I have followed what the late Captain Leschallas used to advocate and demonstrate. Place one large crock over the hole, then cover it with approximately an inch of crushed crock-grit or $\frac{1}{4}$ in. chips, placing a little roughage over this and then potting in the usual way. I find that one of the advantages of this is that the roots are less likely to curl round the bottom of the pot and there is thus less chance of the plant getting pot-bound if one is unable to plant it out or re-pot it at the right time.

I find, too, that with plants potted in this way, when they are knocked out of the pot the crock-grit comes away readily, leaving a host of the young roots hanging and unbroken and ready to take hold of the fresh soil, whether in a new pan or on the rock garden. Plants treated like this certainly seem to take hold and "get away" very satisfactorily.

J. E. S.

Crocking

ANYONE who has ever used the filter method of making coffee will agree with the contention of R.S.M. in Journal No. 10 that the speed at which liquid passes through a pot depends on what is in the pot rather than on the depth of what is at the bottom of it. I agree with him that if the compost is of the "quick drainage" type the rate of flow through a given depth of the compost is unaffected by whether the layer of crocks below is deep or shallow.

BUT I will continue to put in an inch or so of chips or pebbles for the following reason. If, as R.S.M. advises, the pot is filled with compost right down to its one and only crock, the roots will also fill it completely and, if not caught in time, will build up into a solid tangle exactly like a bath loofah. This will be quite impossible to shake out or wash out, and if planted without being disentangled will remain in a pot-bound ball for months afterwards. This is particularly liable to happen if planted out into scree.

If, however, there is an inch of chips or pebbles in the pot, the roots run about amongst them and when the plant is unpotted the chips fall away and there is a nice little loose straggle of roots hanging free. The roots in the compost will still retain the shape of the top of the pot and will hold body and soul together until such time as the root-hairs on the new young loose roots get going in the new compost or soil into which they are planted.

While on the subject of pots, I should like to air my dislike of perforated zinc worm-excluders. Unless you have much time or few plants, the roots, particularly the strongly growing August roots of Primulas, will be out through the perforations before you can turn round. There is then nothing you can do except tear off the projecting roots (containing the important root-hairs and growing-points) or try to snip away the zinc with nail-scissors (the roots meanwhile shrivelling in the breeze) or plant the thing as it is with the zinc embedded in its vitals. Surely it is better to exclude worms from the whole area with a large sheet of perforated zinc (sold at the ironmongers for making meat-safes) under the plunge material, instead of small bits in each pot.

L. C. B. H.

A Tip for Seed Sowing

ONE TIP taken from a recent book on propagating alpiners is certainly going to be acted upon again.

It is to complete the preparation of the seed pan by covering the soil with about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch of coal chips according to the size of the seeds. The seed is sown on top of the chips and watered down with a fine rosed can. In the case of large seeds—discs like *nomocharis*, and feathery seeds like some anemones—sow in the ordinary way and then add the chips on top. The chips are prepared by being put through a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch riddle and are then cleaned either by washing or by sifting on perforated zinc, the dust being discarded. It is important to get rid of the dust, otherwise the surface of the pan will cake.

There are a number of advantages in using this method of seed sowing.

(1) The seed pans can be watered overhead with a rosed can with infinite saving of time and trouble, compared with dipping the pans.

(2) Seed does not get washed to one side of the pan.

(3) The chips reduce evaporation and so lessen the danger of the soil drying out.

(4) Moss and *Marchantia* do *not* appear to flourish on coal chips.

M. L.

“ In Spite of ”

IN SPRING of 1950 four seeds of *Androsace pyrenaica* were received from the S.R.G.C. seed exchange and carefully sown in appropriate compost in a three-inch pot in March of that year. Later the pot was put on an open plunge sand bed “just for two minutes.” while the writer attended to some pressing job or other, and then went on to further urgent tasks—and quite forgot the unfortunate pot.

In Autumn of 1951, with an impatient feeling of "what on earth is in this wretched filthy pot," he let out a deep groan on reading the still decipherable lable. The soil had been beaten down by heavy winter rains until it was only a couple of inches deep, the sides of the pot were a slimy green mess, liverwort and thick moss occupied the soil surface and it was a frightful mess. But lo ! through it all, against all rules and regulations, four indubitable *Androsace pyrenaica* triumphantly stood out. These were carefully transplanted into a pan of properly prepared *Androsace* soil and are now about as big as sixpences and blooming well (April, 1952).

The writer does not recommend this method of seed raising. It was a case of carelessness rewarded.

A. E. S.,
Belfast.

Pricking Out

IF SEED is sown too thickly, or if for some reason pricking out is delayed too long, the roots of the seedlings become so intertwined that it is extremely difficult to disentangle them without doing quite a lot of damage.

One way of getting over the difficulty is to wash off all the soil and then tease out the roots under clean water. Lay each seedling down separately and dust them over with dry sand before planting. Some of the sand sticks to the roots and the added weight pulls the roots down and greatly simplifies planting.

M. L.

ALPINES

—o—

H. DAVENPORT JONES

WASHFIELD NURSERIES,

HAWKHURST, KENT

(Formerly with Miss E. A. Britton, Devon)

—o—

LIST ON APPLICATION



Photo—J. Davidson

FIG. 1. NARCISSUS IN VALLEY ABOVE PONT DES ALPES (see page 117)



Photo—C. H. Crewdson

FIG. 2. MECONOPSIS GRACILIPES (see page 124)



FIG. 3. *CREPIS INCANA* (See page 123)

Photo—D. Jack



FIG. 4. *DIONYSIA CURVIFLORA* (see page 152)

Photo—D. Wilkie



FIG. 5. *MECONOPSIS SINUATA* (see page 124)

Photo—R. Eudall



Photo—D. Wilkie

FIG. 6. IRIS BUCARICA (see page 152)



Photo—D. Wilkie

FIG. 7. PLEIONE PRICFI (see page 152)



FIG. 8. SAUSSUREA STELLA (see page 154)

Photo—D. Wilkie



FIG. 9. SAUSSUREA STELLA, showing seeds germinating in the old rosette (see page 154)

Photo—D. Wilkie

Review of the Year

Once again the Club Year, 1951-52, has been one of further steady progress. At the beginning of the year we had 1460 members and at its conclusion 1910 who had paid their subscriptions, of whom some 70 are overseas and 190 in England. This continued expansion of membership undoubtedly illustrates how wide is the appeal of Rock-gardening to owners of gardens, both small and large, and, I think, particularly to the former, since by far the larger proportion of our members have really small gardens. Our growth may also be attributed to the fare which the Club provides for its members—seven shows widely distributed over Scotland; two Journals and a Year Book, all containing much information of interest and use not only to experts but also to novices; and, last but not least, the Seed Exchange, which this year, thanks to the generosity of members, both at home and overseas, provided at a very low cost over 8000 packets of seed of many varieties of plants, some of which could not be obtained on the market. I feel confident that given the continued support of our members the Exchange which will continue next year will shew still further development.

At the Annual General Meeting in October, 1951, Major Walmsley, who had completed four strenuous years as President, and who was, therefore, not eligible for re-election, demitted office. He is due the warmest thanks of the Club for his tremendous efforts, the fruits of which are being seen today. His heavy mantle fell on my shoulders and I am grateful to the Club for the confidence which it has placed in me.

I wonder if members realise how heavy is the burden thrown on the Office-bearers of the Club, especially the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer, as a result of the Club's expansion which makes its day-to-day administrative and financial management a really considerable business. Our warmest thanks are due to Squadron Leader Boyd-Harvey and Mr. Stewart Mitchell for the energy which they have thrown into their duties and for the way in which they have put our affairs on a sound basis. Mr. J. L. Mowat has proved a most successful Hon. Editor and his publications during the year have shewn a marked improvement in spite of difficulties caused by rising costs. It was due to the really hard work of Mr. Masterton, manager of the Seed Exchange, that it was so successful. Major-General Murray Lyon has again shewn himself an expert in publicity. To these also we owe our best thanks.

Five Club Shows were held during the year.

At Dumfries, under Mr. Campbell's continued guidance, many good plants were exhibited and the show proved successful in every way.

At Edinburgh Dr. Henry Tod once more staged a very successful show in spite of the unusual season. A pleasing feature was the number of members exhibiting for the first time. This augurs well for the future. It was also satisfactory that in spite of the Club's increased membership the number of people paying for admission was greater than before—a feature, incidentally, of nearly all our shows this year.

At Glasgow, where Mr. Darling has taken over the Show Secretaryship from Mr. Taylor, the number of exhibits was less than at the International Conference Show in 1951 but the financial results, thanks in no small measure to the anticipatory efforts of Mr. Darling and Club Members in Glasgow and surrounding counties, were highly satisfactory.

At Aberdeen the Show, though smaller than could be wished, produced many good plants and was financially self-supporting. It is with regret that I have to announce that Mr. Baird will not again be able to undertake the duties of Show Secretary. Our thanks are due to him for his work since the Aberdeen Show was initiated. Lieut.-Colonel W. Mitchell has kindly agreed to take his place.

At Perth, where Miss Oonah Anderson again ably acted as Show Secretary, the number of exhibits was smaller than in 1951, probably owing to the advanced season and the proximity of the show dates to Chelsea Show. The standard of plants shewn was, however, well maintained and the financial result not unsatisfactory.

A new development during the year was the holding of two District Shows under the aegis of, and with the approval of, the Club Council, but organised and run locally.

The first of these shows, E. Lothian Show, held at Haddington in September, 1951, was an unqualified success and its organisers are to be congratulated on their initial venture. The second, Fife County Show, held at Dunfermline in June, 1952, at which certain classes were open to all Club Members, and at which also the well-filled classes for School children's exhibits of miniature rock gardens were an eye-opener, was equally successful. The assistance given by the Carnegie Trust, both financial and otherwise, contributed greatly to this. Mrs. Wilson and her helpers deserve our congratulations.

The work of organising and running shows involves the expenditure of much time and labour, firstly by the Show Secretary, but also by many others behind the scenes, and our thanks are due to all these willing helpers.

Without our skilled Judges our shows could not be held, and we thank all who acted in this capacity.

Trade Exhibits at our shows in 1951-52 were on the usual high level, and we welcomed our first overseas Trade exhibitor in Messrs. de Jager of Holland. Trade Exhibits do much to make our shows a beautiful spectacle and to bring to notice good plants. We are grateful for these exhibitors' continued interest.

I feel sure that the more widely we can spread our network of shows over Scotland the greater will be the public interest in the Club, provided always that the standard of such shows is maintained at a high level. I look forward to further developments on the lines of District Shows.

During the year a number of plants were given Awards of Merit by the Joint Committee of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club. Our thanks are due to the members of both bodies who served on this committee.

Once again our stand at the Highland Show at Kelso, organised by Major Walmsley, assisted by Messrs. Bannatyne and Jackson, who erected the rockwork, and by Mrs. Short and other willing helpers, attracted much attention and resulted in 64 new members.

An attractive stand at Ayr County Show, kindly erected without charge by Messrs. Wintersgill of Glasgow, was also admired and led to the enrolment of 16 new members.

We have now County Representatives in every county (or group of small counties) in Scotland except Stirlingshire, and also in N.E. and N.W. England. Experience undoubtedly shows that in areas where there are active C.R.s the Club's membership and activities expand, though the extent and type of the latter must vary according to local conditions. The Club owes much to all who assist in this capacity.

The Club owes a debt of gratitude to the many members who have opened their gardens and have given generous hospitality to visitors, both individual and in parties, often on many occasions.

In this connection may I appeal to members, and especially to those organising parties to visit gardens, to remember that such visits impose a considerable strain on the host or hostess, and in particular, that unless the invitation states otherwise participation should be restricted to members of the Club. Children, and worse still dogs, can unwittingly do much damage to valuable plants and should never be included in a party.

Our thanks are due to Major Sherriff, Colonel Lowndes, Mr. Renton and others who have so kindly given their help as lecturers.

The Council is giving its attention to the practicability of forming a Club Library.

In conclusion there is one point to which I would like to draw the attention of members. I, and some other members, would like to see the publications side of our activities further developed. The Journals have undoubtedly improved in recent years but I would like to see them better still. Our present Hon. Editor, like his predecessors, has done his utmost, but efforts have been hampered primarily by the limits which our financial position and the constantly increasing cost of paper and printing have imposed, but also to some extent at least by lack of suitable material for inclusion. While I can make no attempt at this juncture to forecast the financial results of the year's working, I would hope that with our increased membership that it might be possible for the Council, if so desirous, to allocate rather more money to the Journal in the coming year. In any case I would appeal to all members individually to consider whether they cannot contribute some item, however short, of interest and value to next year's Journals.

Ochertyre,
Stirling.
6th July 1952.

JAMES C. DUNDAS,
President.

Seed Distribution, 1952-53

May I once again appeal for seed for the S.R.G.C. Seed Distribution? Last year a great deal of good and valuable seed was sent in by members, and I hope we will continue to have as high a standard this year.

Seed of Alpine and allied plants, no matter in how small quantities, should be sent to the undersigned by **30th October, 1952**. Members sending in seed will have priority in the distribution of the rarer seeds.

R. S. MASTERTON,
Cluny House,
Aberfeldy.

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—o—

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Show Reports

ABERDEEN

The "George Forrest" Medal was awarded to Mrs. L. C. Boyd-Harvey for a pan of *Primula tibetica*, while the Bronze Medal was awarded to Mr. Stewart Mitchell.

In Section 3 Awards of Merit were awarded to Mrs. Ross, Netherton Lodge, Aberdeen, Edrom Nurseries, Berwickshire, and the Cruickshank Botanic Garden, Aberdeen, while others in this class were Mrs. M. M. McMurtrie, Mrs. Cozens-Hardy, Lt.-Col. W. Mitchell, Mr. R. E. Graham, and Mr. Baird.

Mr. Macbean of the Aberdeen Links and Parks very kindly decorated the hall with plants, and Capt. J. P. W. Furse exhibited a collection of water-colours of alpine plants which were much admired. The judges were Mr. A. P. Boissier, Dr. M. A. H. Tincker, and Mr. R. E. Graham; other members helping at the show were Mr. Pope, Lt.-Col. Mitchell, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. McMurtrie, and Miss Pulford.

Owing to the rather mild weather in the early Spring most plants had finished flowering before the show so that exhibits were rather sparse.

D. M. B.

DUMFRIES

The fourth Annual Show was opened in the Y.M.C.A. Hall by Mrs. J. L. Johnstone, Amisfield Tower, on Wednesday, 16th April.

Judges were Mr. John J. Wall, Mr. Malcolm M. MacDonald, Mr. John Adamson, Mr. Robert Forbes and Mr. D. Campbell. The George Forrest Medal was won by Mr. Henry Archibald of Ogcastle, Carnwath, with an outstanding plant of *Androsace pyrenaica*, for which he was also awarded the prize for the best softwood plant in the Show. Major and Mrs. Walmsley of Culderry, Garlieston, won the special prize for the best hardwood plant with a specimen of *Phyllodoce caerulea*. The bronze medal, awarded for the highest number of points gained in the novice section, was won by Mrs. J. H. Campbell, Dumfries, and Miss M. P. Hardie, The Grey Rocks, Hippford, took the award for the best plant in the novice section with *Primula* "Blue Velvet."

Mrs. J. G. Millar, Dumfries, won the special prize for the best Cactus plant in Section 2. A Certificate of Merit was awarded to Mrs. McConnel of Knockdolian, Colmonell, for several vases of new Narcissi which were in excellent condition, and showed expert cultivation. A small but select exhibition of Cacti and Succulents staged by Mrs. McLellan, Rockcliffe, created considerable interest to all.

Plants demanding special mention were a very fine Cyclamen exhibited by Mr. J. Carsin, Gowanlea, Castle-Douglas, an Azalea by Mrs. J. Lowes, Clifton Craig, Southwick, *Primula Rockii* and *Androsace imbricata* by Mr. A. D. Reid, 102 Oxcgangs Road, Edinburgh, and *Shortia uniflora* and *Polemonium confertum* by Mr. Henry Archibald of Ogcastle, Carnwath.

The Crichton Royal Gardens, who were responsible for the beautiful stage decorations consisting of Cinerarias, Calceolarias and Geraniums, displayed a collection of early flowering plants, notable amongst which were *Haberlea Ferdinandi-Coburgi*, *Phyllothamnus erectus*, *Primula scotica* and the delightful double Primrose—"Marie Crousse."

The Trade Stands were up to their usual standard, and provided a very colourful display which aroused tremendous interest amongst those present, helping in no small measure to the success of the Show. Messrs.

Longmuir & Adamson's stand, which gained a Gold Medal, was full of interesting plants, amongst which were *Primula gracilipes*, *Anemone Pulsatilla* "Mrs. Van der Elst," *Pleione Pricei*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*—double form, the recently introduced *Primula irregularis*, and *Tiarella Wherryi*. Messrs. Harper & Sons, Stranraer, had a magnificent display of Narcissi, prominent amongst which were "Duke of Windsor," "Majarda," "Diamond Jubilee," and "Piper's Barn." A Gold Medal was awarded to Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson whose tastefully arranged table Rock Garden contained many beautiful things, some of the outstanding specimens being *Cassiope fastigata* var., *Pleione Pricei*, the new *Phlox* "Blue Ridge," *Scilla peruviana*—dazzling electric blue, *Vaccinium Nummularia*—with rosy pink flowers, and *Primula aureata*. Mr. Jack Drake, visiting Dumfries for the first time, had a fine display of plants in pans, which gained him a Large Gold Medal. These included *Soldanella alpina*, *Primula sonchifolia*, *Harrimanella Stelleriana*, *Rhodothamnus Chamaecistus*, and *Primula bhutanica*. Messrs. Edrom Nurseries, another welcome visitor to Dumfries, included *Primula Reidii*, *Fritillaria meleagris* var. *Poseidon*, *Corylopsis pauciflora*, and a very attractive blue Primrose amongst many plants tastefully arranged on their colourful stand. Messrs. Blacklock & Jarvice once again had a stand full of useful books, covering all branches of horticulture.

The quality of the exhibits was improved this year, but it is regrettable that Section 2 was again badly supported. The Show was a great success and local interest is definitely increasing rapidly.

J. L. S. CAMPBELL

DUNFERMLINE

The Fife County Branch held its first Show in the Music Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, on 6th and 7th June. The President introduced Mrs. W. B. Robertson of Colton, Dunfermline, who performed the opening ceremony.

The entrance hall of the Music Pavilion was made gay and welcoming by the colourful stands of the Maryfield Nurseries, Leslie, and the Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham. A glimpse of aquatic flora and fauna was provided by Mr. Black. Information not only on problems of cultivation of alpinists, but on the arrangement of the flowers after one had grown them, was offered by MacPherson's bookstall. James Pirie, St. Andrews, showed what could be done with rock plants of bone china if one did not have the necessary green fingers.

A most interesting and varied collection of entries met the eye as one ascended the steps into the hall itself. A shaft of sunlight caught the petals of the Saxifrages and made them stand out in strong relief against the more sombre hues of their neighbours. They were particularly good in the section open to Club members resident in Fife.

The Silver Quaich, presented by the London and Scottish branches of the Institute of Quarrying for the highest aggregate of points in the Fife section, was won, for the first time, by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weir, St. Andrews, who gained awards in almost every class.

The section open to Club members who have not shown before was smaller than the others, but again a number of interesting plants were shown. A noteworthy specimen was that of *Gypsophila repens*, adjudged best plant in Section 2 and shown by Mr. J. G. Collee, Blenheim, Bo'ness. Great interest was shown in a miniature rock garden labelled "Dead Man's Gulch"—its claim to distinction did not lie only in its name.

In the open section, *Linnaea borealis*, shown by General and Mrs. Murray-Lyon, took pride of place. It was good to see our own Scottish alpinists holding their own. Many of them are hard to surpass in beauty

and interest, and a bigger entry in this class should surely be the aim of the Club members. In Section 4 *Meconopsis sinuata*, exhibited by General Murray-Lyon, gained an Award of Merit. The classes for mixed cut flowers and flowering shrubs were small ones, but the entries showed that the rock gardeners have wider interests than their name implies.

A considerable part of the Show was given over to school children, whose entries in the 3 classes allotted to them—miniature gardens, wild flowers, and paintings of flowers—totalled about 250, with entries from the pupils of seven schools. The originality and ingenuity shown in the making of the miniature gardens was sometimes startling, but every one showed evidence of careful work and there was a large entry. The Dunfermline rock gardens of the future should be worth seeing. The vases of wild flowers showed no mean knowledge of the local flora; and, when these same flowers appeared in crayon and water colour, some wonderful effects were obtained.

Great credit is due to Mrs. A. W. Wilson, the Show Secretary, without whose energy and enthusiasm such a successful Show could not have been held.

C. I. S.

EDINBURGH

The Edinburgh Show, April 22nd-24th, was held again this year in the Music Hall and Assembly Rooms, where last year it had suffered from serious drawbacks which this year had to be remedied. The most serious of these, exceptionally bad lighting in the Assembly Room, where the competitive exhibits were nearly invisible, was this year considerably improved by the provision of overhead lights arranged to shine down on the tables, and a similar arrangement was also used in the Music Hall. The second trouble, while not affecting members or public, certainly made the Trade (and the Show Secretary!) suffer: this was the fact that everything had to be carried upstairs. This problem was solved satisfactorily by the generous loan of a mechanical hoist by Messrs. Colin Macandrew & Partners, Ltd.

Once again we are grateful to Mr. Goodall, Clerk of Works for the Hall, and his assistants for their helpfulness and co-operation. We must also record our gratitude to Mr. Currie of the City Chamberlain's Office for all his help, particularly in connection with publicity. After last year's narrow margin of income over expenditure, publicity outlays had to be cut, and without the co-operation of the Chamberlain's Office our advertising would have been slender indeed. We are also grateful to the Press for the extensive—if sometimes not especially relevant—"write up" they gave the Show; this is always a most valuable form of publicity.

This year's competitive entries were more than one hundred up on last year's, but with fairly extensive "scratching," due to the sudden spell of warm weather, the final figure was some sixty more than the previous year's, the figure being 337 from 50 competitors.

One very satisfactory feature was that there were few classes with only one or two entries; in the class for Asiatic Primulas the final entry was twelve, and there were several other classes with ten or eight entries.

The "George Forrest Memorial Medal" for the most outstanding plant in the Show went to Mr. Jack Drake for *Cassiope selaginoides*, a nearly perfect plant of outstanding quality and almost perfectly flowered except for a few blooms "short" on one side.

The K. C. Corsar Challenge Trophy, the Carnethy Medal, and the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl (for "three pans Rock Plants of Easy Cultivation") attracted respectively four, six and ten entries. The first was won by Mr. A. D. Reid with six very fine pans—*Androsace imbricata*,

Primula Rockii, *Corydalis cashmeriana*, *Pleione formosana*, *Primula aureata* and *Rhododendron imperator*; the second was won by Mr. R. S. Masterton with *Androsace imbricata*, *Polemonium confertum* and *Primula scapigera alba*. Under the new Club ruling Mr. Drake and Mr. Masterton get Bars to their previously-won Medals. The new Trophy, the Archibald Rose Bowl, was won by Mrs. David Bell with three genuine "easy" plants—*Primula Mrs. J. H. Wilson*, *Rhododendron fastigiatum* and *Primula denticulata*: these were all plants of the type aimed at in the class—more than could be said of some of the entries. The great difficulty of this class is the question—"What is an easy plant?": a plant easy on the West coast may be very difficult in the East, and conversely, and the judges found the class nearly impossible to judge; but this is a matter which will have to be discussed by the Council.

The *Primula* entries were exceptionally fine in both Asiatic and European groups, and fine *Primulas* appeared in various other classes as individual entries. Such an one was a seedling of *Primula aureata* shown by Mr. A. D. Reid. This was the last of four self-seedlings raised by Mr. David Livingstone; two perished from the attack of some pest, one died a year or so later, and this last one has been grown on to full size and magnificent flourish by Mr. Reid—thereby proving (?) that *Primula aureata* is a species, though the mystery of its origin is still unsolved.

This year the Saxifrage and *Androsace* entries were much better—last year the date and season were against them; but the entries for bulbous plants were rather thin, and the *Rhododendrons*, though more were shown than last year, could, with one or two exceptions, have been much better. There was a strong entry of *Ranunculaceae* of various genera, one fine pan being of *Anemone vernalis* in beautiful condition shown by Dr. Robertson in Section II. The entries in Section II, incidentally, were of very high standard, and should mean even better exhibits in Section I next year. The winner of the Club's Bronze Medal for the highest aggregate in this section was Mrs. David Bell.

In the non-competitive Section III was a remarkable demonstration of the vegetative propagation of *Cyclamen* by Mr. J. N. J. Hartley. This feat, previously unrecorded, was achieved by section of the corm, and has been recognised by the award of the Club's Certificate of Merit. Other plants shown in this section were *Primulae Normaniana*, *obtusifolia* and *leucochnoa*.

The Open Section IV was well filled this year, and the classes were much more numerous than previously as all the primroses, polyanthus and auriculas are now transferred to this section. The scope of this section is thus very wide, ranging from these garden primulas, through pot plants to cut flowers. In this section the Gold Medal for the Open Narcissus Competition was awarded to Messrs. Thomas Harper & Son of Stranraer, and the Silver Medal to Mr. D. Bell of Bolton Muir, for two fine exhibits of ten vases of *Narcissi*.

Of four Floral Displays this year, two were put up by Messrs. Barr & Son of Covent Garden, and Messrs. Dobbies Ltd. of Edinburgh, the other two being brought forward by two newcomers to the Edinburgh Show, Messrs. Thomas Harper & Son of Stranraer, who were awarded a Large Gold Medal, and Messrs. P. de Jager & Sons of Heiloo, Netherlands, who gained a Gold Medal. We are always glad to welcome new exhibitors, and particularly so to welcome a Dutch firm; as far as the writer is aware this was the first time a Dutch firm has exhibited in Scotland. All four of these displays were of *Narcissi* of very fine quality, to which Messrs. Barr & Son added some splendid Tulips.

The Nurserymen's exhibits were, as usual, centres of interest for members and public alike. A Large Gold Medal was awarded to Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson of Hamilton for a very fine display of a wide range of plants. A notable feature was a group of plants of *Primula aureata*,

and another plant they showed which is seldom seen was *Scilla peruwiana*, a bulbous subject with an almost spherical blue head of flowers almost five inches through. A Gold Medal was awarded to the Edrom Nurseries for their bench exhibit of Rock Plants and Primulas. They also had a very striking island stand composed entirely of polyanthus in a wide range of colours. These seem to be a really good strain of strong plants with flower trusses of good colour and size.

Mrs. Laing of Hawick exhibited a wide range of rock plants in her usual effective setting, and caused an almost interminable argument amongst horticulturalists and botanists by showing a yellow Anemone "nemorosa." By the end of the Show this had been (more or less) run to ground as a natural hybrid—or was it?

Messrs. Young & Thomson completed the list of the Nurserymen with a large and effective stand of rock plants backed by dwarf shrubs; but one newcomer to our Show fell into neither the class of Nurserymen nor of Sundriesmen. This was the Sussex Florist and Horticulturist, a stand showing very neat and attractive floral novelties and miniature gardens. This exhibit came from Hove—a far cry indeed, and represented an entirely new type of exhibit for our Shows.

The Lavex Company, in showing us their range of sands, peats, and composts, also gave a fine display of tulips, while Messrs. Dobbie Ltd. exhibited a wide range of garden sundries and furniture. This year Messrs. Melvin Bros. had a site upstairs along with the rest of the exhibitors and presented a wide range of lawn mowers and other garden equipment.

To round off the exhibits we had Messrs. Wm. Brown (Bookseller) Ltd. to show a wide range of books on gardening and allied subjects, including some copies of the wonderful reprint of Thornton's Temple of Flora—a book for the connoisseur both as regards quality and price!

There were also two publicity stands, the first being a display of Cacti and Succulents by our colleague, the National Cactus and Succulent Society. This was a striking exhibition of the range of size and form shown by these desert plants: the smallest was about the size of a match in a one-inch pot, and the largest some feet in size, in a pot to suit. The other was a display of literature by the National Trust and the Scottish Gardens Scheme.

The Show was formally opened by our new President, Lt.-Col. J. C. Dundas, D.S.O., D.L., who stressed in his remarks that the idea which had been put about that the Club was primarily for those with big rock gardens and extensive gardens in general was totally false. He pointed out that at least 75% of the members had gardens of much less than half an acre—and in this connection it may be added that many of the most successful competitors have *very* small gardens, to be measured in *square yards*, and that one former competitor who used to sweep the boards regularly had *no* garden proper, only a few odd frames. He also suggested that the members might seek and find the peace of the hills among their rock plants, and a refuge from a war-mad world.

There were the usual two lectures; on the Tuesday evening we had a most interesting talk by Mr. Evans of the R.B.G. on the construction of peat walls and a number of plants suitable for growing in and on them, the lecture being illustrated by slides of the peat walls at the R.B.G., and of the plants discussed.

The Wednesday evening lecture was by Colonel Donald Lowndes, who sent back from his collecting trip in Bhutan such very good seed of some really fine plants. He gave us a talk on this trip and the plants he collected, showing us slides of the country and the flowers—with the added interest and value that he spoke and had collected *as a gardener himself*.

It is always interesting and helpful to see the habit and habitat of those "unknowns" that arrive as neat little packets of seed, and which

are so frequently not to be found in any list or book, and Colonel Lowndes' descriptions of the plants, the country, and people were both helpful and entertaining. Both these lectures were well attended and much appreciated by members of the Club and the public alike.

Three afternoon demonstrations of the construction of a rock garden on a flat site were given by Mr. Evans, with a commentary by the Show Secretary. These seemed to be popular and gave rise to a number of questions and prolonged discussions of details and problems.

While the Music Hall presents administrative problems for the Show Secretary and tends to cause a drop in the "gate" compared with the Market, it is undoubtedly a much pleasanter locus and the Edinburgh Show has become more of a social function than it could be in the chilly wastes of the "Market."

H. T.

GLASGOW

The Show took place in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 6th and 7th May 1952. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Shaw Stewart of Ardgowan, Inverkip. Receipts at the door were in excess of last year, indicating that the attendance of the general public was greater than at the Conference Show of 1951. And we were able to hand over to the Club's Treasurer some £57. Success for future Shows is assured provided we have a committee prepared to work as hard and harmoniously as the present Committee, and that their efforts are supported in the same whole-hearted manner by the ordinary members of the Club.

On the afternoon of the first day of the Show, and in the adjoining tea-room, Mr. David Livingstone gave an interesting and informative talk on a selection of the rarer plants taken from the show bench.

Entries were down from the previous year, numbering 320 as compared with over 500 at the Conference Show. Classes 1 and 2, for six and three rock plants respectively, attracted two entries in the one, and but one entry in the other; we do hope that next year our noted growers of alpines—and there are many scattered throughout the country—will set an example and ensure keen competition in these two classes.

The "George Forrest Medal" for the best plant in the Show was won by Jack Drake, Aviemore, with *Primula Wattii*. The "Buchanan Memorial Rose Bowl" was won by R. S. Masterton, Cluny House, Aberfeldy, with the following six plants:—*Rhodo. cantabile*, *Glaucidium palmatum*, *Schizocodon soldanelloides*, *Meconopsis Sherriffii*, *Ranunculus Lyallii*, and *Androsace cylindrica hirtella*. Mr. Masterton also won the "Henry Archibald Challenge Rose Bowl" with the following three plants:—*Primula obtusifolia*, *Omphalogramma vinciflora*, and *Androsace hirtella*. The "Bronze Medal" awarded for most pots in Section 2 was won by William Urie, North Cote, Turnberry.

Among Mr. Archibald's outstanding plants were *Erinacea Anthyllis*, *Haberlea virginale* and *Sedum Stahlia*. H. L. Knox of Alexandria had outstanding plants in *Cypripedium pubescens* and *Primula eburnea*. James Taggart, Helensburgh, the youngest competitor, scored in 10 classes, truly a remarkable performance for a young lad not yet eighteen years of age. Outstanding among the many good things of Mr. Alexander Lamb, Carlisle, were *Andromeda Polifolia compacta*, *Rhodo. patulum* and *Vaccinium Nummularia*, and his collection of rock conifers, including *Chamaecyparis obtusa pygmaea* and *Thuja Ohlendorffii*. A. N. Reid's pan of *Dionysia curviflora*, which some months beforehand, in Edinburgh, had won an award of merit when in full flower, graced the show tables in Glasgow for the first time. Another prominent exhibitor was R. J. C. Biggart of Kil-

macolm, who excelled in the classes for *Lewisias*. Maj.-Gen. Murray-Lyon with *Anemone obtusifolia patula* and *Glaucidium palmatum* scored in Class 21.

An outstanding exhibit brought success to Mrs. Garnett-Botfield, Wolverhampton, in Class 26. Three pans of *Rhodohypoxis* vars. "Douglas," "Ruth" and "Albrighton" were of exceptional merit. The flowers were large and the colouring good, and excited all-round admiration. Mrs. McConnell, Knockdolian, Colmonel, had a well-grown plant of *Cassiope rigida*. William Urie had among his many fine plants *Lewisia Cotyledon hybrid*, *Tiarella Wherryi* and *Helichrysum virgineum*. Dr. E. Gibson, Milngavie, ran Mr. Urie closely for the medal and was specially commended for a daintily planted pan of rock plants. Mrs. Alasdair Clark, Onich, Inverness-shire, competing for the first time, was successful in classes 61 and 63 with *Dryas octopetala* and *Erodium chrysanthum*. Mrs. J. K. Hiddleston, Whitecraigs, had a well-grown plant of *Aquilegia flabellata nana alba*. Among other prize winners were A. Todd, Bearsden; Mr. and Mrs. Boyd-Harvey, Dirleton; J. S. R. Thomson, Glasgow; J. Goodlet, Mugdock; and Mr. and Mrs. E. Darling, Port Glasgow.

W. Buchanan, Bearsden, in the non-competitive Class 83, had among other good things, *Diapensia obovata* and *Celmisia ramulosa*. A Certificate of Merit was awarded to Major and Mrs. Walmsley, for a beautiful collection of rock plants which included such gems as *Phyllodoce nipponica*, *Erinacea Anthyllis*, *Ramonda Nathaliae*, *Gentiana acalidis*, *Tulipa persica*, *Narcissus juncifolius rupicola*, *Corydalis cashmeriana* and *Douglasia Vitaliana*.

The stands of nurserymen, etc., played a prominent part in the success of the Show. The Edrom Nurseries (Miss Logan Home), Berwickshire, had a magnificent display of *Polyanthus*, backed by a variety of shrubs and *Azaleas*, with colonies of *Pp. chionantha*, *sino-purpurea* and *Reidii*. The Kennishead Nurseries (D. A. Wintersgill), Thornliebank, had flowering and evergreen shrubs, outstanding among which were *Viburnum Vassii*, *Azalea Daviesii*, and well-grown specimens of *Pyrus Hillierii* and *Kalmia angustifolia*. In addition they had many varieties of conifers. The Castlehill Nurseries (Miss Guthrie-Smith), Helensburgh, had quite an original lay-out. The centre piece was a garden of miniature roses (four varieties) enclosed by dry stone walls on three sides, and the whole backed by many varieties of dwarf rhodos. and flowering shrubs.

The exhibits of Jack Drake, Aviemore, were admired by all, and envied by many. How does he do it? Let us hope he will enlighten us in future Journals. The "George Forrest Medal" was awarded him for a glorious pan of *Primula Wattii*. In addition he had equally well-grown pans of *P. eburnea*, *P. Caudoriana* and *Omphalogramma vinciflorum*. The Daisy Hill Nurseries, Newry (N. Ireland), had a most attractive and varied stand of rare shrubs and alpine, with the larger growing heathers, many varieties of brightly coloured *Azaleas*, *Forthergilla monticola*, *Kalmia glauca* and a fine selection of *auriculas*, dwarf roses, and *Iris innominata*. Bannatyne & Jackson, Hamilton, had in their stand *Primula aureata*, *Viburnum Davidii*, *Pleione Pricei*, *Jankaea*, *Heldreichii*, *Cytisus hirsutus demissus* and well-flowered *Haberleas*. They were awarded the small gold medal.

Harper & Son, Stranraer, staged an outstanding exhibit of daffodils and tulips, for which they were awarded a large gold medal. We had an opportunity of seeing a collection of the late flowering *Narcissi*, outstanding among which were "Chinese White," "Fermoy," "Limerick" and "Cushendael." Among the miniature *Narcissi* were the hybrids "April Tears," "Gracilis," "Lady Bee" and "Lintie." In the collection of tulips were Cottage "Rosy Wings," lily flowered "Capt. Fryatt" and "Gisela," and the double "Uncle Tom" and "Mt. Tacoma." Dobbie & Sons, Edinburgh and Glasgow, staged a stand that included all the latest garden implements.

They also staged a stand of *Cacti* in many varieties, and this was a centre of attraction to many.

W. B. Boyd, The Nurseries, South Arthurlie, Barrhead, won the large Gold Medal for a stand of well-chosen shrubs and a most extensive collection of choice alpinines which included *Campanula Aucheri*, *Phlox* "Blue Ridge," *Primula nutans*, *Cytisus Beani* and *Kewensis*, and many varieties of the double primroses. Lovely clumps of *Primula auricula* "Broadwell Gold" and *Primula Juliae* "Afterglow" were admired by all, and also the new dwarf rose "Josephine Wheatcroft." Messrs. Jackson & Son, West George Street, Glasgow, staged their usual display of books on gardening, a most comprehensive collection. The Lavex Manufacturing Co., West Calder, Midlothian, were forward with their usual display of garden requisites and soil compost for every phase in garden operations. A magnificent collection of water colour drawings of many well-known plants, botanically accurate in the minutest detail, and artistically most pleasing to the eye, were shown by the artist, Capt. Paul Furse (E), R.N., R.N. Air Station, Arbroath, Angus.

E. D.

Show Secretary (pro. tem.)

HADDINGTON

East Lothian members, in September 1951, held a most successful Autumn Show in the eighteenth century Assembly Rooms, Haddington. With Mrs. Peel, County Representative, in the chair, the Show was opened by Major Walmsley, who in his remarks congratulated East Lothian members on proving so conclusively to the public that our rock-gardens could be as colourful in the Autumn as in the Spring. Provost Fortune of Haddington, in proposing a vote of thanks to Major Walmsley, said how pleased were the Town and County to welcome the President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and that he himself hoped that the Show would become an annual event. Mrs. Walmsley, after kindly presenting the chief awards, was thanked by Mr. David Bell.

The judges, Miss Logan Home, Mr. J. L. Mowat and Major Walmsley, were faced with one hundred and forty-four entries in the thirty-two classes—two of the novice classes having nine entries each. Sixteen classes were open to all East Lothian members and fourteen to novices (who had never before entered for an S.R.G.C. Show). Eighteen showed for the first time, many of them in both sections, and showed a high standard of proficiency.

The Premier Award, a Prize Voucher for £2 2s. presented by Mr. Frank Barker of Six Hills Nursery, Hertfordshire, was won by Mrs. Peel with a perfect plant of *Tunica Saxifraga fl. pl.* in full flourish. For the next best in Section II there was a tie between Mrs. Bathgate's *Cyananthus integer* and Mrs. Peel's *Gentiana saxosa*, both of them well flowered plants in perfect condition. First place in Section I went to a fine plant of *Statice cancellata*, one of many good plants shown by Mrs. Bowe.

Amongst the Gentians exhibited were *G. Macaulayi*, *septemfida*, *hexa-Farreri*, *lagodechiana Drake's Strain*, *saxosa* and *sino-ornata*. Other plants seen in fine condition were *Erigeron* "Elstead Pink," *Erodium chamaedryoides roseum* (or *E. Reichardii roseum*), *Potentilla verna nana*, *P. alpestris*, *Allium cyaneum*, *Crepis incana*, *Leontopodium alpinum*, and also an Albanian form, *Antirrhinum Asarina*, *Helianthemum vars.*, *Aster Papppei*, *A. dumosum x Novi-Belgii* hybrids, *Polygonum affine* (but unfortunately no *P. vacciniifolium*), *Santolina alpina*, *Achillea spp.*, *Antennaria dioica*, *Sedum Middendorffianum*, *S. spathulifolium* and var. *purpureum*, *S. spectabile*, var. "Brilliant," *S. caucasicolum*, *Mentha Requienii*, *Thymus officinalis*, *Th. villosus*, *Th. Serpyllum*, *Erica vagans* var. "Mrs. D. F. Maxwell,"

and others, *Calluna vulgaris* vars. *Fozii nana*, "J. H. Hamilton," and "County Wicklow," *Cyclamen neapolitanum*, *Colchicum* spp., *Sempervivum arachnoideum* (one entry growing beautifully on and through a piece of fossilised bark from Tweedside), *Gaultheria procumbens*, *Rosa pygmaea*, *Primula capitata*, *Campanula fenestrellata*, *Tommasiniana*, *cochlearifolia*, *Portenschlagiana*, *carpatica* (and var. "White Star"), and others. Also on show were *Omphalodes Luciliae*, *Corydalis Wilsonii*, *Silene Schafta*, *Diosphaera dubia*, *Astilbe chinensis pumila*, *Raoulia australis*, *Helichrysum marginatum*, *Hieracium villosum*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Felicia Bergeriana* and *F. rotundifolia*, *Anagallis grandiflora*, *Dianthus Hedwigii*, *Edraianthus serpyllifolius*, *Fuchsia thymifolia* and var. "Tom Thumb," *Shortia galacoliis*, *Crassula* spp., and *Veronica incana*.

The Miniature Rock Gardens made their usual appeal and some fine photographs also added to the interest, as did a wonderful collection of succulents grown from seed by David Bell. A debt of gratitude is due to the Trade who added to the beauty and interest of the Show by their fine displays—The Misses Logan Home of Edrom Nurseries, Mrs. Laing of Hawick, Mr. James Miller of Ferrygates, North Berwick, and Mr. T. Steele of Haddington. It is satisfactory to be able to say that the Show was a financial success, over £15 being taken at the door, and we are in a good position to launch our next **Autumn Show on September 12th and 13th** in Haddington, when we hope that we may be visited by friends from other counties and we assure them of a great welcome and an interesting Show.

R. T.

PERTH

The Perth Show, which was held on 29th and 30th May, was as usual a great success and the Show Secretary and her Committee are to be congratulated on the results of their work. The Show was opened by Mrs. Gomme Duncan, who was introduced by the President of the Club. In his remarks the President said that he hoped to reach the nineteen hundred mark with new Members. There was a large attendance at the Opening Ceremony and several new Members were enrolled. Entries were unfortunately down in number, no doubt due to the dry spell of weather prior to the Show, also to the earliness of the Season, but the quality was of a high standard.

In the principal Class for the Dundas Quaich, Mr. R. S. Masterton was the winner, his *Primula reptans* being in splendid condition. Other Exhibits included *Phyteuma comosum* and *Primula tibetica*. The "Difficult Plant" Class is always of interest and in this Class the true *Anchusa ceaspitosa* won the day; others were the rare *Lysionotis pauciflora* (though not in flower) and that pretty but unsatisfactory *Boykinia Jamesii*. In the Scottish Plant Section *Orchis incarnata* was in splendid condition as well as *Scilla verna*, a dainty little Squill not often enough grown. There was also seen our Club Emblem—*Dryas octopetala*. Silver Foliage plants on this occasion brought in a good *Verbascum* as well as *Helichrysum virgineum* and the neat *Helichrysum frigidum*.

A Class that is of special interest to *Primula* enthusiasts did not come up to the usual standard; the winning group was made up of *Primula Cawdoriana*, *Primula eburnea* and *Primula tibetica*: there was also a fine *Primula pulverulenta* shown. Most of the cushion *Androsaces* are passed flowering by the time this Show is held and the best plant in flower here was *Androsace spinulifera*. Another interesting Class, and one that sometimes contains a surprise, is the "Bulbous Plants," as it gives such a very wide field and there are so many plants that could be placed in this Class:

here was *Rhodohypoxis* in good health and a lovely *Nomocharis*. In spite of the scope that the Class for Compositae gives, the usual specimens seen are *Anacyclus*, both species—*Anacyclus depressus* and *Anacyclus atlanticus* were shown.

No Show Table would be complete without the Gentians and there were several well-grown exhibits shown, their brilliant colour standing out at a distance. There was a splendid exhibit of *Lewisia*, a well-grown and well-flowered plant of *Lewisia rediviva* being the winner in the Class, but others well merited commendation. Even in such an early year as the present, there were few *Campanulas* ready, those shown including *C. Aucheri*, *C. tridentata* and *C. lasiocarpa*.

Among the *Dianthus* shown there was a splendid example of *Dianthus callizonus*; this species, although known for such a time, has become rare and it was a pleasure to see such a good form and so well grown. *Sedums* and *Sempervivums*, those useful plants for dry spots, were well represented and many fine pans were exhibited. In the Fern Class it was a surprise to see *Botrychium Lunaria*, "the Common Moonwort," so well grown. Dwarf Conifers, that Class so difficult for the Grower (as well as for the Judges) are always of value and there were many neat compact specimens there.

Two unusual plants were in Class 32. Namely, *Incarvillea* and *Geranium Farreri*. A great deal of thought and work had been put into the pan of rock plants and it might be of value to increase the size of the pan. Cactus were well shown, many valuable specimens being there, and several in flower. In Section 2, one very good garden plant made its appearance—*Gypsophila cerastoides*, a plant not often seen now-a-days, although perfectly hardy and of particular use for overhanging a rock. *Rhodohypoxis* was also in evidence in this Section. The Bronze Medal for the Competitor with the highest aggregate of points in Section 2 was gained by Mr. and Mrs. Weir, Balgove, St. Andrews.

Members of the Trade put up very valuable exhibits, which contained far too numerous rare and good plants to mention. Mr. Jack Drake gained the "George Forrest Medal" for *Calceolaria Darwinii*, a magnificent specimen in full flower: other outstanding plants in this exhibit were *Omphalogramma vinciflora* and his new *Lewisia* Hybrid. He also won a large Gold Medal. Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson, who gained a Large Gold Medal, had a large stand which included such plants as *Spiraea Hendersonii*, *Syringa microphylla* and *Primula nutans*. The Firm of G. McOmish of Crieff, who gained a Gold Medal, exhibited a mixed collection of plants, their *Azaleas* making a very colourful stand: among the many plants noted, *Phlox adsurgens* was outstanding.

Messrs. James Aitken, Barnhill, Perth, staged a well-designed Rock Garden on the Platform, and Messrs. Laird & Sinclair, Dundee, exhibited a stand of useful sundries and tools. Perth and Kinross County Library had a very good stand of Books on Alpines and other branches of horticulture. In Section 3 there was an outstanding collection of pictures by Captain Paul Furse, R.N., which attracted a great deal of interest.

D. W.

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Our Club Stand at the Royal Highland Show in Kelso on 17th to 20th June was a great success from every point of view.

On Tuesday we were honoured by a visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Her Royal Highness admired greatly

Saxifraga lingulata and the deep red *Rhodohypoxis Baurii*, asking Major Walmsley questions about them and many other plants.

The Stand was erected and laid out most skilfully by Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson, to whom we are greatly indebted. Major Walmsley had no easy task arranging the plants to the best advantage, but the result was a perfect rock garden in miniature. Among the many beautiful plants the most outstanding were *Rhodohypoxis Baurii*, *Phyteuma comosum*, *Calceolaria Darwinii*, *Phlox adsurgens*, *Scilla Adlamii*, *Dianthus haematocalyx*, *Primula nutans*, *Primula umbratilis* (seed from Ludlow-Sherriff Expedition), *Anacyclus depressus* and *Roscoea cauleoides*. There was always a crowd of interested people, and members had a busy time answering questions. Sixty-four new members were enrolled, among them one from India and two from New Zealand. A number of people took leaflets and bought Journals with a view to joining in the near future, we hope.

The Club's thanks are due to Major and Mrs. Walmsley for all their hard work and the long hours put in at the Stand, to the members who so kindly lent their plants, and to those who gave up their time to help.

Last, but not least, our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Short, the County Representative, for so ably organising the local arrangements, and for her constant attendance at the Stand.

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County Activities

ANGUS

LECTURES : This County has now settled down to a regular course of winter lectures. These are held in University College, Dundee, on the first Mondays of November, December, February and March.

Our session got off to a fine start when Mr. J. L. Mowat gave a lecture on "Shrubs for the Rock Garden." This proved of great value, dealing in a very thorough and expert manner with a wide range of subjects, with particular reference to those most suitable for this area. The hope was expressed by one member, and heartily endorsed by all, that this talk would in due course be printed, as it was most comprehensive and instructive.

At the December meeting Mr. John T. Renton showed a cine-film of the famous garden at Branklyn, Perth, and colour slides of individual plants grown there. A most helpful talk on the construction of the garden was given by Mr. Renton, and a commentary on the various pictures as they appeared. This meeting proved to be our biggest for attendance so far.

Mr. E. H. M. Cox gave the February lecture. His subject was "Rhododendrons," on which he is one of our foremost experts. This was also a very well attended meeting. Mr. Cox dealt with this wonderful family in a most interesting and thorough way, showing us by many slides and a cine-film, Rhododendrons in their native mountains, where he had collected with Farrer, and in various Botanic Gardens. Best of all, perhaps, was the cine-film of the extensive collection Mr. Cox grows at Glendoick, Perthshire. We are looking forward to seeing them in bloom there next year.

The final meeting in March was to be a Members' Night, but at the last moment the C.R. had to show his collection of colour slides taken in his own garden. This proved quite a success, perhaps because the members entered freely into the questions and discussion. The provision of a list of the plants shown also helped, and seems to be an idea worth copying elsewhere.

Tea and biscuits are served at all meetings and most of the members take advantage of this aftermath which helps them to get to know one another.

VISITS TO GARDENS : Owing to various causes we had only two outings this past summer. Both were very well attended, so much so, that with our growing membership, it may be necessary to make these trips in the future "for members only."

On Wednesday, 4th June, we had an evening run to Mr. and Mrs. Renton's really wonderful garden at Branklyn, Perth. After having Mr. Renton's lecture earlier in the season, this brought out a very large party. At Branklyn we, as usual, added much to our gardening knowledge, and saw along with many tried favourites, lots of new and little known plants, all growing to perfection. The layout of this garden and its skilful planting compels visitors to stop every few steps to admire a new picture. The obvious delight of visitors must be a constant reward to its two creators. The evening was chilly, and a welcome cup of tea and a chat in our hosts' lovely home rounded off a very satisfying visit.

The afternoon and evening of 14th June were most thoroughly enjoyed at St. Andrews. There we visited two private gardens, Balgove, where Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weir showed us round, and Grange, Mr. and Mrs.

Grace's lovely garden, as well as the University Botanic Gardens, where Mr. Mowat was our guide.

The two private gardens were new to most of our members. Balgove has a most interesting variety of plants to see. The *Meconopsis* and *Primula* border is very fine, a new peat garden promises well, and there is an interesting collection of plants on the Rock Garden and in the many troughs of varying sizes.

Grange has a splendid setting amongst its trees, and the large drift of *Primulas* by the pool, with the woodland background, made an attractive picture. A new Rock Garden recently constructed and planted, by its very newness proved of immense interest to the party.

After tea, the company had the usual thorough inspection of the Botanic Gardens, where there is much to interest everyone, no matter what family of plants one specialises in. A large extension to the Rock Garden beside the Bute Medical School constructed since our visit last year, provided another lesson in construction for those contemplating alterations or new rock gardens.

We are very much indebted for the opportunity given to us so readily, to visit these beautiful gardens. We appreciate the splendid welcomes we received at all, and the valuable instruction we obtained so pleasantly.

S. M.

AYRSHIRE

The new County Representative of Ayrshire, Mrs. J. B. Findlay, Carnell, Hurlford, is being assisted by Mrs. Gairdner, 19 Marchmont Road, Ayr, and Mrs. Hannah, 1 Broomfield Road, Ayr, who are acting as Joint Secretaries.

The next meeting, at which the speaker will be Dr. Dovaston of Auchincruive, will be held in Young's Tea Rooms, Sandgate, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m. on 22nd October.

J. B. F.

DUNBARTON, GLASGOW and RENFREWSHIRE

The first meeting last winter was held on Monday, 1st October 1951, in Miss Buick's Tea Rooms, but subsequent meetings to accommodate the average attendance of over 60 members were held on the first Monday of each month till April in Rosalind's Tea Rooms, 33A Gordon Street. Speakers at these meetings were Mr. Buchanan, Bearsden: "Shrubs Suitable for the Rock Garden"; J. T. Wall, Hamilton: "Saxifrages"; Dr. Dovaston, Auchincruive: "Native Alpines" (illustrated by lantern slides); D. G. Taylor, West of Scotland Agricultural College: "Annuals" (illustrated by lantern slides); Dr. E. Gibson, Milngavie: "The Ash Scree"; D. A. Wintersgill, Kennishead: "Sempervivums"; and Miss M. E. Guthrie-Smith: "Azaleas and Rhododendrons for the Rock Garden."

On 9th May in Cranston's Tea Rooms, Buchanan Street, Major George Sherriff enthralled a large audience of Club members and members of the West of Scotland Horticultural Society with his talk and coloured film on "Plant Hunting in Nepal and Southern Tibet."

A Committee formed to run Glasgow Show did this successfully and also eased the financial strain by collecting £33 from the raffing of rock plants at monthly meetings.

Visits arranged to the gardens of Ogscastle, Carnwath (H. Archibald, Esq.), 24th May, Grange (Mr. and Mrs. Grace) and University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, 7th June, and "Eileandonan" (Mr. and Mrs. Morris), "Rose Cottage" (Miss N. W. Bowe), "Vine Cottage" (Mrs. N. Robertson), "Boonslie" (Mr. and Mrs. Boyd-Harvey), all of Dirleton, East Lothian, were carried out and greatly enjoyed by all participating. To the owners of these lovely gardens we tender our sincere thanks for the privilege of seeing round them.

Winter meetings will again be held on the first Monday of each month, commencing October, but so far the owners of Rosalind have not confirmed the booking. Notice will be sent out to all district members in due course. The following outings have been tentatively arranged for next summer :—

- (1) Gardens in Callander, Killin, and Aberfeldy, Perthshire.
- (2) Gardens and Nursery of Miss Logan Home, Coldingham, Berwickshire.
- (3) Gardens in Newton Mearns.

Last winter members from Ayrshire, Stirling and Lanarkshire attended many of our meetings. All are welcome.

EDWARD DARLING,
County Representative, Renfrewshire.

EAST LoTHIAN

The most important event in the 1951-52 winter programme was the Haddington Show, which is reported in detail under "Show Reports" in this Journal. Its object was to encourage East Lothian members to exhibit at the Club's Open Shows, and several of those who gained experience at Haddington took plants to Edinburgh the following April. In fact, a very high proportion of the entries at Edinburgh came from East Lothian gardens, and one member sent a few plants to each of the Shows in the Club's calendar. The Club's Bronze Medal and the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl came to East Lothian from Edinburgh, and the George Forrest Memorial Medal from Aberdeen.

Since the Haddington Show there has been a meeting each month except December and August. The lectures have been distributed as widely as possible throughout the county. In October, at Eaglescarnie, Mr. James Bruce told members how to design, build and plant a water-garden, and afterward there was still time to see Mrs. Peel's own water-garden, which was looking very gay so late in the year. In November, Mrs. Sim was the hostess in Gullane for a lecture given at short notice by Dr. H. Tod on "Raising Alpines from Seed," followed by lantern slides of some of his own plants. In January, members were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. David Bell at Gifford to learn about and see specimens of, Mr. Masterton's work in propagating, and were most encouraged to hear how the tragedy of losing a *Primula* could be transformed into the triumph of producing ten more from its surviving remnants!

A lecture by Mr. Wall at the Marine Hotel, North Berwick, on "Alpine Lawns" was useful to beginners and "extensioners." Notebooks were very full afterwards with the names of plants which he recommended. At Skateraw, the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Bowe, Major Walmsley talked to members on "Showing." This was three weeks before entries were due for the Edinburgh Show, and there is no doubt that his advice and encouragement contributed towards the big entry from the County at this Show.

The garden visits during spring and summer were all blessed with perfect weather. Two of these widened our horizon by taking us outside

the County—to Mr. and Mrs. Corsar's garden in Midlothian, and to the Misses Logan Home's nursery in Berwickshire. It was very kind of our hostesses on both occasions not only to throw open their gardens, but also to invite the parties to tea afterwards. In May a large party visited Dirlerton, the small village with a large membership, to see the gardens of Mrs. N. Robertson, Miss N. Bowe, Mr. and Mrs. P. G. D. Morris, Mrs. D. Tweedie and Squadron Leader and Mrs. Boyd-Harvey.

The final visit of the season was to our County Representative's garden at Eaglescarnie. Even Mrs. Peel, with every reason to be pleased with her rock garden and water-side garden, is not yet content, but is building a new bog-garden and peat walls. To the enthusiastic visitor, a garden in process of construction can be of greater interest than the perfected article, and members will look forward eagerly to seeing the further development of this new part of the garden. There has certainly been a great deal of building, reconstruction, and extension going on throughout the County lately, a good sign of the Branch's vitality.

A successful innovation during the season was a coffee party and "Bring and Buy" sale of plants held in March at Mrs. MacFarlane's house in Haddington. This provided the opportunity of finding good homes for surplus plants, the chance of finding something new for one's own garden, and the occasion for some pleasant garden gossip over a cup of coffee. Last, but not least, the sum of £33 5s. was raised in one hour and a half towards the overhead expenses of the next Haddington Show.

L. C. B. H.

EDINBURGH and MIDLOTHIAN

Announcement

A "Discussion Evening" will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12th, at Messrs. Brown's (Booksellers), 57 George Street. Coffee and biscuits will be served at 2/- per head. Please come and bring your Problems.

WINIFRED ROBERTSON,
County Representative.

FIFE

During the season just ended there has been a steady increase in the number of Fife members and it is hoped that more will join in the near future. Great activity in the way of rock-garden alterations and reconstruction has been going on in the district and creating a keen interest in the group.

The first evening meeting of the winter was held by the courtesy of Miss Pirie, in Greyfriars Gallery, St. Andrews, on *Friday, 16th November*, and was very well attended.

On *Friday, 1st February*, Major George Sherriff gave members a very interesting evening in the Botany Lecture Room, University, St. Andrews, with his colour films of Himalayan plants, which he accompanied by a graphic account of his journeyings and discoveries there.

The next meeting, on *Wednesday, 5th March*, was again held in Greyfriars Gallery, when Mr. James Aitken of Perth held the attention of over 40 members present with a most useful and instructive talk and demonstration of rock-garden construction. After answering a battery of questions Mr. Aitken next showed us coloured slides of his own making of various Swiss Alpines and their natural settings. This was followed by

“tea and biscuits,” during which questions and discussions broke out afresh.

Our speaker on *Friday, 4th April*, was Mr. C. McDermott, when, in answer to previous requests from members, he gave a very useful talk and demonstration of potting up and preparing plants for show. The value of this talk was evident later when the Bronze Medal from Perth and the Silver Quaich from Dunfermline both came to St. Andrews, along with many other prizes. Members in the Northern part of the County are fortunate in that the meetings of the Angus group, held in Dundee, are also within their reach at no great inconvenience.

On *Saturday, 10th May*, lady members under the leadership of Mrs. Grace held a most successful “Bring and Buy” and Coffee Morning, when a very useful sum of £20 was raised towards the expenses of the Group Show to be held in Dunfermline on 6th and 7th June. A large number of rock plants and many other donations were brought and bought, and the large turn-out spent a very happy morning in discussion over the plants on view and other rock-garden topics.

6th and 7th June brought the Show at Dunfermline which, under the able organisation of Mrs. Wilson, was a great success, and is more fully reported under a separate heading.

Also on *7th June* Renfrewshire members visited the University Botanic Garden and the garden of Mrs. Grace, Grange, St. Andrews. Local members, away at Dunfermline Show, missed the pleasure of meeting their fellows from the West. A week later, *14th June*, a party of Angus members visited these two gardens and also the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Weir at Balgove. Twice during the season this garden has been open to local members as a group, in addition to which many members have been visiting one another's gardens at intervals throughout the year.

Two illustrated lectures have already been arranged for next winter, and after details of others are complete, members in the county will be notified.

C. R.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

On 15th November 1951, members were invited by the Dumfries C.R. to join them in Dumfries, when Mr. MacDonald gave a talk on “Showing Plants,” illustrating his talk with some very attractive plants. After this, Mr. Adamson talked on Autumn-coloured plants and shrubs, and passed round some lovely branches and leaves of the plants under discussion. Both talks were of great interest, and were much appreciated and enjoyed by those members who attended the Meeting. On 8th February 1951, a Meeting was held in Colvend Church Hall, when Mr. Anderson (County Horticultural Adviser) very kindly gave a much appreciated talk on Rock Plants. Thirty-one members and friends were present. Tea provided by Rockcliffe members was enjoyed afterwards. On 25th March, members were again invited by the Dumfries C.R. to a Meeting in Dumfries. Very interesting and instructional talks were given on the “Propagation of Alpines,” by Mr. Marchbanks, Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Adamson—all being illustrated with many really lovely plants which were passed round for examination; the evening was very much enjoyed by those members who were able to attend.

On 9th May, Mr. and Mrs. McLellan of Orchard Knowes invited local members of the branch to see their lovely garden and rock garden, which were looking at their best—the biggest centre of attraction probably being the really magnificent display of tulips. Mrs. McLellan provided a bountiful

tea, and the whole afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all the 24 members who were present. On 17th May, a record day was held in Rockcliffe when four gardens were open for members and their friends. Most of the visitors began their "tour" at "Whinneyknowe" (Lady Reed and Miss Robson), and "Colbein" (Mrs. and Mr. Cater), these two gardens adjoining and being natural rock gardens. Then "Glenluffin" (Major and Mrs. McLellan), mainly cacti and other succulents, and finished up at "Castlehill" (the Misses Young), which comprises rock garden, herbaceous, flowering trees and shrubs, and greenhouse. During the afternoon, the Misses Young gave an excellent tea to all eighty members and their friends who took advantage of the glorious weather to visit Rockcliffe. Twenty of these came from Dumfries, and two from Wigtownshire. The gardens were all looking really beautiful, and everyone appeared to have a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting time.

On 31st May, 41 members and friends visited Mr. and Mrs. Hambro's famous gardens at Logan, Wigtownshire (33 by bus, the rest by cars). The day was perfect for the outing, and Logan gardens exceeded all expectations. This is no place for a description, but some outstanding plants were the magnificent rhododendrons, many of them of an exotic type, and colours and leaf form quite unusual. Masses of *candalebra* primulas of every possible shade of pink carpeting the ground, at times mixed with the lovely blue of wild hyacinths. Amazing tree ferns and palms; a huge bush of camellia scented like orange blossom. We were shown round for 2½ hours by Mr. Kennedy, who told us there was still more to see. There was no doubt about the feeling of enthusiasm and interest, and also a feeling of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Hambro for allowing us to see their beautiful gardens.

On 21st June, 36 members and friends spent a delightful afternoon at Colvend Church Hall, when Mrs. Frances Perry, F.L.S., gave a very interesting talk, illustrated by about 150 beautifully coloured lantern slides, most of which she had taken herself. Mrs. Perry (a guest and one-time pupil of Mrs. Penman's) is Horticultural Adviser to Middlesex County Council, and author of various gardening books. This much appreciated talk and show of slides was followed by tea provided by some of the Colvend members. A very enjoyable and instructive afternoon was spent by everyone.

M. E. McLELLAN, C.R.

LANARKSHIRE

Several Lanarkshire members joined up with Mr. Darling's party from Renfrewshire when they visited Mr. Archibald's garden at Ogscastle to see a really wonderful collection of plants. The day was hot and the outing most enjoyable, and after taking leave of Mr. Archibald the party went on to the Nursery of Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson to see another comprehensive collection of plants.

Several members have visited the garden of Mr. W. Bannatyne, Morar, Busby, who is always ready to welcome visitors. Mr. G. V. Lawrie of Bothwell has reconstructed his rock-garden and dry wall, and the plants are now responding nobly, a special feature being a huge specimen of *Salvia argentea alpina* which forms a shield of burnished silver with a fifteen-inch rosette.

If interested members would send a card to their C.R. intimating their intention to take part, there is a distinct possibility of a Spring Show being held in conjunction with a Bulb Show at Hamilton next year. Only an expression of interest by members can make the project worth following up.

J. T. W., *County Representative.*

PERTH DISTRICT

The Membership of Perth District is being well maintained and an ever increasing interest is shown in the activities of the Club.

This was evidenced by a large turn-out of Members when Mr. John T. Renton, on 31st March, gave a most interesting talk on Alpine Plants, followed by an exhibition of beautiful coloured slides of plants grown at his well-known garden at Branklyn, and also a cine-film in colour showing the garden throughout the season. Both the Slides and Film were lovely and they and the talk were obviously much appreciated.

On 9th June a party of about 25 Members paid an evening visit to the well-known Rock Garden of Major Neish at Tannadice, by Forfar. The outing was an enjoyable one and it was delightful to see so many well-grown, first class Alpines and dwarf Shrubs of considerable age so happily established. The hospitality extended to the party by Major Neish was greatly appreciated.

O. L. A.

ROXBURGHSHIRE

This year the main activity of this district was in connection with the Royal Highland Show at Kelso, where the Club's Stand, so admirably laid out by Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson, and under the able convenership of Major Walmsley, created great interest and brought in many new members.

On May 8th a most enjoyable afternoon was spent at the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, Belford, Northumberland. One of the many attractive features of this garden was the trough garden with its very interesting collection of plants. After tea at the Blue Bell Hotel, members saw Mrs. Brunskill's new rock garden under construction. A rock garden in the making never fails to create interest and arouse discussion, and this was no exception; sight of a rock garden under construction always seems to make members want to alter theirs when they get home.

E. D. S.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Winter meetings were organised and enjoyed by the majority of members in Wigtownshire, and hosts and hostesses are specially to be thanked for lending their houses and providing hospitality on these occasions. A demonstration by the late Mr. Anderson on "How to build a Rock Garden" was perhaps one of the most enjoyable evenings. On one day in January the roads were so bad no lecturer was able to get to a meeting in Newton Stewart, but the members turned up and were sufficiently enterprising to entertain themselves in the form of an impromptu Brains Trust. Great credit was due to Dr. Kellie Brooke, a leading member, who nobly took the chair and saw to it that no question was left unanswered. During the winter members brought their own plants to meetings to be named and discussed, and quite a lot of useful information was circulated. In the Spring quite a lot of members showed and attended Dumfries Show, and one or two went to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

One of the most enjoyable summer outings was spent at Logan Gardens. Mr. Hambro very kindly gave permission for the Scottish Rock Garden Club to visit the garden, and Mr. Steadwood was most patient and spared

no effort to show the members the wonderful display of Rhododendrons and Azalea, and other rare shrubs and plants for which Logan is noted. It was a glorious Sunday in May, and no garden could have looked more lovely. Perhaps the many bog *Primulas*, *Iris*, *Meconopsis*, etc., invoked the keenest interest from members. We would like to record a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hambro for such an interesting afternoon, and to Mr. Steadwood for escorting the party.

On two afternoons early in June Major and Mrs. Walmsley entertained members of the Rock Garden Club and their friends in their garden. Again the weather was kind and the rock garden yielded quite a display of colour and variety. Members came from far and wide and all seemed keenly interested; various names of rock plants were noted and plant discussion took place. The most interesting plants were: *Daboecia azorica*, *Rhodohypoxis* in various colours, dwarf *Aquilegias*, and a variety of *Primulas* and *Meconopsis*. The quaint slipper flowers of *Calceolarias* were predominant, and also rock *Geraniums*, *Erodiums*, *Haberleas*, *Ramondias*.

Culderry was also honoured by a visit from the National Trust tour on May 3rd. Dr. Cowan of Edinburgh Botanic Garden led the party, and there were many overseas visitors. All were astonished at the variety of plants grown in such a small space, and several overseas visitors joined the Club in order to acquire seed later in the year from the Club seed list.

On the whole the Club members have increased this year. There is always the odd new member coming along and wanting to join.

It is with great regret we have to announce the very sudden death of Mr. Anderson, Horticultural Adviser to Galloway. He was a Kirkcudbright member, but he came over to see us so often in Wigtownshire, both to lecture and to give us advice, that we looked upon him as our member too. He will be greatly missed by us all. He was always so ready to help and advise whenever he could, and had such a pleasant manner and helpful attitude to the Club. In the years just after the war he helped the South West enormously and never failed to join a new member whenever possible. We would like to take this opportunity of expressing sympathy to his wife in her great and very sudden loss.

L. W.

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

Since 1947 Club membership in this district has increased steadily and the enthusiasm shown is most gratifying. On 13th May visits were paid to the gardens of Miss Pape, Mrs. Jopling, Miss Little, and Miss Horne (where tea was provided), all of Norham-on-Tweed and all very interesting. On 28th May, again in ideal weather, the garden of Lady Joicey, Etal Manor, Berwick-on-Tweed, and that of Capt. The Hon. C. Lambton, Westnewton, Wooler, were visited, and on 4th June we visited at Alnwick the gardens of Mrs. Cawley—Glen Aln, Lady Grey—Howick Hall, and Miss Hale—Howick Grange (where the visitors were entertained to tea). On 11th June we went as far as East Lothian to the gardens of Mrs. Bell, Bolton Muir, Gifford, Mrs. Boyd-Harvey, Boonslie, Dirleton, and Mrs. Peel, Eaglescarnie, Haddington, where Mrs. Peel generously provided tea.

An average of twenty members made these journeys to the twelve gardens in ideal weather and enjoyed them hugely, the beautiful gardens being greatly admired and the hospitality of the owners fully appreciated. We intend, next Spring, to reciprocate, and meanwhile our members aim to benefit from all they have learned. For the winter of 1952 two lectures

have been arranged, one on "Shrubs for the Rock Garden" by J. L. Mowat on Friday, 17th October, and one on "Seeds and Propagation" by R. S. Masterton on Wednesday, 3rd December, and also two "Members' Discussion" meetings, while in the Spring of 1953 garden visits will be to: N. F. Lambert, Esq., Spade Rake, Low Fell, Gateshead; Mr. Gordon Harrison, Ponteland Nurseries, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mrs. O. M. Athill, Harbottle Castle, Morpeth; Mr. and Mrs. Drew-Wilkinson, Clennell House, Morpeth; Mrs. J. C. Church, Embleton Hall, Long Gramington, Morpeth. For further details please refer to

M. K., *County Representative.*

NORTH-WEST ENGLAND and WALES

Members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the Alpine Garden Society met at Helme Lodge on May 24th, when on a lovely sunny afternoon they saw the Rock Garden and looked at the Alpine plants.

The *Meconopsis* were almost at their best and *M. Sheldoni* was especially admired.

C. M. C.

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Plants that have gained Awards

Those plants which have received Awards from the Joint Awards Committee of the R.C.H.S. and the S.R.G.C., subsequently confirmed by the Council of the R.C.H.S., are listed in the following notes. They include those plants exhibited at the 1952 Edinburgh Show, and various others exhibited at the Shows and Meetings of the R.C.H.S. Accordingly this, and the preceding list (Journal 1951, 9, 31) include *all* the plants which have received Awards from September 1949 to May 1952 and these may not be presented again, unless for a higher Award.

At the request of the Council of the R.C.H.S., 14 days notice of intention to present a plant or plants must be given to the Secretary of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, instead of the previous arrangement. This applies to the S.R.G.C. Edinburgh Show and to the Monthly Meetings and Shows of the R.C.H.S., at any of which plants may be brought forward by Members of the Club. The Club's Secretary holds a supply of the forms which must be filled in and returned to him, and will supply them to Members on request.

Androsace cylindrica, C.C., 22/4/52. This is one of the extremely difficult Androsaces, a downy, grey-leaved plant with starry white flowers. This plant raises its rosettes on columns of its own dead leaves, and this one was an exceptionally well-grown and fine specimen. Ex. by R. S. Masterton, Aberfeldy.

Cassiope selaginoides, A.M., 22/4/52. This little shrub won the George Forrest Memorial Medal just prior to its Award of Merit, and was a nearly perfect specimen. It forms a compact little bush of a bright green, set with white bells which are large for a Cassiope and held lightly at the tips of the shoots. Like all Cassiopes, it is a peat lover. Ex. by Jack Drake, Aviemore.

Cyclamen coum var. roseum, A.M., 4/3/52. This was an exceptionally fine form of this well-known and favourite plant. It was set with a very large number of flowers of a deep pink, much deeper than the type, and with the flowers carried well above the leaves. Ex. by A. D. Reid, Fair-milehead.

Dionysia curviflora, A.M., 4/3/52. This plant has been seen at several of the Club's Shows as a "Cushion Plant," but this time it was well set with its lilac flowers, each with a long curving tube, bringing the petals well clear of the rosettes. This is an exceptionally difficult plant to grow and keep, and it was in superb condition, the cushion being firm and even. Ex. by A. D. Reid. (See Fig. 4).

Iris bucharica, A.M., 4/3/52. This iris belongs to the Juno Section, and is best grown as an Alpine House plant. The flowering shoot is thrown up from a large bulb, and the sweetly-scented flowers with yellow standards and white falls are carried in the axils of the polished green leaves alternately up the stem. If the pot is given a baking in the sun over the summer and kept without water, it will flower in subsequent years. Ex. by Dr. and Mrs. Henry Tod, Seafield. (See Fig. 6).

Phyllodoce nipponica, A.M., 22/4/52. This forms a neat little shrub with white bells and glossy green leaves, grey on the underside. Like all its relatives, it is a peat lover and likes a cool spot, not too dry. Ex. by Jack Drake, Aviemore.

Pleione formosana, A.M., 22/4/52. This is one of the very beautiful ground orchids which have recently become so popular. It is quite hardy and not too difficult to grow. It forms dark green pseudo-bulbs from which

arise strap-shaped green leaves and the very lovely purple and white flowers. It differs from *P. Pricei* in small botanical differences. Ex. by A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead. (See Fig. 7).

Polemonium confertum, A.M., 22/4/52. This plant is described on p. 32 of Journal No. 9, recording the award of a C.C. when exhibited by Mr. Drake. This particular plant was in very much better condition than the previous one, having been grown in the open entirely unprotected, and hence being much more compact and of a better colour. Ex. by R. S. Masterton, Aberfeldy.

Primula atrodentata, A.M., 22/4/52. This primula is one of the Denticulata group and resembles a somewhat smaller version of *P. denticulata*. The flowers are of a lilac shade with a paler eye. Ex. by R. S. Masterton, Aberfeldy.

Primula aureata seedling, C.C., 22/4/52. This plant, the first seedling of *Primula aureata* to be raised and brought to full flourish is a self-seedling raised by Mr. David Livingstone—the last remaining one of four. It passed to Mr. Reid, who grew it on and showed it in magnificent condition, a fully typical *Primula aureata*, thus proving that *P. aureata* is a species, and not a natural hybrid, unless the original *aureata* seed was a natural polyploid seed such as was, for example, thrown by *Primula x kewensis* some years ago, thus converting a sterile first-cross (mule) into a fertile hybrid which breeds true. Ex. by A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

Primula Jonardunii, "To be seen again," 22/4/52. This little primula of the Dryadifolia section forms a small creeping plant with dark green leathery leaves, and crimson flowers of very considerable size for so small a plant. It was introduced by Ludlow and Sherriff from Bhutan. One grower has assured the writer that it is "indestructable" and it certainly propagates readily by layers and cuttings, but the Committee felt that they would like to see it again after a further year's growth. Ex. by R. S. Masterton, Aberfeldy.

X Primula Berninae, "*Windrush var.*," A.M., 1/4/52. This is a better form of the natural hybrid between *PP. rubra* and *viscosa*, and has large clear pink flowers with a white eye above foliage intermediate between the two parents. Ex. by A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

X Primula Kellereri, A.M., 1/4/52. A hybrid between *PP. minima* and *rubra*, this Primula is a small, neat free-flowering plant with crimson flowers of a good size. Ex. A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

X Primula, Ethel Barker, A.M., 1/4/52. This was obtained by crossing *Primula allionii* and *Primula rubra*. It has a close habit and large red flowers. Ex. A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

X Primula, Marven, C.C., 1/4/52. This was a fine plant well-grown of this well-known hybrid between *P. marginata* and *P. venusta*. It has flowers of a deep violet blue with a white eye. Ex. A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

Primula marginata, "*Holden Clough var.*," A.M., 1/4/52. Ex. A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

X Primula marginata, "*Hyacinthia*," A.M., 1/4/52. This is a rather taller plant than *marginata*, with large pale flowers of hyacinth-blue. It is probably a hybrid. Ex. by A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

Primula marginata, "*Prichard's var.*," A.M. and C.C., 1/4/52. This was a very fine plant in magnificent condition, hence the C.C. of this form of *marginata*, in which the colour of the flower is stronger and the scapes more erect than the type which always tends to droop over. Ex. A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

X *Primula pubescens*, "Rufus," C.C., 1/4/52. This was an enormous plant, with an almost unbelievable amount of bloom, of this primula which somehow just misses being of the first quality. The colour of the flourish is good, a flame red, but there is somehow just "something" missing. Ex. by A. D. Reid, Fairmilehead.

X *Primula pubescens alba*, A.M., 22/4/52. This old favourite, by contrast, has got that extra "something" which Rufus lacks. Oddly enough, it had never yet been put up for an Award. The form exhibited had a good compact head of white flowers of good size over the characteristic leathery green leaves. It is a thoroughly good plant which will stand up well to a sunny position in a gritty soil. Ex. by R. S. Masterton, Aberfeldy.

***Primula scapigera alba*,** A.M. and C.C., 12/4/52. This was a very fine plant, well-set with flowers and in excellent condition. The flowers were of a good solid white, free from the tendency to thinness and greenness so common in "var. alba's." It is a good plant for the peat wall where, out of flower, its notched leaves themselves look well. Ex. by R. S. Masterton, Aberfeldy.

***Primula Tayloriana*,** A.M., 4/3/52. This primula is a useful introduction by Ludlow and Sherriff (L, S & E 13250) and is a new and beautiful addition to the Farinosae. It has lilac flowers of good size, with a yellow eye borne lightly in an umbel, and the whole plant is farinose. It seems to be a robust plant and a "good doer." Ex. by Dr. and Mrs. Henry Tod, Seafield.

***Sanguinaria canadensis*,** A.M., 22/4/52. This is another old and well-known plant, not hitherto brought forward for an award. The form shown was a fine one, with white flowers of good size. The leaves of this plant, which appear later, are also handsome, of a glaucous green. Ex. by R. S. Masterton, Aberfeldy.

***Saussurea stella*,** A.M., 14/9/49. This plant was described fully in the Journal (1950, 7, 75), but as it is more frequently seen now, it may be described shortly. It was introduced by Yu from Yunnan, and forms a dark green rosette of narrow leathery leaves which, at flowering-time, lie flat on the ground. In the centre of this rosette sits the purple boss of florets (it is a Composite), which is followed by the snowy hump of pappus which develops as the florets die. Ex. by Dr. Henry Tod, Seafield. (See Figs. 8 and 9).

X *Saxifraga* "Faldonside," A.M., 22/4/52. This saxifrage belongs to the Kabschia group, and has flowers of a good shade of yellow, carried on red stems above the blue-grey spiny rosettes. It was raised by the late Mr. Boyd of Faldonside, and while an old and well-known plant, it is still one of the finest of the hybrid Kabschias. Ex. by K. C. Corsar, Maurice-wood.

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