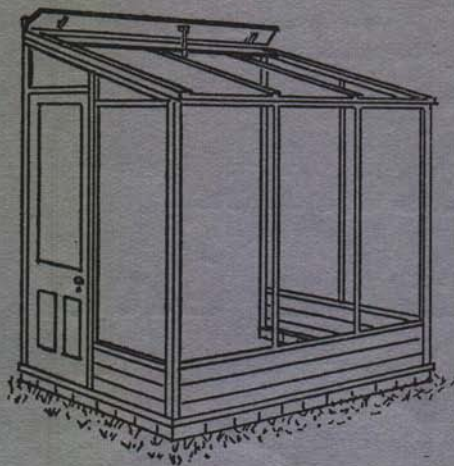


The Journal
OF
The Scottish
Rock Garden Club



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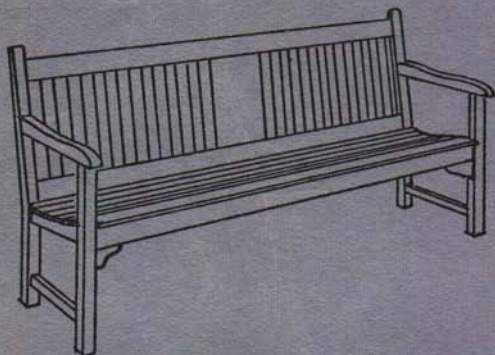
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The Journal

OF

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

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

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Editor's Notes

THIS SEASON of the year for rock gardeners seems to be a time of retrospect—of looking back over the failures and successes of spring and early summer, over the plants seen at Club Shows and in visits to fellow members' gardens—and of planning the work programme of rapidly approaching autumn and looking forward to another round of winter meetings. Long before this *Journal* reaches members many of them will have been busy carefully harvesting the seeds of their best plants, to be sent in to "Seed Distribution" for circulation to others early in the coming year. In this way are the dangers of good plants becoming scarce, and possibly in the end going out of cultivation altogether, reduced so far as is humanly possible. At the same time the knowledge of these plants and an opportunity of growing them is spread over an ever-widening field.

It is always a reason for satisfaction when there is any striking advance in some aspects of the Club's work, and reports this year show a marked progress in several county areas which hitherto have had little to report. One such advance has been in the greatly increased membership and activity of Argyll and Bute, while a similar increase has taken place in Selkirkshire, once a strong and active area in the Club's early years. Another area which we hear, though without any definite report, is making good progress is Inverness-shire—now divided into North and South sections.

There was likewise a certain cause for satisfaction in some of the Club Shows this season, even though the general standard of entries (quite understandably in such a year) was not quite up to the usual. The best plants at most Shows stood out from their fellows more than should have been the case, and at the other end of the scale were many exhibits showing insufficient knowledge of some of the fundamentals of exhibiting. It is a good augury for the future of the Club that so many new names were to be seen among the prize-winners and that there were such increased entries in Section No. 2; at Dunfermline entries in this section rose from eleven last year to over sixty this year. When the newcomers to the competitive ranks have had a little more experience in preparing and staging their entries they will prove formidable opponents to some of the 'old hands.'

Although the adverse winter and spring was undoubtedly responsible for a falling off in the quality of entries, the trend towards improved standard in rock plant cultivation in recent years was brought home by the remark of a well-known and respected judge at Club Shows. Concerning a well grown, and well flowered, plant of *Phyteuma comosum* he remarked: "A few years ago that plant would have been a sure candidate for a Forrest Medal. Now it is only a good specimen in its class."

Mention of the Forrest Medal brings us to the outstanding feat of Mr. Esslemont of Aberdeen in winning three Medals at successive Shows with plants so perfect as to be almost too good to be believed—*Kelseya uniflora* at Edinburgh, *Androsace imbricata* at Glasgow, and *Eritrichium nanum* at Aberdeen. Incidentally, although only two plants are mentioned in the report of Aberdeen Show, we are assured that the general standard of exhibits was high, higher than at Glasgow a fortnight earlier, and that a number of very noteworthy plants was staged.

Allowing our thoughts to go back over the season's Shows bring to mind a delightful little story concerning a very keen competitive member recently. This member gives the prizes annually to the local school for the best bunches of wild flowers. The day after school prize-giving there came a loud knocking at his door and on his answering it there stood a small boy who announced: "I'm the boy who won your prize, Mr. . . . I ken ye're interested in rock plants, so I brought ye these"—and opened his hands to show two Sedums, yellow and white stonecrops, gathered off the dyke down the road. The boy was duly thanked, the habitat of the plants discussed, and man and boy then adjourned to the garden where the new additions to our member's collection were carefully potted, under keen supervision, and given a place of honour in his frame of exhibition plants. One cannot help wondering if that boy may not be a future Club competitor in the making.

Likewise at Dunfermline Show there were certain entries among the miniature gardens in the Schools Section which so stood out among their fellows that one would have liked to have seen them either among those of Club members or else in some special junior class of their own. There, again, was shown, among a vast number of very mediocre exhibits, an aptitude well worth every encouragement.

A few days ago (July 22nd) we had a postcard from one of our keenest and most able American fellow members, Dr. Worth of Ithaca, from whom two extremely interesting and delightful contributions appear in later pages. At the beginning of the month he set out on a plant-hunting holiday in the Rockies with every intention of being able to send plant notes and supplies of seeds—with probably more detailed reports of his travels and finds to be written up for a later *Journal*. This postcard states, however, that the weather is so bitterly cold—with fog, rain, and even snow—that the intended plant-hunting is at present quite impossible and that in Wyoming the season is very poor and everything backward. (It sounds just like home, here in Scotland!) For our own pleasure and gain, as well as his, we hope that the weather will improve and allow Dr. Worth to carry out all his intended plans, even if they have been somewhat delayed. In recent years many of our fellow members in America have delighted us with their interesting contributions to the *Journal*, even though

some of the choice plants they have mentioned perhaps set us problems of cultivation, and we look forward eagerly to their next contributions to our pages. It sometimes seems that some of those choice little plants of the Western States may be less difficult in this country than they are in the Eastern part of their own. Certainly we know that many members are always eager to give them a very good trial.

We most earnestly wish that more articles, with half-tone photographs, and in good time, were forthcoming from members without continual pleading on our part. One could expect the section of the *Journal* for plants, problems and letters to be used much more freely than it is. For those members out of easy reach of the Shows and most other activities, the pages of the *Journal* are their main interest and chief link with other members. It is for this reason that so much emphasis is placed on the **plants** at our Shows rather than general descriptions of the events themselves in Show Reports. Mention of Show Reports reminds us that we are still (even at this late date, 30th July, and after reminders sent out a month ago) without reports of Shows which were held in April and early May.

The Club's Publicity Manager, Mr. James Aitken, is anxious to know why so little use is made of the "Small Advertisements" page. This section was introduced under the impression that members would find it useful for exchanging plants or in tracking down some particular plant or plants they might be having difficulty in finding, but it does not seem to have been used to the extent expected. It will be noted on the page concerned that Mr. Aitken is prepared to make concessions in an effort to popularise its use.

Next year, from 27th June to 4th July, there is to be a "Summer Week" in St. Andrews, where again a varied and interesting programme of talks, discussions, and visits is being arranged. We understand that the Hon. Club Secretary still has a limited number of vacancies available. The full programme will be published in the April *Journal*, but members intending to be present who have not already so intimated to Sq./Ldr. J. J. Boyd Harvey should do so without further delay.

September, 1958.

Annual Subscription, 1958-59

ALL MEMBERS who have not already paid their annual subscriptions of 10/- due on 1st SEPTEMBER 1958, should do so as soon as possible. Please remit direct to the Hon. Treasurer : STEWART MITCHELL, 1 Muirfield Crescent, Dundee, Angus. You are invited to renew your subscription by sending a Banker's Order—it saves much trouble to yourself and the Treasurer. A form is enclosed with this *Journal*.

Discussion Week-end

25th/26th OCTOBER 1958

SALUTATION HOTEL, PERTH

(Tel. Perth 836)

THE FOLLOWING programme has been provisionally arranged :—

Saturday, 25th :

- 2.30 p.m. Opening Address by President.
- 2.40 p.m. "The Rock Garden in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh" : H. R. Fletcher, Esq., D.Sc., F.R.S.E.
- 4.15 p.m. TEA.
- 5.15 p.m. "Alpines in their Native Habitats" : Stewart Mitchell, Esq.
- 7 p.m. DINNER.
- 8 p.m. DISCUSSION PERIOD.
- (a) "Are there any Lime Lovers?" : introduced by Dr. Henry Tod, F.R.S.E.
- (b) "Do rock plants require any feeding?" : introduced by Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon, D.S.O., M.C.

Sunday, 26th :

- 10.30 a.m. "Primulas for the Rock Garden" : David Livingstone, Esq.
- 1 p.m. LUNCH.
- 2.30 p.m. "Spain—the Pyrenees and beyond" : C. H. Hammer, Esq., President, Alpine Garden Society.
- 4 p.m. TEA.
- 5 p.m. CLOSE DOWN.

At 11 a.m. on Saturday 25th a visit to Keillour Castle Gardens, by kind permission of Major and Mrs. W. G. Knox Finlay, has been arranged. Transport from Hotel at 3/- per head.

HOTEL CHARGES, etc. : Full board and accommodation 2 p.m. 25th to 5 p.m. 26th, £2 15/-. Non-residents who wish to attend on either or both days will be charged 12/6. This payment will include afternoon tea on Saturday and Sunday, but other meals will be charged as follows : Lunch, 8/6 ; Dinner, 10/6.

RESERVATION FORMS from Mr. Robert G. Dow, 9 Myrtle Road, Scone, Perthshire. These should be forwarded with cheque in payment **BEFORE 25th September 1958.**

Seed Distribution

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SEED LISTS will NOT be issued with the next *Year Book*. All Overseas members, and Home members who have donated seed—or who have sent a list of “Seeds to Follow”—by 31st October 1958, will automatically receive a copy of the List. Other members may obtain one from Mrs. B. B. Cormack, The Cedars, 199 St. John’s Road, Edinburgh, 12, who has kindly undertaken to attend to applications. Members are asked to send her a stamped (2d), self-addressed envelope, marked “Seed List,” not later than 30th November 1958.

Donations of seed should, as formerly, be sent to me. It is hoped that members will continue their generous efforts on behalf of the distribution, bearing in mind that the most useful seeds are those of uncommon alpiners, dwarf shrubs and cyclamen. Seeds of rare trees, shrubs and border plants are also acceptable. It would be greatly appreciated if members who send “wild” collected seed would give the locality where collected.

(Mrs.) C. E. DAVIDSON, Linton Muir, West Linton, Peeblesshire.

Enrolment Forms

THE ENCLOSURE of these forms with *every* publication indicates that it is *not* their sole purpose to remind members about unpaid subscriptions. The largest proportion of our NEW MEMBERS are enrolled on these forms by individual members introducing the benefits of the Club to their friends. HAVE YOU A FRIEND WHO WOULD BE GLAD TO USE ONE ?

S.R.G.C. Christmas Cards

THE CLUB CHRISTMAS CARDS are attractive and inexpensive. They will be made this year from the four colour plates in this *Journal*, i.e. Figures 18, 19, 20 and 21. They will be supplied in lots of NOT LESS THAN ONE DOZEN, which may be either all of one kind, or mixed, as you desire. It will be sufficient to give figure numbers when ordering.

The price is 9/- per dozen, including envelopes, and post paid. Please order early from the Hon. Treasurer : STEWART MITCHELL, 1 Muirfield Crescent, Dundee, Angus, enclosing remittance. The steady rise in costs of production of the *Journal* can be offset to some extent by your active support for this Christmas Card scheme.

Some Rocky Mountain Borages

By C. R. WORTH,
Groton, N.Y., U.S.A.

OF THE RACES of plants with many representatives in the Rocky Mountain-Great Basin region, three families are of especial interest to me: Polemoniaceae, Ranunculaceae, and Boraginaceae. Of the first two there are many genera, even without taking into account the fantastic splits in which our botanists of a generation ago delighted, and most of these are worth knowing and growing. Not so the borages: unless they are very, very good, they are horrid (in both senses of the word), and for the gardener only three genera are of interest: *Eritrichium*, *Mertensia*, and *Lithospermum*, for there is no need to travel so far to find *Myosotis alpestris*. Clay has kind words for *Oreocarya*, but such species as I have seen have had coarse bristly leaves and clusters of minute flowers of dirty white. Even when, fresh from reading Clay, I tried to awaken enthusiasm in them, one look was enough. True, I've not seen many, for they are mostly plants of dry lowlands, usually out of bloom before I reach the West, and I maintain an open mind, but have little expectation of ever seeing one worth collecting. There are long lists of names of *Lithospermum* and *Mertensia* which I do not know, and it is difficult to name the latter correctly, so I must limit my remarks about these to the few with which I am fairly well acquainted.

There are, according to Rydberg, three representatives of the King of the Alps: *Eritrichium argenteum*, *E. elongatum*, and *E. howardii*, but Coulter-Nelson seem to combine the last two, incorrectly I am sure, while I have a suspicion that the first pair are virtually identical. For, except in flower colour, the only essential distinction seems to be that the nutlets of *E. argenteum* have a toothed border, while those of *E. elongatum* do not. In seed collected from a stand of the latter, I have seen seeds both with and without teeth. Yet with or without, they seem no more easy to grow than the European species, for Mrs. G. R. Marriage used to offer the former, while both E. J. Greig and I have distributed plentiful supplies of the latter and limited amounts of *E. howardii*. Who has flowered any of them?

E. argenteum I have met only a couple of times, in the Snowy Range west of Laramie, Wyoming, at perhaps 11,000 ft. Its flowers are dark blue, and the plant is perhaps a bit more compact than its close relative. It seems restricted to the main ranges of the Colorado Rockies and their extensions to nearby New Mexico and Wyoming.

E. elongatum is a common plant of all the higher peaks of western Wyoming, south to central Montana, and at least one range of eastern Idaho, although I could not find it in the Sawtooth Mountains above Sun Valley. It is also reported from eastern Oregon. All the mountain tops (except the barren Tetons, where it is rare) whether lime or gran-

itic, scree or rocky alpine meadow, are thick with the plant, and in places one can tramp over miles of it. It even grows, in one of the dry eastern outliers of the Rockies, in open spaces among fair-sized trees, and flourishes there. How it compares in beauty with *E. nanum*, which I have never seen, I do not know, but have been told that it is far superior, and it *should*, from its wide variety of habitats, be far more amenable. I have flowered, the spring afterward, collected plants, and the seed germinates like cress. Its flowers, on stems that usually are an inch or two high, are a pure soft blue, while the rosettes, in mats three or four inches across, are of a delicate blue-green, with long silky white hairs.

E. howardii is quite different : it branches freely, making dark grey-green domes, at times fully nine inches across, with forget-me-nots of purest blue, yellow-eyed, over a quarter-inch across, a treasure that makes dull things of the other species. It is in my experience confined to a single limestone range, rather dry, where it is to be found on lime screes at not quite 9,000 ft., in the company of *E. elongatum*, *Aquilegia jonesii*, and *Androsace carinata*. It seems to be a desert rather than an alpine plant, and the combination of the disposition of a drought lover with that of an *Eritrichium* is enough to make the most reckless gardener blench, yet Mrs. A. C. U. Berry succeeded in flowering it last year in her Portland garden.

Mertensia rejoices in hundreds of names, but Williams' monograph reduces the American representatives to twenty-four species and a number of varieties. Whether he is right in his specific concept I do not know : let it suffice to say that I have never yet succeeded in determining a species by means of the monograph, nor, I believe, has Rupert Barneby been much more successful, skilled taxonomist though he is.

Of the taller species, only the eastern and mid-western *M. virginica*, which usually grows on flood-plains or along streams, is deserving of attention, for it completely outclasses all the westerners. Those which I have met seem rather similar to seedlings grown under the name of *M. sibirica*, leafy, with sparse cymes of decidedly small, pale blue flowers. The contrast with the usually bluish leaves is somewhat attractive, but not sufficiently so to have tempted me to collect them.

The species normally under a foot in height are a far different story. Most of these are quite variable in height, within the species, and my garden experience has been that they tend to be more dwarf under cultivation than in the wild, so that there seems no danger of their reverting to stalwarts under cultivation. A few of them are smallish in flower, but not disproportionately so, and any one of them is deserving of a place in the most exclusive garden. But due regard should be given to the habitat in which they were found, for some are plants of low foothills, flowering early and soon going dormant, while others come from rather wet alpine heights, and remain in active growth for several months.

What Mrs. Marriage used to distribute as *M. coriacea* I have never been able to discover : I saw none in her garden, and if ever I had plants from her nothing came of them. She insists that it is not *M. alpina*, which I suspected it should be, while Williams makes the name a synonym of *M. viridis* var. *dilatata*, apparently quite different, and not recorded from Pike's Peak.

Among the moderate-sized species are two that I found in Wyoming many years ago, one on a lime slide in a rather wet range, growing with eritrichium and *Primula parryi*, and another from dry limestone foothills, among sagebrush. For more than ten years both prospered to the extent of permitting division, in a well watered and lightly shaded sand bed, growing about six inches high (smaller than in the wild), with ovate-lanceolate rather glaucous bluish leaves, and a profusion of light blue flowers, about half the size of those of *M. virginica*, in which the tube flared to a wide bell. One summer they went dormant and failed to return, and they had seeded so rarely that I had no reserve stock with which to replace them. Every year I sat beside them with the monograph and a hand-glass, and attempted in vain to attach names to them. I seem to have collected at least two other species in Montana, but have no recollection of their garden behaviour.

M. longiflora I have never seen in the wild, as its habitat is to the west of the regions I have visited, but I have had it, in both plants and seed, from collectors in north-western Montana. In my garden it is short-lived, for collected plants have rarely appeared more than twice, although present indications are that the seedlings will be more durable. It grows from one to four inches high, at least in the east, only one or two stems, with tubular flowers, and slightly wider limb, not much over half an inch long, of an intense mid-blue.

A true alpine is the species I persist in calling *M. tweedyi*, perhaps because I have collected it at Rydberg's type station, where it is much more compact than the typical *M. alpina* of which Williams makes it a synonym. At its best it is only two or three inches high, although in one range it reaches a lanky foot, and there looks far more like *Myosotis* than *Mertensia*. The oblong or lanceolate leaves are only an inch or two long, dark green, silky above, in tight tufts of several rosettes. The flowers are in very compact little cymes, brilliant deep blue, with the limb flaring almost like that of a myosotis. In general aspect it suggests some of the Asiatic species, and unlike most westerners, may not go dormant until autumn. It grows, where I have met it, in moist rather peaty soil, and may be a lime-hater. It stayed with me only a few years, but was reintroduced by Olga Johnson in 1957, and seems to be settling down in several eastern gardens.

There are three other very dwarf species, apparently still unknown in cultivation, on a par with *M. tweedyi* in size and beauty. *M. macdougalii*, from the north rim of the Grand Canyon, remains little known, even to botanists, perhaps because it flowers too early in the season for visitors. *M. humilis* from south-eastern Wyoming, and

M. oreophila from farther north in the same state, are the other gems. E. J. Greig collected seed of the latter, and if I remember correctly, I did of the former, in 1938. This was quite widely distributed; did any reader succeed with either species?

Like the *Mertensias*, the *Lithospermums* have their prize member in the mid-west: *L. canescens*, which unrolls its fiddle-heads of spectacular orange flowers in sandy places in early spring, and eventually may stretch up to a foot in height. It was a familiar offering in native plant catalogues until about 1940, but now seems unobtainable. Of the westerners I have seen only three. One of these was in seed in central Montana, a coarse rough plant well over a foot in height, with nutlets that, it seems now, were almost as large as Job's tears. The seeds never germinated for me, nor did those of *L. cobrense* from montane elevations in southern New Mexico. This is a delicate plant of one or a few stems, not much over six inches in height, with short-tubed flaring flowers of soft cream. It is probably the daintiest of its race, and its refusal to germinate is greatly to be regretted. *L. multiflorum*, of the woods around Flagstaff, Arizona, has arching stems of much more than a foot, many in number, with a profusion of narrow inch-long orange tubes. I did not care for it enough to attempt to grow it, but it was for a time in cultivation from seed of my collecting.

I grow one other species, *L. incisum* (*linearifolium*, I believe) from the Black Hills, and find it disappointing. It was difficult to establish, the first plant gave only cleistogamous flowers, and was abruptly—and perhaps foolishly—found to be expendable. Its successor (one is enough) does flower rather sparingly, but the blossoms are rather small, light yellow in colour, and the plant so far has never condescended to pay its way.

There are many other species, and, from the herbarium sheets, really magnificent ones, but where? It is rather difficult to overlook a lithospermum in either flower or fruit; they flower fairly late in the season, and remain in growth till fall. I can only conclude that the plants are, with the exception of one stand of *L. cobrense*, as infrequent as was *L. canescens* of my boyhood. I must comb the foothills more carefully, and perchance some day shall find them.

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News from France

By FERNAND MOUNIER, General Secretary

Translated by RAOUL M. MAY, President

THE SOCIÉTÉ DES AMATEURS DE JARDINS ALPINS was founded on May 15th, 1951, by Mr. A. Bertrand together with Messrs. C. Guinet, R. de Volmorin and R. Chopinet. It will soon attain its eighth year of existence. Its aim was stated in the first number of its Bulletin by its first President, Professor Ph. Guinier, Membre de l'Institut. "To diffuse the principles of the art of Alpine gardens, to permit all to constitute and maintain a collection of mountain plants. But this is not sufficient for the Society's activities. The lover of Alpine gardens is necessarily interested in the mountains' flora. Therefore another aim which we propose is to make better known these alpine plants, their character, their biology, their distribution. Another duty is paramount : to teach to the public the respect, which it unfortunately often does not possess, which is due to Nature ; to teach it that one must not risk the destruction or the rarefaction of beautiful plants by uprooting them or even by exaggerated pluckings. The lover of Alpine plants must also be their protector."

We may add that the Society has as members not only some fortunate enough to possess their own garden and thus capable of cultivating their favourite plants, but also some who simply are fervent admirers of our mountains' ornaments, and who either visit them periodically or else, unable to do so, are glad to contemplate them through the medium of colour photography.

The means to attain these several aims of the Society's founders have varied. They have been realised in large part thanks to the help of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris, that centuries' old institution which is ever at the head of all efforts in favour of studies of Nature, and which has organised a very beautiful and very complete Alpine garden, close to its Botanical gardens, which have more practical aims.

A quarterly Bulletin has been published by the Society since its inception. This, of course, serves as a link between all the members inside and even outside of France. One finds in it news concerning the life of the Society and lists of seeds which can be obtained for the asking, techniques for the creation of rock gardens and artificial bogs, and in general for the cultivation and care of plants which grow in such environments, and also, of course, detailed descriptions of interesting or curious mountain plants, together with observations on their ecology and biotopes. We still publish only black and white photographs, like most of our sister societies throughout the world. But we ardently hope that the time may soon come when either through a

new and cheaper process, or through an affluence of new members, we may publish colour photographs, so much more exact and inspiring.

The winter months are occupied by monthly meetings which have both a scientific and a social character. At these meetings are shown the results of the summer's excursions, mostly through the medium of colour photographs accompanied by explanatory remarks. Occasional films give even more life-like reminiscences of what was seen on these longed-for trips, and we are sometimes taken far from France. Thus in December 1957 Professor K. T. Rogers of Oberlin College, Ohio, U.S.A., was kind enough to show us a very beautiful and very exact film—"The Call of the Mountains"—which carried us to the Sierras of California and the Rockies of Canada.

As soon as flowers begin to bloom, specimens are brought to the meetings, commented upon, and the plants are usually distributed, often by means of a lottery which always is the cause of much excitement and interest.

The Spring months are given over to excursions near Paris, Grenoble, or the other centres where there are enough members. A very successful method consists in the pre-arranged visits of several public or private rock gardens, starting in the morning, with a long rest period for lunch, and concomitant visits in the afternoon to places which interest garden lovers. Thus in one visit in 1957 we went to several gardens in or near Orléans in the morning, lunched by the beautiful Loiret river, and spent the afternoon in the remarkable Rhododendron gardens of Châteauneuf-sur-Loire, ending the day by a visit to the quaint Romance church at Germigny, near by. In late Spring and early Summer longer excursions are organised. They usually last three days and take us to some mountain spot of particular interest. Thus these last years groups have been able to go to :

The Alps: region of Zermatt, region of Samoëns (which possesses an attractive Alpine garden—la Jaysinia), region of Grenoble—Chartreuse, Vercors, Lautaret, the latter being the seat of an Alpine garden which belongs to the University of Grenoble.

The Jura : Region of Les Rousses and La Faucille. Crossing the Swiss frontier, we explored the varied and exquisite Alpine gardens of Geneva.

In late May 1958, at Whitsuntide, we shall go to the Massif Central near and on the Puy de Sancy. We would, of course, warmly welcome any British Alpine garden lovers who would care to join us.

While our Society is still young, as such Societies go, it is full of vigour, and quite fittingly for a mountain group, it is on the upgrade. Our ambition is boundless—to attract more and more persons for whom a greater comprehension of Nature goes hand in hand with a greater love for it.

Peat-loving Dwarf Shrubs—Part II

By DAVID LIVINGSTONE

IN THE Spring term *Journal* 1958 I gave a brief outline of the conditions under which peat-loving dwarf shrubs might be grown successfully in the rock garden. I also gave there a selection of dwarf rhododendrons which fall into this category.

Arctericia nana is a real miniature shrub with tiny leaves and small sprays of white flowers during May. Once established it is perfectly easy and rooted pieces may be readily detached and grown on as new plants. I find that it is referred to in a pre-war catalogue as "extremely rare," but it is now quite well known and should be in every collection of dwarf shrubs.

In the last issue of the *Journal* Mr. R. B. Cooke, whose garden at Corbridge, Northumberland, is a paradise for rock garden enthusiasts, described the Genus *Cassiope*, but I should like to mention again here those species and varieties which have done well with me. I grow the *major* form of *C. lycopodioides*, and while it has made a larger cushion it does not, as Mr. Cooke indicated, flower so freely as the type plant. I have therefore now bought a plant of the latter and it is it which I would recommend to newcomers to the rock garden game ; or should I say disease ! Both forms are quite prostrate and have the typical white bell flower of the Genus. The comparatively new hybrid *C. "Edinburgh"* is in my opinion perhaps the best of the Genus. It grows upright to a height of a foot or more and its flowers are beautifully shown off over several inches of each stem. The flowers are freely borne and my two plants made a very pleasing picture this Spring. *C. mertensiana gracilis* is also a very good doer. In its habit of growth it is mid-way between upright and procumbent and it regularly covers itself each year with blossom. Two plants of this species in my wife's rock garden, which does not receive as much sun as my own, have not flowered nearly so freely and this would seem to indicate that it likes to have a fair amount of sunshine on its top at least. The plants in my own rock garden are exposed to the sun from early morning until late afternoon, but the roots are well shaded by a large rock.

Another new garden hybrid *C. "Muirhead"* is very amenable and it too flowers very freely. It is very neat and branching in its growth. *C. selaginoides*, which forms a little upright bush, is, if it is possible, too free with its flowers. Last year and this my plant has been so smothered with blossom that all its little branches have been lost to sight. I wish that I could say the same about *C. stellariana*, which is sometimes known as *Harrimanella*. This differs from the other *Cassiope* mentioned in that its leaves, light brown in colour, not green, are not so tightly pressed to the stems. It differs too in that with me at least it does not flower very freely. This is a great pity because its creamy white bells with crimson calyces are exceedingly pretty.

Daboecia azorica is a charming heath-like shrub with bronze-green leaves. Its egg-shaped crimson red bells on short slender stalks are somewhat similar to bell heather. It never fails to produce masses of flowers and I reckon this one to be a must in every small collection. I have seen it stated that it is doubtfully hardy, but my plant in a very exposed situation has come through several winters without harm.

I do not wish to deal at length with the very large family of *Ericas*, which, to do them justice, would require a full-length article to themselves and an abler pen than mine. There are, however, two which I should like to recommend in the passing as it were. *Erica cinerea* "Eden Valley" and "Mrs. Dill" are two very beautiful summer flowering heaths. The former has bi-coloured bells of white and pink and grows to a height of some 6-8 inches. The flowers of the latter are of the same shape but salmon pink in colour and it grows only 3 or 4 inches high. Both will, by the way, grow and flower well in full sun. They do not require to be cut hard back : it is sufficient to remove the tops from the faded flower stems.

There is a number of *Gaultherias* suitable for the rock garden, but in these notes I shall confine myself to three, two of them, *G. cuneata* and *G. Miqueliana*, fairly similar, and perhaps in a very small garden there is not room for both. They bear small sprays of round white flowers in June and these are followed by comparatively large white berries which persist right through the Autumn. Both increase by suckers which soon develop into sizable plants. The flowers are not very conspicuous but they are both beautiful shrubs in berry and make good pot plants for exhibition at any of the Autumn Shows. The third one, *G. sinensis* (Species K.W. 8562), makes a compact spreading shrub about 6 inches high. It bears in quantity round bell-like white flowers which are followed (not so frequently as one would wish, perhaps) by large saxe-blue fruits. A well-berried plant is truly a remarkable sight.

Another delightful little berrying shrub is *Pernettya tasmanica*. It is spreading in its habit and rarely attains more than 3 inches high. It has small white flowers in May and June and these are followed by large bright red fruits which are retained well into the following Spring. This too is an excellent subject for pot cultivation and valuable for Autumn exhibiting. It is said not to be hardy but my own plant has come through the last two winters outside in an exposed position without any protection.

In May of this year *Phyllodoce aleutica* was particularly good in my own garden and I cannot recommend it too highly. It is a dense shrub growing to perhaps 9-12 inches high and a good deal more across in time. It throws numerous sprays of globose cream-coloured flowers. Growing near to this species is *P. Breweri*, which is more sprawly in its habit. Its rather lax branches carry terminal racemes 3-6 inches long of wine-red saucer-shaped flowers in May. I am always amazed by this plant because it forms its flower buds very early—as I

write in July next year's buds are now visible—and they are retained, with a few exceptions which open in the Autumn, right through until the proper flowering season. My own, a British native, although I believe that the plants in cultivation are foreign in origin, *P. coerulea* forms a dense twiggy shrub 6 inches or slightly more high. It has many umbels of egg-shaped blue-mauve blossoms. It occasionally finds its way to the show bench in May when it is much admired. *P. nipponica* is one of the most treasured of all the dwarf shrubs. It flowers when very tiny and grows ultimately to about 12 inches and more in diameter. It rarely fails to flower well and its lovely white bells in May are usually so profuse that the plant is completely hidden by the blossom. A number of years ago our former President, Major Alan Walmsley, showed a magnificent specimen of this species and was awarded, if my memory serves me right, both a first class certificate and a Farrer medal for it.

I now come to what I regard as the best dwarf shrub I have grown in my 28 years experience of them. *Vaccinium nummularia* develops into a compact shrub about 9 inches high and a little more in diameter. It has bristly short growths clothed with small, leathery, glossy green leaves which when they develop in early Spring are tinged with red, making a most effective foliage plant at that stage. It bears clusters of small cylindrical pinky-white flowers in May and if one is lucky these are followed by bluey-black fruits very like small Black Hamburg grapes. This is an excellent plant for pot culture and well-flowered specimens always take a trick at the Spring Shows. It is said not to be too hardy, but again my own plants come through the winters in Edinburgh without harm, although I have seen some specimens at the Royal Botanic Garden which had been frost blasted on the tops. *V. Vitis-idaea* is a native shrub creeping in its habit with evergreen leaves. During May it has numerous nodding bell-shaped rosy flowers and these are followed in the Autumn by dark red fruits. This too is a good plant for the Autumn Shows. President Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon showed a well-berried specimen at the North Berwick Show some two years ago. He was kind enough to give me a part of his plant and it has settled down nicely and is well covered with green berries as I write.

As I said in the opening paragraph of the first instalment of these notes, this is not intended to be an exhaustive treatise on dwarf shrubs which appreciate a peaty soil. There are many more and their names may be found in the numerous catalogues available or by reference to any of the nurserymen in membership of the Club. Most of the dwarf shrubs I have mentioned, given the proper soil and placing, will continue to delight for many years with scant attention and they do lend that indefinable thing called "character" to the rock garden.

A Plant-hunting Holiday in Switzerland

By STEWART MITCHELL

THIS TOUR was organised by the A.G.S. and was from 25th June to 10th July 1957, the party numbering forty-six.

TUESDAY. We left London Airport at 11.10 p.m. and arrived at Geneva about 1 a.m. After customs formalities were over, and they were very nominal, we started off by two private buses on our journey round the Lake of Geneva and into the Rhone valley as far as Visp, where we travelled southwards about eleven miles to Saas Fee. We climbed from 2000 feet at Visp to 5900 at Saas Fee in that eleven miles, arriving about 9 a.m. After our hotel accommodation was allocated we had a continental breakfast and split up into small parties to explore.

WEDNESDAY. I had no sleep during the night, but many of the party did snatch an hour or so. Nothing very ambitious was attempted that day, and we were all in for lunch. We had a walk through the meadows full of flowers, which would be cut for hay, and in the afternoon a walk through some fir woodlands looking for *Pyrola uniflora*. After dinner we retired to bed early.

THURSDAY. The next day we went up Hannigalp on the west of the little township. This had good paths zigzagging all the way up, a bit steep even then, but we took it very gently. There were the usual plants lower down. *Aster alpinus* was particularly good and I thought I might see better and did not photograph them, and, as so often happens, I never saw them quite so good. *Dianthus carthusianorum*, a red cluster-head, was quite good, though a bit long in the stem. Then came *Polygala chamaebuxus*, *Linaria alpina*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, and *Chrysanthemum alpinum*. Farther up *Anemone sulphurea* started to appear, then *Silene acaulis exscapa*, a small form, and *Primula rubra*. Then we got to the rocky outcrop where *Androsace argentea* dwelt; it was very thrilling to see this choice alpine at home. We had lunch here and afterwards went higher up, but the thrill of that day was the *Androsace*, even although we saw *Gentiana verna* and *Androsace chamaejasme*, this *Androsace* being a type like *A. primuloides chumbyi* (*sarmentosa* var. *chumbyi*).

FRIDAY. The following day, to rest our muscles, we took the cable car up to the glacier, and to the edge of the main snow patch. There, growing right out of the snow, was *Soldanella alpina*, as we had read about it—actually coming through the snow! Quite a good path leads downwards, but the muscles in front of our legs took the strain, braking on the steep path. I would say soldanellas took pride of place here, blooming amidst the sodden grass which had not been so quick in recovering after being covered with snow for eight or nine months. *Anemone sulphurea* and *A. vernalis* were in fair quantity. *Viola calcarata*, *Gentiana verna*, *Primulae rubra* and *farinosa* in wet places, and one I had not seen before, *P. hallerii* (or *longiflora*). *Ranunculus pyrenaicus* was also in quantity, and is quite attractive with its pure white flowers.

SATURDAY. On Saturday we climbed the mountain to the east (Mittaghorn)—again up to the snow line. The Plattjen Hutte, which stood out against the sky from Saas Fee, was a welcome resting place, where on the way up we had liquid refreshment in the form of soup, and coming down—Apelsaft. Steep meadows similar to those we saw the previous day bordered the path steeply zigzagging upwards. It is interesting that there were two sets of paths, a steep, and a more easy one ; we took the latter most of the way, although as you can imagine it was much longer. Our chief desire on this day was to see *Eritrichium nanum*, and we did. This was another thrill. *Primula rubra* in very good forms appeared high up, and good forms also of *Anemone vernalis*. Talking about forms, I might mention that variations were many in nearly all these alpine plants—shape, size, and colouring varying astonishingly.

SUNDAY. Sunday coming next, and a rest being desirable, a ramble up the stream-side sufficed for me, and I only took one picture—a willow, for which I did not get a name. The willows were most interesting, and as well as our own *reticulata* and *herbacea*, was a tiny one, *S. retusa serpyllifolia*, dainty with minute foliage and catkins. On Sunday afternoon I went to see St. Bruno's Lilies, and got caught in a severe thunderstorm—fortunately near a refreshment hut. We found that hoards of Sunday trippers had cleared out thousands of lilies, and, everything being very wet, with threats of more thunder, I never got my picture. These trippers also denude all the rhododendrons within reach, and a picture of one bush I got was in a very awkward place both to get to and return from again.

MONDAY. On Monday we moved on by bus to our next place, Furka Pass. We learned the previous day, however, that the Swiss military had moved into our hotel and only about a dozen could be accommodated. Being a late booker, I had no hope, and regretted my unavoidable lateness in reserving a place, for the high alpiners were literally only a few yards from the hotel door. I took a few pictures of the place, which is about 8000 feet up. On the way we passed the Rhone Glacier, an awe-inspiring sight, of which I got a picture from my front seat in the bus, the driver almost stopping while I snapped it. The bulk of the party then went on to Hospental, a delightful old town, where the road branches to the Gotthard Pass. It is quite near Andermatt, and most of us had a look at this town on Tuesday morning.

TUESDAY. A trip to the St. Gotthard Pass was arranged for the afternoon, but we found very little of interest in the way of new plants ; *Soldanella pusilla* (see Fig. 18) was one beauty, however, and some nice clumps of *Chrysanthemum alpinum*.

WEDNESDAY. An early start was made on Wednesday, for we had a long journey via Chur to Pontresina. A packed lunch was carried and we picnicked on the way. A stop was made at St. Julier Pass before we started down into the valley where St. Moritz lies. The hills around were covered with little clumps of *Daphne striata* and the air was full of its perfume. After we started on our journey again, we passed banks covered with *Viola calcarata* in the best concentration

we saw anywhere—no photographs, of course. We saw quite a lot from the bus, which, had it been our own car, we would have stopped and goodness knows when we would have reached our destination. THURSDAY. Pontresina (5900 feet) lies near the immense Bernina group of mountains and at the end of a valley which stretches up and southwards over into Tirano in Italy. It is served by a light railway, and the procedure here was to take the morning trains (about 8.15 or 8.30 a.m.) to different stations and explore the various valleys running eastwards.

Our first day was spent at the Heutal or Hay valley, which had been cracked up by writers, but it was too early in the season and disappointing. Martagon lilies were only in bud, and we did not gain much by seeing later flowering plants. I do have some pictures of *Pedicularis*, *Erigeron alpinus*, *Senecio doronicum*, a miserable *Viola calcarata* and *Helianthemum alpestre*. This last is a dainty form probably known to most. Larger forms grew at the same place but I am not sure of their names.

FRIDAY. Val Minor was the most delightful place, with a good cross section of plants from the meadow dwellers at its foot to the rare and beautiful high alpiners at its top. It was approached by going to Bernina Hospice Station, and walking round the south side of a hill and round to the north, quite high up the side of the next deep valley running to the south. On our first day there we went exploring too far north before we turned into the valley and we landed in Italy. We had a car run back from there.

SATURDAY. Nothing daunted, we retraced our steps the next day and went round into the Val Minor itself, travelling down from *Androsace alpina* or *glacialis* to *Campanula pusilla* or *cochlearifolia* at the road side. We had a bad thunderstorm half way down, with hail, and that put finish to photography, so I had a third visit here on the Tuesday.

SUNDAY. Sunday I rested in the forenoon, and explored the woodlands between Pontresina and St. Moritz in the afternoon. They reminded me very much of the woodland walks at Grantown-on-Spey.

MONDAY. Pic Languard is a high mountain of almost 11,000 feet immediately behind or to the east of Pontresina. It has a chair lift at one place and a funicular railway at another. We took the chair lift, but it did not go up far enough. There was nothing exceptional here, and *Linaria faucicola* was about the only new plant I photographed. The views from here were wonderful and I only wish I had taken more pictures.

TUESDAY. The last day was a return to Val Minor, starting from the foot this time. Believe it or not, at the same place, half-way up, we got another thunderstorm. These storms seemed quite peculiar to this valley on each occasion, for when we got back nothing like it had been experienced elsewhere.

WEDNESDAY. Our journey home was by train to Zurich, where the weather broke and steady rain fell. We left there about 10 p.m. and got to London Airport about midnight.

Survivors

By D. M. MURRAY-LYON

I HAVE lately returned to my old garden, which had been in other hands for seven years. The owner during that time did not pretend to be a gardener, and so the Rock Garden inevitably suffered from neglect. It is, I think, interesting to note what plants survived this period of neglect, some of them most surprising. The garden is in Perthshire over 500 feet above sea level. It is on the top of a ridge of sandy, gravelly soil with lots of stone in it. The cultivated parts are mostly on the south-west slopes of this ridge. (The rainfall is 36 inches per annum).

First I will mention a few plants which are often said to be difficult and not too hardy. *Lewisia tweedyi*, growing on a shelf about four feet up a wall backed by sharp scree and facing south-west, is still there after ten years and, as far as I know, has never been covered in winter. In 1950 it had 74 flowers, but this year it has not flowered, owing, I suppose, to being overgrown and shadowed by weeds. It is now looking quite healthy, though.

At the very top of this wall is a plant of *Erica arborea alpina* about 4 feet high and more in width. In May and June it was covered with bloom. It is growing on very sharp scree, and is protected from north and east winds by a thick hedge and by the lie of the land. *Cotyledon chrysantha* in the same scree wall has survived though it cannot be said to have flourished. *Linum salsaloides nanum* is flowering nearby.

The old plant of *Androsace carnea* has disappeared, but a number of its descendents are growing in crevices in the wall and at the foot of it. *Aplopappus coronopifolius* near the foot of the wall is now about a foot in diameter and covered with buds. *Celsia acaulis* is still where I planted it eight years ago, on the south-east side of a stone at the top of a wall, and there is a self-sown seedling a little lower down. I don't know if *Lewisia x trevosiana* is considered easy and hardy or not, but it is still flourishing in spite of my having inadvertently dug it out with a large weed which had quite hidden it.

In both the limestone and granite screes *Douglasia laevigata* is flourishing, one being nearly two feet in diameter, and both simply smothered in flowers. *Antirrhinum asarina*, often referred to as not hardy, became such a menace that I weeded it out of my screes and walls. I planted it (about 8 years ago) in a few places in retaining walls where it would not endanger other less robust plants. It has spread, and there are self-sown seedlings all over the place.

A note of some of the more prevalent "weeds" in scree, wall and alpine meadow might be of interest. Among the most prolific are *Anthyllis vulneraria*—a pink-flowered form, *Erinus alpinus*—all colours and shades, *Pulsatilla vulgaris*—unfortunately a rather poor form, and

Phyteuma scheucheri. Hardly qualifying as weeds, but self-seeding freely are : *Aethionema schistosum*, *Hypericum polyphyllum*, *Campanula barbata*, *Linaria brousonettii*, and various *Dianthus* species ; also, but less freely, *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrids. A plant which I unearthed from below a clump of some of the above mentioned weeds is what I think is *Gypsophila repens*, with a stem six or seven inches long and as thick as my thumb. Having been nearly smothered, it has not flowered, but it is now looking fairly healthy.

The above "Survivors" have strengthened my belief in "Drainage and More Drainage," with, of course, shelter from the east wind. Naturally the easy *Phlox* and *Dianthus* species have spread widely, and to a less extent *Aster alpinus* and some of the globularias.

In my old Peat Bank, at the foot of a steep, twenty-foot slope, facing north-west and with dappled shade from two large birches, a number of plants have "gone native." Amongst these are : *Rubus arcticus*, *Linnaea borealis canadensis*, *Pyrola asarinifolia*, *Oxalis oregona* ; and two real natives, the Oak Fern (*Polypodium dryopteris*), and *Oxalis acetosella rosea*. In spite of the ramping of the above and a fine growth of innumerable species of rank grasses, coarse ferns, and seedling conifers, *Haberlea rhodopensis* has survived in vertical parts of the peat walls. Ramondas, however, apparently not so amenable or adaptable, have disappeared. Also found in the aforementioned jungle are : *Galax aphylla*, *Tanakaea radicans* and *Actaea spicata*.

All the Petiolarid primulas have gone, in the "caves," on the flat, and in vertical peat walls.

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Geraniums

By J. M.

FOR SOME reason not obvious to me the genus geranium, which contains many really handsome members, has received little notice in the *Journal*. Is it because we tend to associate the name with those plants (truly pelargoniums) which were so common in Victorian and Edwardian "bedding out" days and which are still often to be seen as window plants or in glasshouses ?

Even our wild Meadow Cranesbill (*Geranium pratense*) is a beautiful plant, though of course too tall for the rock garden, and it has many handsome relatives of herbaceous border proportions including *Gg. armenum*, *phaeum*, *ibericum*, *aconitifolium*, and the lovely though rather tender *anemonaefolium* of the Canary Islands. There are several attractive monocarpic species, and then we come to those dwarf species, most of them neat and compact but some of them carpetting, which make such attractive plants in the rock garden.

Surely *Geranium dalmaticum*, if not the best of all, is at least one of the very best of the dwarf geraniums as an all-round rock garden plant. Forming a neat, compact, cushiony dome ultimately about six inches in height and perhaps a foot or more across, it is not in the least temperamental in its requirements so far as I have found. Given a sunny position and an open, well-drained soil, such as scree, it will soon develop into a handsome specimen plant completely hidden in June and July under masses of large, shapely, deep clear pink flowers. The following year, where conditions are favourable, the owner is usually further rewarded with nice seedling offspring round the parent plant which are his either to pass on to friends or to add to his own rock garden.

Geranium argenteum, from North Italy, must also rank among the best. As its name implies, the leaves are of a lovely silver, and its flowers are a softer pink. In many ways it is a more refined plant, but I have not found it quite so sturdy ; I suspect that it prefers drier conditions and more attention to drainage than the previous one demands. But I have not been without it for years because its self-sown seedlings have a habit of selecting and growing where they best like to be—in a rock crevice or sunny, particularly well-drained part of the scree. Its glistening silvery foliage makes it a conspicuous feature even when not in flower.

Probably *G. farreri* (or *napuligerum*), from W. China, is so well known to most members as to need no description. It, too, likes an open, sunny, well-drained site, where it forms a neat compact plant three or four inches high and covered over quite a long season with large pink flowers, on red stems, having in their hearts very noticeable dark, almost black, anthers which give added distinction to them.

Certainly *G. subcaulescens* (a subspecies of *G. cinereum*) must be the most colourful and flamboyant of the rock garden members of the family. I have heard criticisms that its massed wealth of crimson-magenta flowers clash with everything near, but no one can deny that it is a most showy plant. It is an extremely easy and good grower, forming a compact little bush of six or eight inches height and twelve to fifteen inches across completely smothered in early summer by its intense-coloured flowers. A native of the Balkans, I have found it very hardy, though its very floriferousness does not allow of a very long life ; it is very easily propagated by cuttings inserted in a sandy mixture in a cold frame. Some people prefer the variety *splendens* as less harsh in colour.

The species plant, *G. cinereum*, from the Pyrenees, is an altogether more refined and less spectacular plant with the same neat growth as the last and with flowers of a very pleasing rose-pink. Its white variety, *alba*, is a most delightful little plant.

Geranium traversii, from New Zealand, is an old favourite which has been with me for many years and for me stands in a class of its own. It is perhaps not too hardy and tends to die out in a bad winter, but I have plants in several dry, sheltered crannies and some of them always come through the worst winters, and in addition there are always self-sown seedlings with which to build up stock again. Not so compact as the foregoing, it requires rather more room when it throws out its flowering stems, which tend to trail ; but its soft silver-grey leaves and clear pink flowers make it a most desirable plant. *G. var.* "Russell Pritchard" is said to be a *traversii* hybrid but its vigorous spreading tendencies look more like *endressii* blood in it. Where one has room for it, it is a most easy and attractive plant nine inches or more in height, spreading, and providing a wealth of large, deep pink flowers.

G. endressii, from the Pyrenees, is another spreading plant of not more than a foot in height, and it provides a steady crop of rose-pink flowers throughout the whole summer and on till Autumn frosts set in. It is very nearly evergreen in habit, if one can call a grey-leaved plant "evergreen." Though taking up too much space for most rock gardens, it is an ideal plant for the front of a shrubbery or where a bank needs to be covered.

Our own native *Geranium sanguineum* (the Bloody Cranesbill) I have grown for more years than I can remember, but till I saw it in a fellow-member's garden I failed to realise what a fine plant it could be under right conditions, and was inclined to condemn it as not quite up to rock garden standard. However, a compact shapely dome smothered in deep blood-red crimson flowers has made me revise my opinion. Certainly it should be grown in poor sandy soil, because it can get too coarse in a richer mixture. Its white variety is a very attractive plant, and var. *lancastrienne* is a much more dwarf type altogether—

flat, low-growing and compact, with very pleasing wide-opening, clear rose-pink flowers.

Geranium grandiflorum, from Sikkim, is rather like a dwarf form of *G. pratense* with greatly enlarged flowers. The plant grows a foot or fifteen inches high, and at the end of the rather lax flower-stems are clusters of rounded, clear blue, darker-eyed flowers twice the size of our Meadow Cranesbill's. Though inclined to ramp a bit at times, it is so beautiful that it is worth a good place in full sun and light soil. A place on a rock ledge or the top of a wall shows it off to great advantage.

Geranium macrorrhizum, from S. Europe, is a reasonably compact plant growing a foot high or more, with medium-sized reddish-purple flowers in early summer, while the form—"Ingwersen's Variety"—has larger flowers of a much clearer pink. *G. pylzowianum* throws up its leaves to a height of six or eight inches from strings of small underground nodules which creep just under the surface, travelling along the crevices and edges of the stones. Numerous erect peduncles carry three or four inch-wide purple flowers which make quite a show in early summer. *G. stapfianum* (from Himalayan regions, like the preceding) is a compact-growing plant with flowers rather like those of *pylzowianum*.

These are only some of the many species and varieties of geranium available. If readers are stimulated to criticise or to add to this list, then the purpose of these notes will have been served.

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Estancia Stag River, Patagonia

By RUTH TWEEDIE

THE SHEEP FARM is very far south in Patagonia, only one hundred and forty miles north of the Straits of Magellan, and although on the eastern watershed of the Andes, it is twenty miles from the coast of the Pacific. Patagonia is the whole of the southern thousand miles of the mainland of South America, lying both in Chile and Argentina, and it is the same distance from north to south as from the Mediterranean to Scotland. Estancia Stag River is in the southernmost part.

Most of the land in Patagonia is held by large land companies, and Stag River is one of the few family farms left and is comparatively small. It lies in the foothills of the Andes and is very beautiful, in contrast to the sheep land to the east, which is arid and windswept, and of a uniform dull khaki colour. The farm buildings, dominated by the wool shed, are white with bright red roofs and green rones, and grouped over a half mile of nearly flat grassland at an altitude of 800 feet. They are set against small rounded hills (glacial moraines?) and small and large groups of *Nothofagus antarctica*, crooked and gnarled, fifteen or twenty feet high and perhaps 200 years old. Behind these lie higher hills and the Range (nearly 4000 feet) which was still covered with snow when we arrived in November. The Range is densely forested up to 2000 feet and forms the northern boundary of the Estancia about eight miles from the farm buildings. The high southern peaks of the Andes can be seen to the north-west and south-west gleaming blue-white against the clear blue sky. Twenty miles due west of the farm lies a twisting inlet of the Pacific Ocean, the Ultima Esperanza, clearly to be seen from the higher part of our Range.

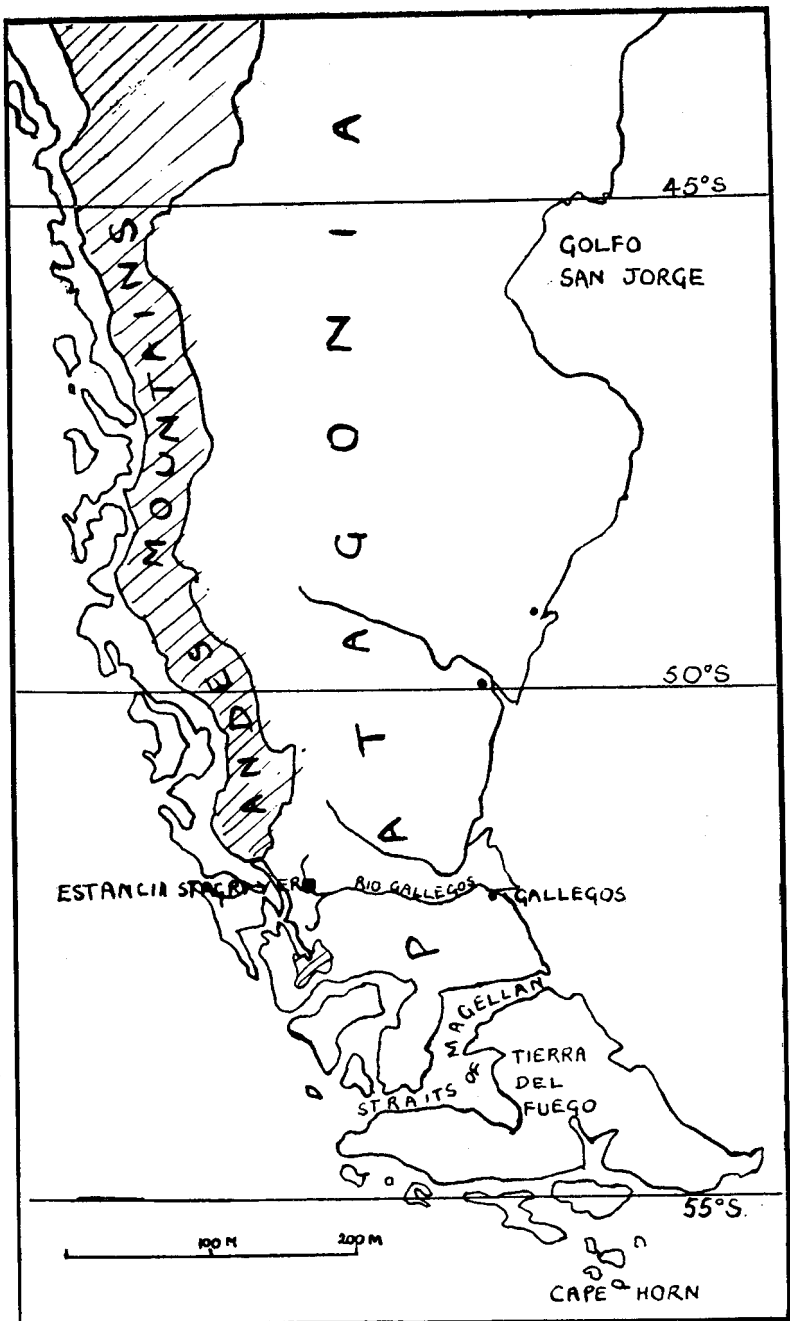
The farm lies in the "Westerlies" and there are not many summer days without strong or gale force winds. The growing season is about four and a half months compared with seven in south-east Scotland. Temperature ranges from about 30 degrees below freezing point to about 70 degrees in summer. Rainfall is 12-15 inches a year compared with 25 in south-east Scotland and most of this falls within the dormant season often, as snow and only occasional showers are brought in by westerly winds during the summer. In midsummer the photographic light-meter registers the same at seven in the evening as it does here at midday. The ultra-violet rays, the low air humidity and the strong winds cause the plants to remain small and provide some means of checking loss of moisture from their leaves, so they have evolved many silver, felted, hairy, spiny or rolled leaves. Almost all the plants, shrubs and trees are aromatic, which makes them more desirable in cultivation. The soil varies from clay and sandy loam to leafmould, coarse scree and boggy peat. The pH of two samples we took at 950 feet and 2000 feet was 6, but as the area of the farm is

nearly 70 square miles there is likely to be variation in other localities, particularly in the Bog and the Forest.

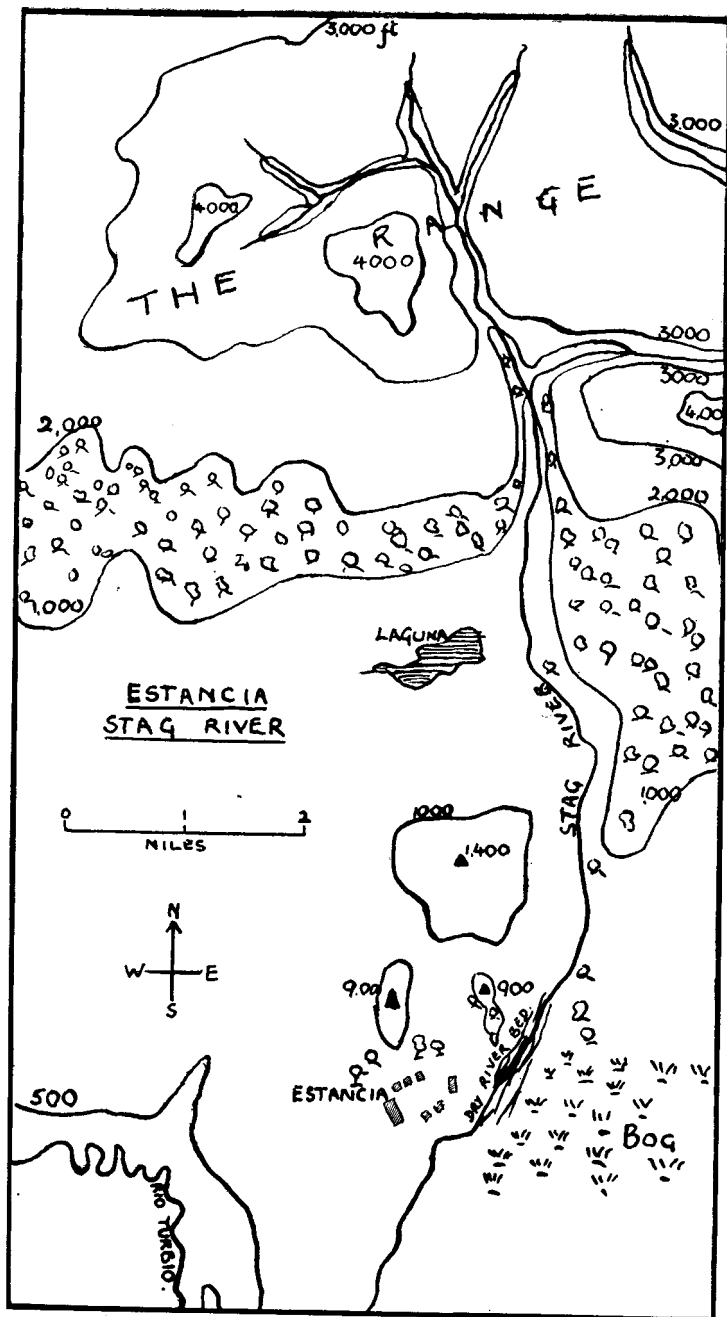
At first my plant collecting was confined to the area near the house and this was to prove very valuable when seed began to ripen, for there I came to know almost every plant. The farm-manager helped me by fencing in a dry little hill to keep out the sheep, and a marshy strip beside it where, when we arrived in November, *Myrtus nummularia* was in berry and *Primula decipiens* in bud. Apart from the other hazards of gales, drought, hares and birds, my chance of collecting seed was thus increased.

The dry hill became covered on its sunny northern side by *Acaena* spp. *Calceolaria darwinii*, *Adesmia pumila* (a yellow and brown pea flower) and a *Viola* sp., perhaps *V. maculata* (orange yellow with fine dark lines). None of these yellow flowers was more than 2 inches high and they were exposed to all the west wind and the northern sun. From the house they were foreshortened to look like a yellow carpet on a greyish-khaki scree. In autumn the same scree was covered with *Perezia recurvata*. Between the hill and the lush marshy ground was a line of old *Nothofagus antarctica* and here grew *Calceolaria biflora*. *Lathyrus magellanica* (is this Lord Anson's Blue Pea ?) and a smaller blue *Lathyrus* sp., *Gnaphalium* sp., *Leuceria* sp., white and sometimes flushed with pink, *Hypochoeris lanata*, *Armeria* sp., very like our *A. maritima*, and a dull greyish-green *Melandrium* sp. Under the trees were a flame-coloured *Verbena* sp., a white *Polemonium* sp., both with more leaf than flower, and a four-inch pale yellow *Viola* sp. with bright green glabrous cordate leaves. Here too were *Anemone magellanica*, *Erigeron* spp., *Valerian* sp., and *Phacelia* sp. On the western and southern sides of the hill grew *Symphystemon biflorus*, *Scutellaria* sp., *Armeria* sp., a mossy saxifrage, *Erigeron* sp. and a small *Senecio* with occasional specimens of plants already listed. Nearly all these flowers are scented.

From the farm at 800 feet down to the River Turbio at 450 feet was the least interesting part of the area for plants except for the mats of *Antennaria magellanica* with silver-grey leaves, and for two large flat stretches of the beautiful *Oxalis laciniata* (*O. squamosa-radicosa*). This plant usually grew on the side of small hills in very open sandy loam, but this flat locality made collecting easy. Here the tubers grew in moderately bare spaces between tussocks of hard grass. The tiny, crimped star-fish leaves were difficult to find until the 2 inch, open cup-shaped floweres unfurled to show blues, violets, pinks, lilacs, crimsons and near-white in gay profusion. I never saw a plant more than six inches across and they were more usually three or four inches, and one inch high except when they occasionally grew in the shade of *Berberis buxifolia* (Calafate) or *Chiliotrichum* shrubs. The lowest part of the farm is 500 feet above sea-level and is meadow land by the Rio Turbio, which twists and turns its way down to join the Rio Gallegos, flowing ultimately into the Atlantic. The trout fishing is excellent except after



PATAGONIA.



ESTANCIA STAG RIVER

a spate, when the Turbio lives up to its name and becomes thick and opaque with pale grey clay. Some of this is left as a top-dressing along the shingle beaches, and *Calandrinia caespitosa*, *Erodium cicutarium*, and *Geranium* spp. are found growing there. On the meadow land are yard-wide patches of evergreen *Azorella trifurcata*, a few *Sisyrinchium* (?) *filifolium*, native *Trifolium* sp., and a number of imported seeds of clovers, ox-eye daisy, dandelion, *Rumex*, *Polygonum aviculare* which must have been washed down when the river was swollen by the melting snow.

Just north of the farm buildings at 900 feet on the top of a grassy wooded hill we found a scattered colony of a choice 18 inch orchid called *Chloraea piquichen*, the flower silver, white, and green, chequered with fine dark grey lines, and the leaves almost translucent. We had great trouble to preserve these plants, for they are evidently very succulent to sheep, and eventually we built a 3 foot barricade of old branches round each plant. I suspect that before the sheep came at the turn of the century, this orchid was common, and now only survives under shrubs or in impenetrable places. Throughout all this area was a great deal of *Hypochoeris lanata* usually about 4 inches high rising from a silvery rosette of narrow 3 inch leaves, *Calceolaria darwinii*, *Oxalis laciniata*, *O. enneaphylla* (always pink), *Perezia recurvata*, and many miles of the white-flowered, silver-leaved *Chiliotrichum* sp.

There were two interesting places for collecting at this altitude, one of which was the bog of about two square miles and very treacherous. The plants here, although interesting botanically, were not for the rock gardener except for tiny *Gunnera magellanica* and a beautiful shrub with pink-flushed white flowers like tiny apple-blossom and neat shining Cotoneaster-like leaves. It grew from 2-12 feet high and always flat, as if it would do well on the side of a house. And the other was an area of scree half a mile wide and about a mile long, a dry river bed left behind when the Stag River changed its course, but still flooded and covered with fine silt whenever the river is in spate. Here we sometimes found plants grown from seeds washed down from 4000 feet, a crimson *Leuceria* sp., *Calandrinia caespitosa*, and a strange plant with the appearance of a prickly kabschia saxifrage and the fruit of an *Anagallis*. I never saw it in flower, but have germinated some seed, so we may track it down.

From 1000-2000 feet are grassy hills rising gradually to the Forest. On one of these hills was a magnificent specimen of *Embothrium coccineum*, well-known to the Chilean shepherds, but unusual in the Argentine. It was growing on an apparently dry hill-side at 1200 feet exposed to the full force of the westerly gales. It must be many years old and we watched it come into blazing flower from the farm five miles away, through binoculars. In the forest belt the trees are another *Nothofagus* sp.—*N. pumilio*. These grow to a height of eighty to a hundred feet and on the fringes of the forest where specimen trees stand, they are very graceful and beautiful. The branches flatten out

like those of the beech, but the leaves are small and intensely green and shaped like a cross between *Dryas octopetala* and a silver birch. They make wonderful leaf mould. In the unforested parts at this altitude and above the tree line, there are miles and miles of *Empetrum rubrum* (known amongst the Scottish settlers in Patagonia and the Falkland Islands as "Diddly dee").

It was the 2000 feet-4000 feet which excited me most. Imagine a long range of hills rather like the Lammermuirs, but higher and colder and more exposed, with all the summits covered only with smooth pebbles the size of a marble upwards. Everything smaller must have been blown away. Here were only hard cushion plants of *Verbena*, *Xerodraba*, *Acaena*, *Azorella*, some lichens and surprisingly, a black toadstool. Below the summit were some peaty banks covered with the minute white *Viola tridentata* and there were screes left by melting snowfields, but the plants had their roots down into pure sticky yellow clay four, six or twelve inches down. It was in these screes that I found a dwarfed *Calceolaria darwinii* with tawny hairy leaves, *Nassauvia glomerulosa* and *N. patagonica*, vanilla-scented heads of flowers on closely packed columns of leaves.

Sampson Clay has a *Nassauvia* sp. and other Patagonian plants well-illustrated in his "The Present Day Rock Garden." Here too was a sweet-scented terra cotta coloured *Symphostemon lyckholmii* like a three-inch *S. bikorus* (*Sisyrinchium odoratissimum*); a bright yellow *Crukshanksia*, a tiny *Vicia* sp., two more *Oxalis* spp., one white with glaucous leaves, the other pink like a dwarf silky *O. enneaphylla*; a bulb with a greenish black flower (? *Brodiaea*) and two very interesting *Hamadryas* spp., *delphini* and *kingii*, a dioecious Patagonian genus with Anemone-like flowers and silky silver leaves. Between the tree line and these summits was a good range of plants which should settle down in Scotland. Scattered through and just above the upper limit of the forest grew a fine farinose form of *Calceolaria darwinii* with large flowers. In this area *Empetrum rubrum* was dominant, interspersed with *Pernettya mucronata*, a very beautiful *Senecio argyreus*, a creamy-white leaved shrub with single, scented, pure yellow daisy flowers of great beauty, *Arjona* sp., a small *Perezia* and *Symphostemon bikorus* in great colour variety, pure white and pure cream and pale yellow, and white striped with maroon sometimes so heavily marked as to look magenta coloured. Every here and there were sandy hollows like bunkers on a golf course, in which grew steel blue *Perezia pilifera* and a much smaller pinkish white P. sp. mossy saxifrage, *Acaena* sp., *Adesmia villosa*, and a two-inch *Perezia* sp. with cream and lilac flowers three inches across.

On the steep banks of the upper reaches of the Stag River we found *Pernettya mucronata*, *Escallonia*, white, pink, and red, *Ribes* sp., *Berberis buxifolia* and *B. empetrifolia*, a long drift of *Anemone magellanica*, *Perezia* spp., and growing on dripping wet cliffs and in swiftly flowing

narrow burns was *Ourisia poepigii* with scarlet tubular flowers. Above this grew *Adesmia salicornioides* with leaves like *Sedum acre*.

As the end of March approached and the Nothofagus forest turned to scarlet and yellow in the autumn sunshine, we made our last climb to collect seed from the top of the Range and a few bulbs of the beautiful snowdrop orchid, *Codonorchis lessonii* from the forest. The day was perfect, crisp and clear after a light frost, and as we sat enjoying the lovely view nine giant condors glided close above us with the light air whistling through their feathers as they wheeled inquisitively to watch us. I wondered about the people who had collected plants in Patagonia before us, and about Charles Darwin who had been there just a hundred years ago. I think the primeval call of the foothills of the Andes must either attract or repel those who walk amongst them, but they say that those who have eaten the Calafate berries will always return.

The Heath or Desart

By "PIERRE"

"FOR THE HEATH or DESART which was the third part of our Plot, I wish it to be framed, as much as may be, to NATURAL WILDNESS . . . I like also little HEAPS, in the nature of MOLE-HILLS, to be set, some with Wild Thyme, some with Pincks, some with Germander, that gives a good flower to the Eye, some with Periwinkle, some with Violets, some with Strawberries, some with Cowslips, some with daisies, some with Liliun Convallium . . . and the like Low-flowers, being withal sweet and sightly."

—Sir Francis Bacon

I don't believe Bacon was Shakespeare, but when I read his description of the Heath or Desart I begin to think that after all he was something of a poet. One feels too that in that dark backward and abysm of time when rock gardening had not yet been invented, he did his best. How delightful are his "little HEAPS," and what a satisfactory definition he gives of the flowers that are admissible into the rock garden: "Low-flowers, being withal sweet and sightly." Perhaps we might ask his spirit to share with Farrer the honourable office of patron-saint of our sect. (Incidentally, I have long known that the Saint of my own birthday is Saint Fiacre, but it was only recently that I discovered to my great delight that this Irish monk is the patron saint not of cabbies but of gardeners).

The garden that Bacon was describing was not, of course, for ordinary mortals; it was to be a Prince-like garden, which "ought not well to be under THIRTY ACRES OF GROUND." But still his descriptions seems to me inspiring reading even for one who gardens a mere quarter-acre of suburbia. I work hard in my own quarter-acre, and yet a good portion of it, partly of necessity and partly of design,

is framed to a Natural Wildness. It is this part that gives me the greatest fun, and in it, curiously enough, I have most of the flowers that Bacon mentions: violets, wild strawberries, primroses, thyme, pinks, periwinkle, daisies and lily of the valley. Cowslips, too, I sowed this spring to please my wife, who is French, for in her province the little children gather cowslip flowers in Spring and, setting them astride a taut string, pull the two ends together in a way that produces a round tight ball of cowslip flowers, deliciously fragrant, for their play.

I have many other wild-flowers in my Desert; wood-sorrel, stone-crops white and yellow, wild hyacinths and Scotch bluebells, globe flowers and bog-orchids. I have Bloody Cranesbill, and Meadow Cranesbill, and a straggly geranium with a small flower that I felt ought to be an annual and yet it seems to have lived through last winter. I have a great mass of sea-campion and Welsh poppies in terrible profusion. And only today, behind my compost heap, I found an exquisite white foxglove, tall and stately, which must have sown itself there. I have a tiny dwarf heather which I found carpeting a rocky headland that I dearly love, and where, when one is tired of scrambling among the rocks and pools, one finds enchanting hollows bowered with Scotch bluebells, where one may lie and dream in the sun. And then, too, I have inherited with the garden some of the yellow flags that stir the heart when one sees them against the windblown sea at Sannox, but which should not be imprisoned in gardens, where they flourish miserably with grotesque tall leaves and tiny flowers. From Arran, too, this Easter I brought back a yard or so of honeysuckle and cutting into six-inch lengths put them into my propagating frame where they soon rooted. They seem in no hurry to start growing, although one has produced two flower-buds which I have not so far had the heart to nip off.

And then, too, I have *Campanula latifolia macrantha*. How I love that rotund name, and how my wife mocks me when I utter it. I acquired the seed among some surplus seed distributed at the Club. I hunted through my rock-gardening books, but could find no mention of it, so I sowed the seed, and it came up profusely, and in due course I planted out the frail young seedlings here and there in my rock garden. In the autumn they faded and disappeared, and I sighed: "Alas! *Campanula latifolia macrantha*, thou wast too beautiful to live. The slugs have got thee." . . . And then, and then came spring, and I saw strong shoots appearing all over my rock garden, and scratching my head I muttered: "Surely this cannot be *Campanula latifolia macrantha*?" For the frail delicacy had departed and in its place was determined purpose and rude rumbustious health. Again I rushed to my books, and this time, in an early volume of the Alpine Garden Society Bulletin which my mother gave me recently, I tracked down *Campanula latifolia macrantha* and found it to be a native wildflower growing three feet high or more. So I hastily dug up my plants and banished them to my Desert, where, as I write, they are in bloom, and very handsome too.

Another plant that played a merry jest upon my ignorance was *Silene compacta*. Last autumn it showed signs which even I could not ignore, of being an annual. So I gathered seed and sowed it in a pan in March. But in May I found every inch of my rock garden and of the paths around it paved with *Silene compacta*. But complete botanical ignorance can quite often be rather fun. I brought back from my holiday last year what I took to be *Antennaria dioica* and I planted it in the spaces between some crazy paving, where it sent out its long rooting runners happily. But this month it has put up six-inch stems with neat little yellow dandelion flowers. I rather like them and shall leave the plants alone if they do not send their creeping roots too far afield—but my conjecture now is mouse-ear hawkweed! And then also I brought back a sandwort which made the neatest prostrate mat where it was planted—until this last month, when it produced untidy gangling flower-stems covered with small white flowers and I guessed again heath bedstraw. Sometimes, too, what one takes back to one's garden brings another kind of surprise with it; a clump of stoncrop has milkwort mingled with it and a small sod of *Salix repens* is tenanted by violets.

A flower I want for my garden is *Rosa spinosissima*, and I mean some day to bring home cuttings of it. I know where it grows in a very dwarf form, and its creamy flowers are lovely, almost as heart-breakingly lovely as the elfin grace of the pink wildrose.

Another recruit for my Desert is Grass of Parnassus. I sowed it in a soil that was mostly peat and sand and I kept it soaked with water. Months passed and moss began to throttle the minute seedlings, so I pricked them out when they were the size of pinheads. I have now a couple of dozen seedlings but their rate of growth is incredibly slow. Four months after sowing the little cupped leaves are no more than an eighth of an inch across. They look perfectly healthy and I earnestly hope they will thrive and adorn the peat bog I have prepared for them on the outskirts of my Desert.

Another plant that delights me in my Desert is Speedwell. In May of last year I brought back a spray of it and shoved it in my propagating frame, where it rooted. Now it is in lovely flower in my Desert and each time I pass it I am reminded of Mr. Darling's enchanting article in last autumn's issue of the *Journal*. Indeed, I am beginning to dote so on my Desert that I think I shall end where Mr. Darling began—without native weeds as my chief joy. But I shall not follow him in planting *Convolvulus*, for already I carry on a desperate battle with it in several parts of my garden. . . . And yet, and yet . . . dare I not risk planting somewhere that white-striped pink convolvulus that rambles so delightfully among the pebbles and boulders of the beaches of my beloved island?

I only take common wildflowers into my garden and am no despoiler of our mountain flora, and yet though in some moods I echo Bacon proudly and say of my Desert and Rock-gardening "indeed it is the

purest of Humane pleasures," there are others when I feel that the entry into his garden of one who could even contemplate taming the wildrose, should be heralded by an Elizabethan stage-direction "Enter first Murderer," and I mutter guiltily as I slink past my darlings: "Si la fleur n'était liée a sa tige, elle fuirait à l'approche de l'homme comme l'insecte ou l'oiseau."

Old and New

By C. M. CREWDSON

THERE ARE many good articles and notes in gardening papers and other periodicals about new plants for our gardens, but I am going to mention a trusted few old friends which have survived in my garden for a number of years and therefore, I think, prove their worth. In considering the value of plants for the rock garden I think the great test is their hardiness for our wet Westmorland climate and their real perennial qualities, combined, of course, with their attractiveness and colour. Ruling out all the old favourites such as *Lithospermums*, *Helianthemums*, *Aubrietias*, and similar plants, I will mention a few which have been in my garden for a great many years.

Meconopsis quintuplinervia is frequently seen in northern gardens, and its usefulness and prettiness combine to make it attractive when it flowers in May or early June. The easiness of it makes it a stand-by when compared to so many of this rather "tricky" race. I was given a semi-double form some years ago, but it is only slightly darker in colour than the usual form.

Meconopsis chelidonifolia is a very old friend of mine, but rarely seen in gardens; it is really a woodland plant hailing from Western Szechuan, and growing about 3 ft. in height with clear yellow flowers. If left alone this *Meconopsis* seems to be prepared to go on its way indefinitely and if you want to increase it this is easily done by division in the early spring.

Geranium farreri was another species in great demand some years ago. It is a useful plant for the smaller rock garden and a good perennial, though disliking too much winter wet.

Phyteuma comosum. One often reads that this is a difficult plant, but in my garden I do not find it so and it has proved a really good "stayer" in a trough where I had it for a number of years. I lost my oldest and largest plant during the last winter, but I suppose one cannot expect even the best perennial to go on for ever. There is something oddly attractive about the holly-like leaves and blue flowers which are somewhat like bottles.

Finally, my last choice of favourites is *Wahlenbergia serpyllifolia major*, which I think is an ideal plant for the sink or trough. It settles down so quickly and happily and is really a marvellous sight for a few

days in May with the deep rich purple flowers, but it is a very fleeting plant from the flowering point of view, being quickly over or dashed by rain; this is not a very long-lived plant, but cuttings root very easily.

To mention just a few plants new to me or anyhow to my garden, I can recommend the following:—

Epilobium latifolium S.S. and W. 8116. This is a very neat little plant and apparently requires plenty of moisture to do well. I nearly lost it last year during the dry weather in May and it required watering twice a day, but this year with all the rain we have had it is doing well and has attractive flowers of a deep pink colour.

Dracocephalum speciosum S.S. and W. 4606. This is not wildly exciting, but a quiet plant for a quiet corner, and has blue purple flowers. It is sufficiently interesting for visitors to say "what is that plant?" (and then, of course, I immediately forget its name altogether).

Tsusiophyllum tanakae. This is a small shrub requiring much the same conditions as dwarf rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants. I have therefore planted mine in my peat wall, and it appears to be doing well there. It has white tubular flowers when in bloom.

A Collector's Dilemma

By C. R. WORTH

Groton, N.Y., U.S.A.

AFTER WEEKS of pouring over monographs, regional floras, maps, and the articles of Dwight Ripley (the resources of local herbaria were long ago exhausted), seeking stations for attractive plants which I have never met, I picked up the *Spring Journal* and my eyes fell on "B. I. O." by Dr. Henry Tod. At once doubts and uncertainties beset me: when is a plant of botanical interest only, and who settles the matter: the collector, the gardener—or Reginald Farrer? Certainly many of the plants which he extols are mediocre, at least as I can grow them. So are many that I have grown from seed sent by other collectors, and that linger on here merely because I hate to discard a rarity which some day may be of vital interest to a taxonomist or geneticist.

Yet the collector cannot always be blamed. Years ago a botanist who had surveyed coldly my sheets of such plants as *Aquilegia scopulorum* var. *calcareae* gasped with delight when he saw *Linum sedoides*, in effect *Sedum acre* sheeted with golden flax blossoms. About 1941 I finally caught the plant in seed; a couple of years later E. B. Anderson wrote that it had flowered for him, and was not worth bothering with, and while at home on a brief leave, I found a seedling in bloom—a few smallish misshapen flowers, certainly nothing desirable. But here the fault was clearly that of the cultivators, not of the collector. Of all my pre-Hitler War introductions, the one that appears most tre-

quently in seed lists is *Aquilegia laramiensis* (*A. scopulorum*, which E. J. Greig and I made generally available, was already grown by one or two experts, disguised as *A. jonesii*), which I had regarded (and still do) as little more than a botanical curiosity. As it certainly does not tax the skill of the cultivator, does it remain in cultivation merely because it is even rarer in nature than in gardens, or does it have some elusive merit that has completely escaped me? It is, I admit, more compact and somewhat more attractive here than in its native granite crevices, but still is relatively insignificant. On the other hand, the New Mexican form of *Silene laciniata*, tallish and straggling in sub-alpine woodlands, which I collected rather hesitantly, is a really good and compact garden plant, hardy to at least -25°F. , though somewhat difficult and a very shy seeder.

The first time I visited the Rockies, I gathered a few seeds of *Anemone parviflora*, a neat but "unshowy" little plant. To my enduring amazement, everyone wanted this. Some twenty years later I thought to look it up in Farrer: "a most charming little thing." When will gardeners learn not to trust Farrer's descriptions of American plants? He omits many of the best, applies wrong names, praises dullnesses and condemns treasures. Clay is, of course, generally dependable, even too conservative in some of his evaluations, although rarely he slips up badly, as when he describes *Penstemon microphyllus*, a bush five feet high and more across, as "prostrate."

No one, as I recall, was interested in trying *Lesquerella hemiphysaria*, a charming sub-alpine of sunny banks, with silver rosettes a couple of inches across buried under short-stemmed clusters of relatively large golden flowers, nor in the physarias, with marvellous rosettes and fruit inflated into little balloons—which, regrettably, they rarely produce in my garden. The little cut-leaved synthyris likewise found few takers. Only C. T. Musgrave showed any interest in the astragali, with pods like little mottled sausages or woolly cocoons, often above densely caespitose tufts of minute silvery leaves; these are mostly from alkaline regions and should be grown in dry lime scree. The evanescent but dazzling dwarf penstemons were not popular, nor, with the exception of *P. pinifolius*, the marvellous minute woody types from the Rockies, much less difficult to start than to keep happy over a long period. One feels almost that British gardeners are so content with *P. menziesii* and *P. rupicola*, and so disgusted with the tiny-flowered clusterheads (which rarely deserve garden space, though extremely easy to grow) that they refuse to venture into sections Aurator and Ericopsis, where are delights only hinted at by Clay.

What, then, if present plans go through, shall I endeavour to collect, among the plants not already known to British gardeners, with any assurance that someone will attempt to grow them? The lupines? Perhaps they will be popular, but I have seen only one that appealed to me, *L. monticola*, a six-inch tuft that was mostly flower, but in the season when I visited it had failed to set a single seed. Delphinium?

The sheets of blue larkspur that poison the cattle have never tempted me ; *D. bicolor* is mildly interesting, but the only species that has intrigued me is *D. sierrae-blancae* of sub-alpine pastures just east of the place where the first atom bomb was fired, brown flowered, five feet high in great thickets. Erigerons ? There are many delightful dwarfs, but they, too, have seemed to lack popularity. Eriogonums ? They will probably be difficult but rewarding, for with the exception of *E. ovalifolium*, the really choice dwarfs remain unknown.

So I might go on through many genera, speculating on whether the labour involved in gathering seeds will be wasted, simply because the plants are unknown, and have not been endorsed by "authority." I can be sure that phlox, whether deserving or not (and not all of them are), will be eagerly accepted if I can catch their few and fugitive seeds. So probably will be the lovely little mertensias, even though not all their names are to be found in either Farrer or Clay. The taller species are probably "B. I. O." for the ratio of leaf to smallish clusters of smallish flowers is appallingly high, as is also that of the large polemoniums. Marvellous *Eritrichium howardii* (Farrer's description seems to be that of *E. argenteum*) because of its famous relative, rather than its own merits, will probably be in demand if after twenty years I can find it again, in heavily sheeped country. All of these are shy seeders, and there will probably not be enough to go round. *Douglasia biflora* (mentioned by Ripley) is no more than *D. montana* bearing two or three flowers to a stem—a "species" which even Rydberg did not accept. Aquilegias are always popular, even the taller ones ; there are only four true dwarfs, all more or less in cultivation, *AA. saximontana*, *laramiensis*, *jonesii* and *scopulorum*. Of this last there are several forms which remain distinct in the garden, but garden-saved seed seems rarely to give the true plant, even when there are no obvious sources of cross-pollination, and although I have not seen them, I suspect that there are very few plants of unadulterated appearance remaining in the British Isles. Primulas, of course, are always popular, though there are few in the American Rockies, and the one rarity among them grows on virtually inaccessible limestone cliffs—I suspect its discoverer of removing all accessible specimens, but perhaps after eleven years I shall find that it has seeded down into the screes below. Its name I do not know : Sir William Wright-Smith refused to commit himself, and it may be either *P. maguirei* or an unnamed species. I have been requested to collect crucifers, yet except for those already mentioned and some interesting to choice drabas, the only one of real value seems to be *Parrya platycarpa*, which I shall probably not see, as to collect this restricted endemic would require a long and expensive pack trip into a thoroughly botanized region which offers nothing else not more easily obtainable elsewhere. Saxifraga offers, of really good plants other than *S. oppositifolia*, only treacherously difficult *SS. chrysantha* and *flagellaris*. Gentiana is little more generous, unless I can capture seed of *G. barbellata*, which hitherto I have found barely coming into bloom in September just before the

snows cover it. *Eritrichium elongatum* is usually abundant and free-seeding, and the townsendias are well-known and popular. Boykinia—is it condemned *B. heucheriforme*, in an exceptionally fine form, which I have met on limestone peaks in Montana, or really, as I believe, *B. jamesii*?

Thus is it that the accepted, and popular, genera are not as a rule well represented in the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin. Shall I collect only the tried and true species, and those whose cultivation is sanctioned by Farrer? Or will you gamble with me, a horticulturist rather than a botanist, that unfamiliar names (if I can put a name to them at all before the Seed Distribution List is printed) represent plants that, if grown fairly well, are of more than mere botanical interest? Or do a few of you wish to go even further and try some "B. I. O." species, to test your horticultural ability and to satisfy your curiosity? What shall I harvest, and what shall I pass by?

Successes and Failures

By J. G. COLLEE

HOW OFTEN have we shown a gardening friend one of our dearest treasures, a plant grown after years of pains-taking attention, to be told, "I suppose I could grow a plant as well as that quite easily."

On taking an inventory of plants in the garden and greenhouse, it was interesting to note the successes and failures which had resulted from various methods of culture. Years ago there was exhibited at one of our Shows a glorious specimen of *Cassiope lycopodioides*. A plant was obtained—after much hunting—and it was given all the care of a first born. That was its undoing! It became more and more like a branch of dying heather. It was removed from its pot, given new peaty soil and placed in an old greenhouse, so old that it even lacked a roof. That it appreciated this change is today shown by it being an almost perfect specimen, and there are now hopes in the household that it may be shown some day at one of the S.R.G.C. exhibitions.

Almost the same fate befell some pots of *Primula allionii*. They too were given what the books call the perfect compost, but kindness in their case also went unrewarded! They were re-potted into a very coarse limey mixture, were placed outside and are now grand plants. The only snag with them is the fact that in the industrial atmosphere of this town the leaves have become rather grimy and so far the writer has not been successful in finding a solution to counteract this condition.

Calceolaria darwinii was grown from seed some years ago, and for some seasons did very well. The strange slippers with their belly-band of white were admired by all who saw them. Then they gradually deteriorated until one day, one lucky day, as far as the plants were

concerned, a cat entered the old greenhouse and knocked the pot containing those plants off the shelf. The cause of the deterioration of the plants was easily assessed—they were completely root-bound. A transfer into bigger pots at once renewed their vitality and now they are once again in the prime of condition.

For a long time *Lithospermum* "Heavenly Blue" was very "dorty," especially when compared with its counterpart, *L. oleifolium*. The latter progressed extremely well from the time it was planted, so much so that a plant of *Erinus alpinus* had to be removed after one season's growth to give the *Lithospermum* space for expansion. Cuttings were taken off *L. "Heavenly Blue"* and planted in a pot of peaty soil mixed with an abundance of very sharp sand. The pot was then covered with a polythene bag, placed in a heated frame, and within four weeks produced 100% rooted cuttings. These are now growing extremely well in pans in the old greenhouse.

Spiraea "Nyewood's Variety" was obtained some seasons ago and planted in what seemed a good site. Although it looked healthy enough, it did not spread to any great extent. Last year it was given copious mulchings of old tea leaves and it has certainly responded well to this rather strange treatment. The same applies to *Rhododendron repens*, which also seems to thrive on tea leaf mulchings. A tin can is kept at the back door and the teapot is emptied into this regularly. Whenever the can is full of tea leaves it is emptied on the plants which require moisture. Since this system was commenced some years ago, the *Hydrangeas* particularly have grown and bloomed in profusion.

Three years ago a lovely pan of *Sedum dasphyllum* was shown at the Dunfermline Show. This plant looks for all the world like pieces of bluish-red coral. For a long time it stood still in the writer's garden, but this season, without having received any special treatment whatsoever, it has suddenly become as prolific as chickenweed, and pieces are growing all over the rockery. This plant would make a most excellent subject for a small trough garden.

For some unexplainable reason every rock garden enthusiast tries to grow some of the *Gentians*, and while some gardeners have immediate results in their efforts, others unfortunately meet with little success. *Gentiana sino-ornata* is a good grower, but here it had many changes of location before it reached any appreciable size. Now it is repaying all the efforts showered on it by its beautiful flowers and superb green foliage. *Gentiana acaulis* on the other hand has given no trouble since it was first introduced. A friend of mine in Bridge of Allan grows this plant as an edging to his borders and scoffs at the idea of this being a "troublesome" plant.

The easiest *Gentian* to grow in this garden is *G. septemfida*, a mauve-coloured *gentian* which bears an abundance of bloom. It does very well in the shade if trees and does not object to a Northern aspect.

Sempervivum arachnoideum has grown well in one part of the rockery, so well that it has overgrown its allotted space, but in another part it

is only holding its own and a shift of location is clearly indicated. It is standing in a somewhat draughty corner and this may be the reason of its slow growth.

Almost two years ago a good sowing of *Lewisia*s was raised. These are now lovely plants both outside in the rockery and in pots in the old greenhouse. The great difficulty with these plants is in keeping water from the crowns. They appreciate a well-drained soil in full sun, but not too much lime in the mixture.

The success and failure of all the plants gracing the garden, the cyclamen, veronicas, silenes, penstemons, geraniums, dodecatheons, androsaces, daphnes and primulas, have not been even mentioned, but they all give us great enjoyment. When our friends come along and obliviously share in this feast of good things, our cup of gratitude to our Maker is truly filled to overflowing.

Erythroniums

By GEORGE B. BOVING

(Dogtooth Violet, Avalanche Lily, Fawn Lily)

BRITISH COLUMBIA, the most westerly province of Canada bordering the Pacific Ocean, exhibits quite an interesting flora of which certain genera are of outstanding merit. Among these we find the genus *Erythronium*, included in the *Liliaceae* family.

The nomenclature of the genus has in the past been somewhat obscure, at least to the person not acquainted with botanical terms. It would seem appropriate to point out the change of specific names in certain instances.

While British Columbia and the Western States—Washington, Oregon and California—harbour fifteen species with sub-species and varieties, the present discussion will deal with indigenous species only. This does not mean that none of the species occur below "the line," because some do. Casual reference will be made to this fact.

The species supposed to be growing in British Columbia are: *Ee. revolutum*, *oregonum*, *grandiflorum*, *montanum*, and *howellii*. *Erythronium howellii* (Henry) has been recorded from the Cowichan Lake area near the town of Duncan, Vancouver Island. An inquiry sent to my friend Mr. Buchanan-Simpson, resident of that area for the last 30 years, definitely stated that at no time had he been able to find it in the wild nor had he ever seen it growing in any of the neighbouring gardens. Private and official herbaria in the Province do not include any specimen of *E. howellii*. It is doubtful if the species has ever been part of our endemic flora.

As authority for present nomenclature I quote Dr. T. M. C. Taylor, Department of Botany, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

The species *revolutum*, *oregonum*, *grandiflorum*, and *montanum* then are the ones under discussion.

The most westerly species is *Erythronium revolutum* (*E. smithii*). It can be found growing on the west coast as well as on the east coast of Vancouver Island, and the species has also been reported on the mainland in coastal areas as far North as latitude 51°. The inference is that this species definitely prefers a moist environment. This can be substantiated by the fact that *E. revolutum* follows the coastal area as far South as California (Applegate).

E. revolutum is comparatively dwarf. The scape may reach 8 to 10 inches, carries usually but one to three horizontally placed, pendant, slightly reflexed flowers, rose-pink without, lighter within, with interrupted yellow transverse bands; anthers are golden yellow, leaves mottled.

I have not seen the species growing in the wild. The private garden of five acres under my direction has, as a special feature, a wild garden. The area is approximately 120 ft. × 60 ft, one part of which has been planted to bulbs. *Scilla bifolia* and primroses herald the approach of Spring, *Lilium columbianum* closes the season. It is here that *E. revolutum* grows by the hundreds. Two small groups of *E. citrinum* and *E. oregonum* respectively may also be seen. *Trillium ovatum*, which is endemic, and *Trillium undulatum* of Eastern Canada come later in company with *Scilla campanulata*, *Convallaria majalis* and *Pulmonaria augustifolia* var. *azurea*, as well as half a dozen plants of *Polystichum minutum*. In the garden I feel that *E. revolutum* ought to be placed on a bank or some other elevated position in order that it may be more easily seen and admired.

The next species is also found on Vancouver Island, but has its greatest distribution on the mainland. In the past it has gone under such names as *E. giganteum* (Lindl.), *E. grandiflorum* var. *albiflorum* (Hook). The correct name is *E. oregonum*. This species differs from *E. revolutum* in the following respect. The scape is taller, flowers larger, more numerous, almost white, distinctly reflexed. Leaves mottled. It is "stylish" in appearance, robust in health and an excellent garden subject. Here on the mainland one usually finds it associated with rock, where at times it behaves in an aestival manner.

In the golden yellow *E. grandiflorum* we have another striking species. This went under such names as *E. giganteum* (Lindl.); *E. grandiflorum* var. *giganteum* (Hook); *E. grandiflorum* var. *minus* (Hook.); *E. nuttallianum* (Regel); *E. grandiflorum* var. *parviflorum* (S. Wats.). The species is distinct because of the colour of the flowers. True, *E. toulumnense* is also yellow, a good yellow, but that species lives in California. It propagates by offsets while *grandiflorum* multiplies by seed only. The scape of this species carries from one to several (usually 2-3 in the garden) flowers golden yellow in colour, streaked green without, lighter within. Leaves are green, shiny. It ranges from 1100 to 5000 ft. or more altitude in the semi-moist areas of the Interior. At 1100 ft.

level the plant grows in open areas of deciduous woods, at 4500 to 5000 ft. the plant covers several acre patches on open hillsides in company with *Lilium columbianum*. In each instance the bulbs will be found to descend to about 10 ins. in depth, grit and stones being part of the soil mixture. Though this species maintains itself well under garden conditions, I do feel that it does resent our moist winter conditions. An interesting feature of *E. grandiflorum* is the colour variation of the stamens. These vary from the pale, straw-coloured form to red or maroon form, considered to be the type plant. Then we find yellow as well as mauve stamens. The former goes under the name *chrysantum* but this definition is not valid north of the 49th parallel. No reference has been found in literature to mauve stamens ; the combination is really exquisite.

In *E. montanum* of alpine region 5500 ft. to 6000 ft. we have yet another beautiful species. Shorter in stature than the two previously mentioned species, it carries from one to five flowers, white, only slightly reflexed, with a definite band of yellow towards the base of the flower. This contrast gives the plant distinct highlight which is accentuated when viewed in a large stand. I have not seen it growing in British Columbia (Mt. Waddington on the mainland), but I met with it in the Olympics (Wash., U.S.A.) at 6000 ft. altitude. *E. grandiflorum* grew but a short pace away. No hybrids were observed.

Not everyone has the opportunity and the pleasure to collect these bulbs. At times, under aestival conditions one may pick them out with ease from inverted turf, at other times it actually constitutes hard work, as when I had to dig for one solid hour in order to secure 15 bulbs. The soil consists of a very high percentage of fibre, grit and stones. This gives one a clue to the soil type best suited to them.

By and large, good loam, about 12 ins. deep with peat and leafmould, to which has been added sharp sand and gravel for drainage, constitutes an excellent bill of fare. A yearly dressing of bonemeal and leafmould is beneficial and when planted in partly shaded areas *Erythroniums* are among the most rewarding bulbs that can be introduced into our gardens.

My Young Garden

By M. McC.

THIS IS THE first year that it has been obvious that mine is meant to be a flower garden. So far, *this* year, no one has asked me, as in other years, "Do you *intend* to have a flower-garden here?" or "Are you having a lawn here?" while gazing at my pinks that haven't been weeded for a week.

Now the plants I *mean* to have are thick and strong enough to show above and around the everlasting weeds. There are fields and lanes and a good many odd patches of waste ground on every side of us,

and such places toss their weed-seeds with gay abandon over the garden wall, *my* garden wall, and it is far harder work to toss them all back again off the garden into the compost heap, as they like it in my garden and grow so well. But the paeonies have flowered at last this year, and my seedling pinks look plump and matronly, and the too tidy edges of the paving stones are slurred with fat little green clumps that flower intermittently and though I always apologise when I step on them, they don't really mind and smell charmingly and forgivingly, especially in the early mornings and soft evenings.

This being the first year since they were planted that we haven't had a drought in April, the roses are vigorous enough to decorate the house both inside and out. I often read text-books (I read even more before I had a garden of my own), so I realized long ago that there are conflicting ideas on when to prune roses. I prune mine, once they are settled in, when they are in bloom and they like it.

When I first bought this garden it had belonged to two houses, and one half had been cared for, and one not, at least for several years. There were brambles and tangles and rubbish dumps, a little box edging up a centre path, some big-budded currant bushes, walls on two sides and the house on another. When we enlarged the windows of the house we built the fourth, north wall of the boulders from the house.

The garden, on a natural slope, from generations of raking and digging, had levelled up till one had to step *up* onto the earth from the back door. The garden drained towards, and in wet weather *into*, the house. Before we built the fourth wall we invited in a bulldozer, which gaily trundled back and forth between various pegs and strings till it had pushed away the ground so that one stepped a few inches *down* into the garden from the back door, and a wide flat path ran the length of the house and a small cove appeared in the gravelly ground with three feet sides and almost pure sand at the bottom. "It's easy to see the river once ran here," we said to each other.

Kind neighbours gave me old flagstones and more stones for retaining walls, and the kindest of all said he needed exercise and would dig and lay paths. He dug. He dug up tins and broken china, bedsteads and stair-rods, boots and coats and part-shirts and corsets. He dug up bones and bottles, nettles and couch-grass, dandelions and dockens, columbines and wild raspberries. He raked up barrowloads of stones the size of a fist, and moved fifteen barrowloads of smaller stones till I could get my trowel into the ground. He planted potatoes all over the garden. That autumn he dug the potatoes and manured the whole garden. He planted apple trees, cherry trees and scythed the "lawn."

Soon we planted plants. Such kind friends I have who give me plants from their gardens and I never can remember who gave me what, but they come to call, crying out: "How is my little pink geranium and have the blue poppies flowered?"—and rush out to see. So gradually I am re-learning the names of my plants, though usually I don't remember and often call them after the friends who gave them to me.

Of course I do have labels to begin with, but I can't keep them. They are REMOVED. Often I find them soaking hopefully in the bird bath. I never know if they are meant to soften enough to eat or just enough to be useful for nest-building. Anyway, the names are usually off when I retrieve them, even if I *could* remember where they came from.

Still, as we all know, "A rose by any name smells just as sweet," though I know more my roses' names than other plants. Reine de Violettes and Cardinal Richlieu, Small Maiden's Blush, Burgundy, and Village Maid, I can greet by name any fine morning. Hebe's Lip I always remembered too, but now it's just a briar and removed to the hedge. Such a tragedy! I tripped backwards over the garden trug and sat on poor Hebe's Lip. I don't weigh all that much over ten stone, but she was a young rose and I snapped her off at the graft, and alas, when she grew again, she was all briar.

When I came back from three weeks in the south the whole garden was a mass of wild pansies—mauve and blue, purple and yellow, a dozen or more different colour combinations—lovely, but they were throttling the little plants, so I had to set to and tear them all up. They are charming weeds, they look delightful and pull up easily, and they've left a thousand seeds behind, I'm sure, for next year.

However, anyone can see it's a garden this year, and the pansies' other name is Heartsease, so what of it.

Garden Catalogues

SEEDSMENS' catalogues and garden lists of all kinds are always fascinating reading to garden lovers. Turning out some old papers the other day my husband came across a bundle of old garden catalogues and lists dated between 1794 and 1825. Our house, Helme Lodge, near Kendal, was built by his great-grandfather in 1825, but the gardens had evidently been partly planned and planted some years before.

A list of trees which perhaps interested us most was that of Dickson Bros. of Adelphi House, Edinburgh, dated 1819. From this catalogue two Fern or Cut-leafed Beech Trees were ordered at the price of 2/6 each. These trees were planted near our house and are now very fine specimens and are always a great joy to us. The prices of plants and shrubs in all these old lists makes one's "mouth water." From a catalogue of "Flowering Plants and Evergreens" issued by Thomas Clark of Keswick and Keighley, Yorks., I see marked as ordered (or so I think) *Passiflora coerulea* and on turning to the roses in the same nurseryman's list I find that the lovely old rose "Maiden's Blush" was priced at 9d each. (Incidentally, we still have this delightful rose, so attractive in bud and with such a pleasant smell.

Our ancestor seems to have obtained his "Forest Trees" in 1824 from William Falla of Gateshead, and in his list the price in 1815 for Beech Trees was 10/- per thousand and Spanish Chestnuts £1 10/-.

The catalogues of "Flower Rootes" also issued by the same William Falla in 1824 is most interesting reading, and makes me long to be able to sit down and write out an order at the old prices. The rare old Primroses and the "Hose-in-Hose" are priced at 6d and 1/- each, also double red and blue hepaticas at the same modest figure. Another nurseryman who appeared to have a very tempting list of Bulbous rooted flowers was that of Pontey & Son of Huddersfield; this list was printed in 1818 and is a most complete one with the "Linnean" name followed by the English one.

Finally, among these catalogues was a notice from a well-known firm of nurserymen who "respectfully informed their clients that Thomas and James Backhouse have taken over the nursery from John and George Telford." This was dated "5th Month . 1st . 1816."

I also found the notice of a book which was to be published. This was written by William Pontey and was called "The Rural Improver." The book was to be published at Two Guineas, and was described as a "Practical Treatise on the Nature and Management of such rural scenes and objects as are necessary for the comfort, convenience and embellishment of the residences of the Higher Ranks of Society . . ." Unfortunately I have not come across a copy of this book, which must be most interesting and instructive ! ! ! !

CICELY M. CREWDSON

Helme Lodge, Kendal.

Books—an Addition

By L. C. BOYD-HARVEY

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the following two books be added to the book list published in *Journal* No. 21, September 1957 :—

GENERAL : Frank Barker : *The Cream of Alpines* ; Nelson, 15/-.

NATIVE PLANTS : David McClintock and R. S. R. Fitter : *Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers* ; Collins, 25/-.

The Cream of Alpines is the personal choice by the late Mr. Frank Barker of the fifty best alpine plants. It is particularly recommended to those beginners who, having attained success with the easier plants, are anxious to try something more choice and difficult. The author describes the conditions under which each plant is found in nature and outlines the methods by which it may successfully be grown and propagated. For instance, Mr. Barker has noticed that in the woods in France where *Pyrola rotundifolia* grows it runs about freely amongst the roots of privet. Those of us who have failed to grow the plant successfully would be unlikely to plant privet to make it happy, but the author's suggestion makes one wonder whether *Pyrola* might be tried underneath *Syringa palibiniana* var. *microphylla*, the nearest relative of privet permitted in rock gardens.

Reference is made to those plants which are suitable for pan culture in an alpine house, but the emphasis throughout the book is on providing the position in the open rock garden where every plant will happily give its best.

Several members have written to suggest that *Collins Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers* by David McClintock and R. S. R. Fitter ought to have been included in the Book List. Now, having seen the book, I hasten to make good the omission. Those who go out for the day with Clapham, Tutin and Warburg may find it growing larger and heavier the higher they climb, but the pocket guide weighs only one pound and goes comfortably into a man's side pocket. It is not always convenient to refer to C.T. and W. while using a millimetre rule on stipules or anthers at the top of a mountain with cold hands in a high wind, but the pocket guide provides for quick and easy identification by outstanding characteristics. In most cases this is flower colour or the general shape of the plant. The 1400 illustrations are exquisite in their accuracy, those in colour being arranged from blues and purples to reds, pinks, browns and yellows, and the black and white according to the shape of the inflorescence. In addition, there are keys to help with the identification of plants which are under one inch or over six feet tall. Others are grouped according to some peculiarity such as zig-zag stems, perfoliate leaves, spurred flowers, inflated calices, feathery fruits, and even according to whether they have a sweet scent or a foetid smell. The language used in the description is unbotanical, but references are given to Clapham, Tutin and Warburg for those who like to relax after a day in the open air with some serious book-work in the evening.

Moving Garden

By D. M. MURRAY-LYON

SEVEN YEARS ago I moved from Perthshire to Edinburgh, and this year I moved back again. On each occasion I took a great many plants with me, so I learned by experience what to do and what not to do.

In the first move my plants (in boxes) lodged in a friend's garden for six months while my new garden was being prepared for them. They then came down in a double-decker sheep lorry, accompanied by me to ensure they were not driven too fast and so get banged about.

In the second move they went straight to their new home, which was easier on the plants, as they did not have so much time in which to grow and start trying to smother one another. In this move, apart from four or five tea chests which went in the furniture van, all my plants were moved in friends' cars and vans—six loads, counting a trailer as a separate vehicle. There were well over five hundred plants in all from a tiny thing in a thumb pot to a *Magnolia* requiring a tea chest to itself.

In each case, as soon as I knew the move was on, I started lifting plants and putting them into pots and boxes. For most things I think boxes are better, especially for moisture-loving plants. In any case, the pots have to be packed into boxes before they are loaded into whatever conveyance they are to travel in. As many boxes as possible should be of the same size ; it makes packing easier if boxes are to go one on top of another. Fruit boxes and trays are good, the latter particularly for small scree plants. The trays I mean have corner posts about two inches higher than the sides and ends. This allows them to be piled on top of each other without crushing the plants in them, and also allows for through ventilation. In the case of boxes, knock off the top side pieces for the same purpose.

Lift each plant with a good ball of soil, and pack damp peat between plants in the boxes. The peat, if thoroughly wet before use, is less likely to dry out than ordinary soil. Also, if the roots start growing, they cling to the peat and this facilitates replanting without a check,

It is probably not feasible to move every plant. I suggest, therefore, that you select plants difficult to get, special forms or good colours, good well-grown specimens and so on ; in short, those not easily replaced.

Arrange in boxes—like with like. e.g. Peat and moisture lovers together, and ditto scree lovers. Space can be saved by putting “carpeters” on top of the balls of soil of large shrubs. Pack firmly to prevent rattling about en route, and, as I said before, wet peat is the best packing material. At least twenty-four hours before the actual move give all boxes a good watering, in the case of deep boxes forty-eight hours is probably better ; this allows time for excess water to drain away.

I had very few losses, and the few I had were, I think, due to some plants being left too long in their boxes owing to the ground not being ready for them in their new home. This resulted in a few small things being over-grown and smothered. I was lucky in that both my moves took place in the Spring, although in the first one replanting took place in the Autumn.

If replanting had to take place in the summer the boiling kettle technique would help. Having dug your hole, pour boiling water all round inside it. As soon as you can bear the back of your hand against the soil in the hole, put in your plant and fill in the hole at once. Bottom heat encourages the rooting of difficult cuttings, and after all that is what we want our transplants to do.

As regards the order in which to unpack and replant, a lot will depend on whether or not the ground is ready. Have a look over your boxes, and anything that looks like being smothered should be rescued at once. In such cases an individual plant may be taken out of a box but on the whole it is probably better to deal with all the contents of a box at the same time. Picking out one plant will disturb the roots of others.

Seed hunting in the Rockies*

by C. R. WORTH

After eleven years' absence from the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin Regions, I decided to revisit my favourite collecting grounds during the present summer, hoping to time the trip so that a good harvest of seeds would be obtained. Accordingly, I left my home in central New York on July 7 and some eighty miles to the west picked up James Koenemann, a former student of mine ; after three and a half days of driving, over 1500 miles, we arrived at our first collecting region, in south-eastern Wyoming.

As we approached the low Laramie Range, I wondered at the absence of bloom and of seed-heads, for normally these slopes are rich with attractive species, a few of them rare and local. It was not until several weeks later that I fully comprehended the abnormality of the season, which had been reported as unusually promising in May and June ; Montana and the Big Horn Mountains of eastern Wyoming were cold and wet, while the remainder of Wyoming and all that we have seen of Utah and Nevada are hot and dry, without rain for more than three months. Many lowland plants had vanished without trace, or had set no seed, while the alpines, retarded by cold or by lack of moisture, have been flowering poorly almost a month later than normally.

While there is, in the car, a large carton jammed with uncleaned seeds, and another one has been started, so that the trip has not been entirely unproductive, there has been no harvest of most of the really choice species, nor even of many of the less important lowland genera. Some of these losses may be alleviated by three scheduled climbs in Nevada, and on the return trip across Colorado, with perhaps a repeat visit to the snowy Range in South-eastern Wyoming, where alone the season has seemed fairly good, although no rarities occur there. All hope is gone of acquiring seed of some of the choicest of the Great Basin plants, particularly Phlox, of which we have seen enough plants to fill all the rock gardens in the world, with ample material left over for replacements. Either they had not flowered at all, had shed their seeds early, or displayed a only few undeveloped capsules.

It was my intention to report on the seeds which had been collected up to this time, and which will be sent to the Seed Distribution, so that members could have some knowledge of the material available. Unfortunately, as many species are available in only small amounts of as yet uncleaned seed, it will be some weeks before I can tell which can be sent to the Distribution, but all mentioned here will be available for private exchange, and as many as possible sent to at least one of the Seed Distribution organizations of the three societies devoted to alpines. In many cases the plants from which seeds were collected were too dry for the press, while without an extensive library of monographs, field identification has proved impossible—and Rydberg's Flora has proved inadequate as well as unduly involved.

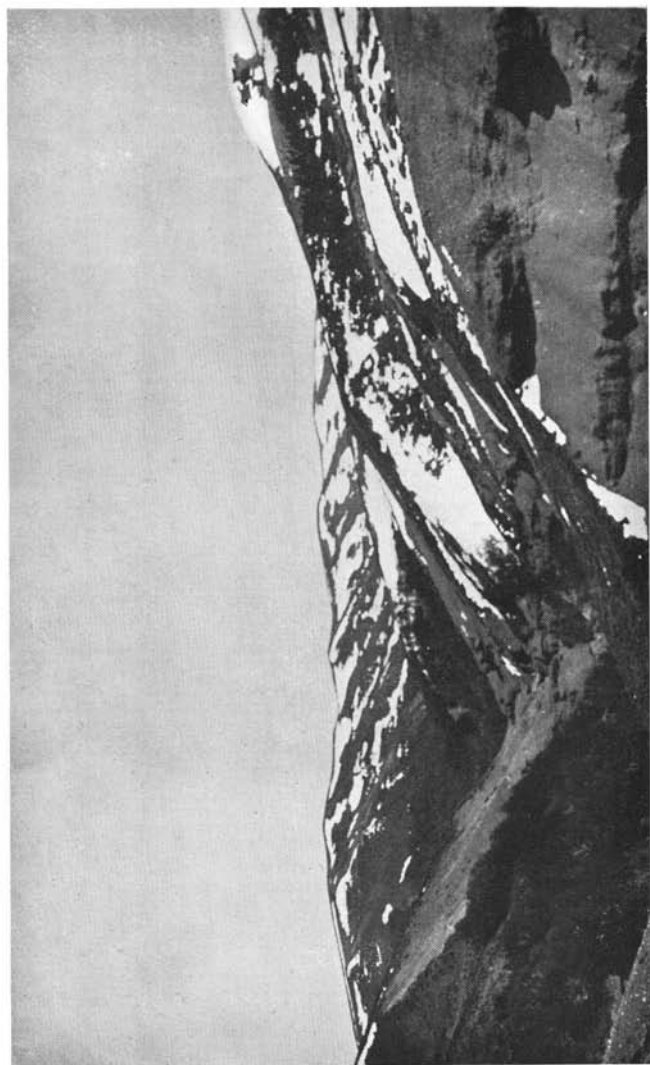


Photo.—R. Tweedie.

Fig. 22—The Range, Estancia Stag River, Patagonia (see page 129).

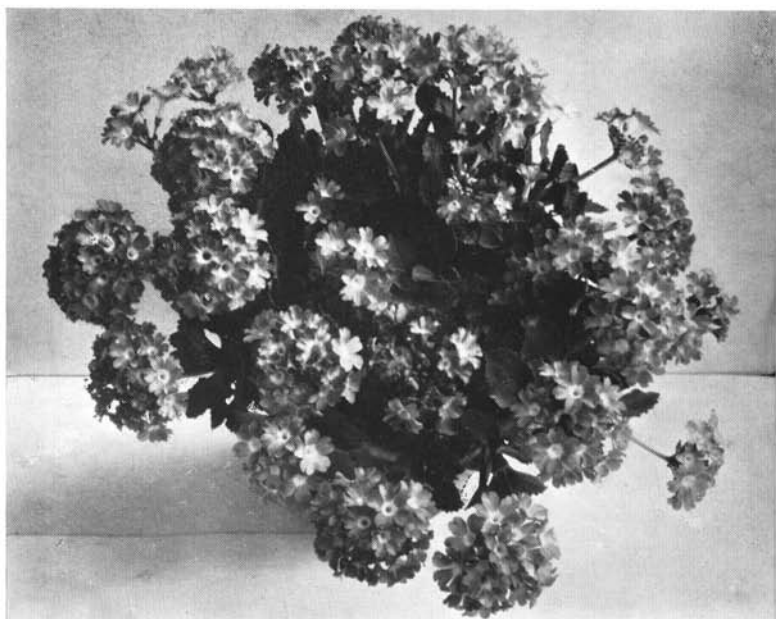


Photo.—T. C. Clare.

Fig. 23.—*Primula rubra*, at Edinburgh, April 1958 (see page 170).

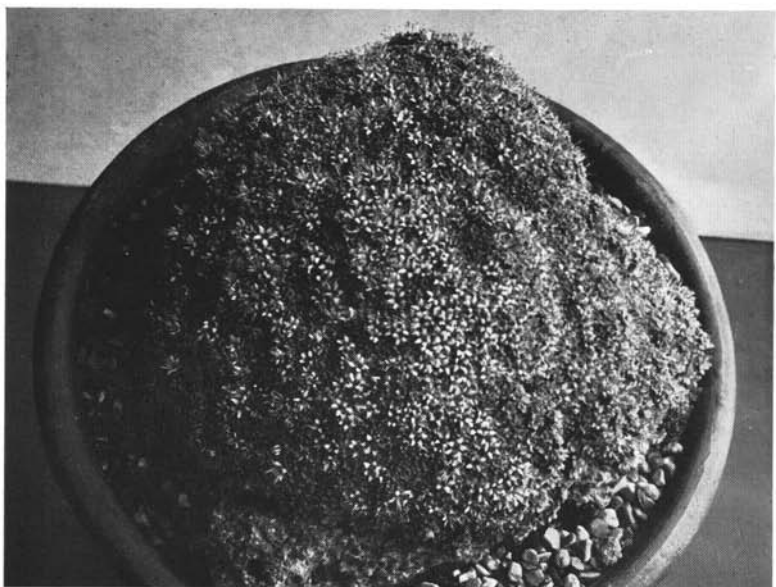


Photo.—T. C. Clare.

Fig. 24.—*Kelseya uniflora*, at Edinburgh, April 1958 (see pages 158 and 170).



Photo.—T. C. Clare.

Fig. 25.—*Rhododendron keiskii*, at Dumfries, April 1958 (see pages 161 and 167).



Photo.—T. C. Clare.

Fig. 26.—*Forsythia viridissima* v. *bronxensis*, at Dumfries, April 1958 (see page 165).

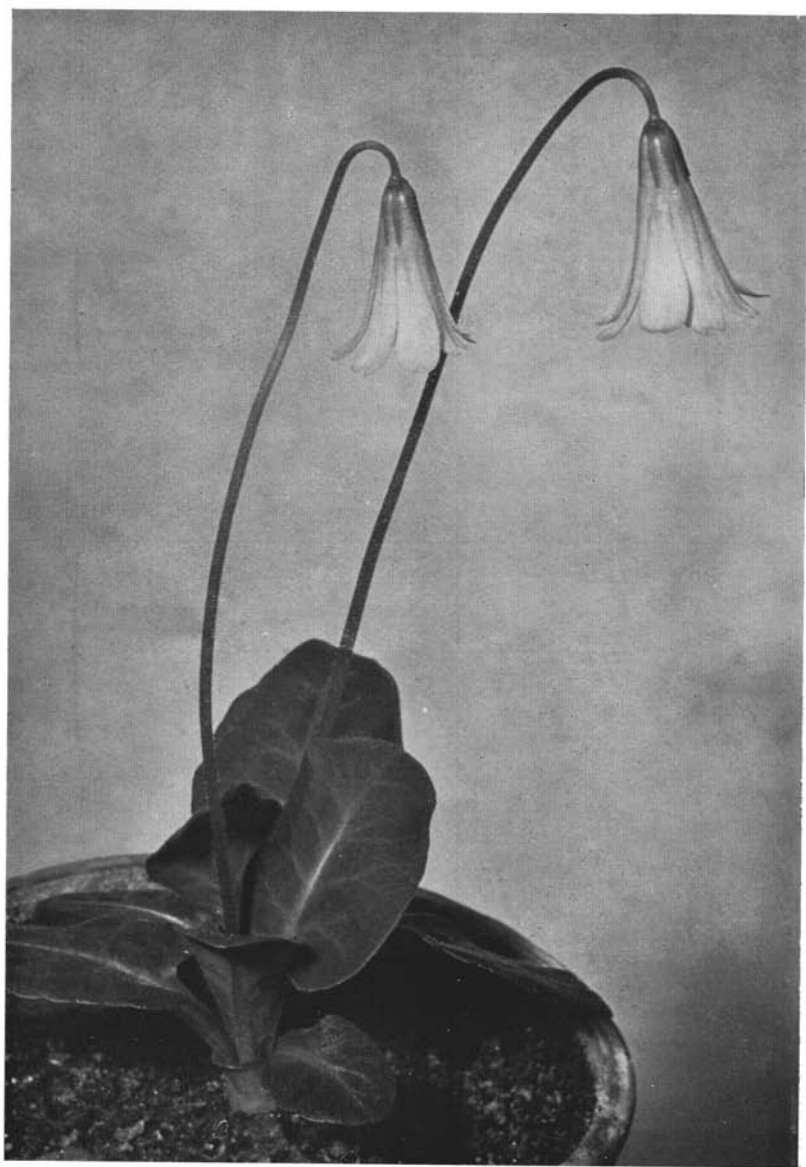


Photo.—T. C. Clare.

Fig. 27.—*Bryocarpum himalaicum*, at Edinburgh, April 1958 (see page 169).

The following is a list of material collected, arranged by families.

Spores were collected of two tiny ferns growing in the Big Horns, but I do not know their names, and shall distribute the spores only on request.

Monocotyledons have been strangely lacking throughout the trip ; other than a capsule that I took to be *Fritillaria pudica* and a bit of what is probably *Erythronium parviflorum*, the only seed has been that of the latter, which belies its name, for it is usually a foot or more in height, with good-sized flowers in yellow. In the Snowy Range it was barely 4 in. high, with correspondingly small flowers. If seed is later obtained from there, it will be distinguished from the larger Utah plant.

Of Polygonaceae, *Eriogonum* is the only genus of interest to the rock gardener. There are three lots of what is probably a single species, with dark green basal leaves a couple of inches long, and naked, foot-high stems with rather large heads of yellow, turning russet. A little seed was found of what is probably *E. ovalifolium* minute rosettes of silver with yellow heads on stems of two or three inches, and today, above Ely, Nevada, one with even smaller grey rosettes in mats eight inches or so across, with smallish heads on wiry stems of about four inches, colour unknown.

The Caryophyllaceae are so far represented only by a little Alpine, with wiry grass-like leaves, collected on the summit of the Wah-Wah Mountains in the West Desert of Utah—probably of "BIO."

Among the Ranunculaceae are three anemones : No. 1 is probably an unusually luxuriant form of *A. globosa* growing nearly two feet high, while Nos. 2 and 3 seem to be the similar but smaller *A. lithophila*, of ten inches or less, with flowers red or yellowish. *A. pulsatilla* from the Big Horns, not seen in flower, should be *A. occidentalis*, while lower down in the same range was found a two-foot shrubby clematis, with purplish urns, *Viorna* sp. *Ranunculus adoneus*, from alpine lime scree, is one of the best of our species, usually a couple of inches high at flowering, with finely cut foliage and yellow buttercups of good size. *Aquilegia jonesii*, still green when found, may be available, if a Forest Service employee carries out his promise to harvest seed for me. *A. flavescens* was largely eaten by sheep, but a fair amount was obtained after considerable search. It grows fully two feet high, with smallish long-spurred flowers of yellow or pink. *A. scopulorum* var. *calcareae*, as it grows on the sides of the Red Canyon near Bryce Canyon, is a really startling plant, though so different from the form familiar to gardeners that I feel it almost deserving of specific rank. It is invariably tall, at least a foot, with fluffy basal tufts of pure light blue, and blossoms that are often entirely a vivid dark blue, dazzling against the brilliant red ferruginous limestone. Most of the seeds had been shed, and the plant was flowering for the second time, but long search in intense sunshine and blistering heat produced enough seed so that it can be distributed. Of the small forms of this immensely variable species, only some stiff climbs in Nevada can produce a harvest.

Papaveraceae has given only *Argemone intermedia*. I believe it is (Rydberg's descriptions are baffling), one of the few plants still blooming in the drought, three feet high, with dazzling white poppies fully four inches across, spectacular, a plant for hot dry places.

The crucifers, except for one or two drabas, which have been strangely lacking, in one place exterminated, are represented largely by *Physaria* and *Lesquerella*, of how many species I cannot even guess, for the former all seem to key out the same in Rydberg, yet are vastly different in appearance, ranging from fairly small plants to some almost as large as a dinner plate, all with yellow flowers, quite attractive, and a mass of papery balloons. Several lesquerellas, almost unrecognizable in the drought, were found in Wyoming, while Utah has given *L. rubicunda* with narrowly linear leaves an inch or so long, and seeds on stems of several inches, and *L. hemiphysaria*, an alpine with small rosettes of rounded leaves, short stems bearing shapely yellow flowers that smother the plant—a really first-rate species. A bit of *Smelowskia*, and what seems to be an *Arabis*, with dried-up basal rosettes and foot-high stems with capsules several inches long (BIO) complete the record of this family.

Kelseya uniflora was discovered in the Big Horn Mountains, but only one plant bearing seed could be reached on its vertical cliffs, and the amount is too small for general distribution. *Petrophytum* (*Spiraea*) presents a problem in harvesting, for do the seed-heads contain seed or only chaff, a question unanswerable without a powerful lens. Anyway there is a bit of *P. caespitosum*, and a larger amount of *P. elatius*—a probably unjustified split, for the only essential difference is that the inflorescence is taller, to three or four inches, and often branched. This is likewise found only on limestone cliffs, and is a common plant in eastern Nevada.

Among the legumes I am completely lost. There is abundant seed of a prostrate *Astragalus* with silvery pinnately divided leaves a couple of inches long, and pods that are white woolly cocoons, a lovely plant regardless of what its flowers may be; a smaller amount of a dense bun of minute trefoil leaves of blue-silver, and small lavender flowers borne singly (Legume No. 1), also of two or three locos, several inches high, at least one of which should prove to be the brilliant red-purple one seen blooming along roadsides in central Wyoming. There are probably a few others which have slipped my memory.

There have been three collections of an acaulescent evening primrose which I think will all prove to be *Oe. caespitosa*, and a few seeds of a plant of similar habit but with thick grey leaves. But the prize is *Oe. crinita*, of which this morning, after vain attempts in previous years, I obtained a limited supply. The identification is by Philip Munz, so must be accurate, yet the plant is quite distinct from the same species elsewhere. So far as I can find, this particular treasure is limited to perhaps half a dozen plants on a single lime-slide near Ely, ancient, and without offspring. They form domes or mats, often more than a foot across, of rosettes of silver-grey leaves less than two inches long,

bearing stemless pink flowers of about the same diameter, even in earliest morning of a rich pink. Tomorrow I shall seek further on those sunbaked slides, but there is so far no evidence that this form is to be found elsewhere. The seeds are for the most part year-old, for all the acaulescent species frugally retain their old capsules underground, often with good seed in them.

A little annual *Androsace* with white flowers, best described as "cute," and a limited amount of *Douglasia montana*, are all the Primulaceae available unless *Primula parryi*, only now in bloom, is caught in ripe seed later in the season.

A *Phacelia* a foot tall, with finely cut leaves, may be nearly as good as *P. sericea*, which so far has not revealed itself, even in its usual haunts. The polemoniiums must await later collecting, and are usually shy in seed. Boraginaceae likewise is for later harvest, except for a couple of *Cryptanthes* (I believe), the first with good white flowers, the second profuse on the desert mountains of western Utah and eastern Nevada, but never seen in bloom—it may be good, for the bluish leaves are attractive, but I do not recommend it.

The figworts are coming to the fore as the season advances: there are two castilleias, one red, the other yellow, foot-high plants, but the best harvest has been among the penstemons, although even there many plants have been burned to a crisp in the drought. There are several rare dwarfs: *P. paysoniorum*, perhaps the smallest of the Glabri, a section that is quite adaptable to gardens, though this species, from parched shale-covered hillsides, may be an exception. It is never more than eight inches high, with flowers three-quarters of an inch long, quite inflated, of rich blue. *P. cleburni*, and a rarity that I think is *P. nanus*, although the seed may involve two species, belong to the showy but difficult Aurator section, all desert plants which have as yet done little under cultivation. So likewise *P. confusus*, and the seed may also be "confused" and contain another of the Aurators, *P. miser*. *P. laricifolius*, with fine foliage and flat flowers, rich pink in the form harvested, not over six inches high, is fairly easy to grow, and probably the best of the lot. *P. garrettii* is a rare species confined to the "hot pots" of northern Utah—cones built up by mineral springs—yet has succeeded in several gardens. I had never seen it in bloom till this summer, and was amazed by the brilliant blue of its rather crowded narrow flowers, on foot-high spikes. A small clusterhead, name temporarily forgotten, is really good, but after gathering *P. procerus* I came upon a few flowers of a brilliant blue, but the smallest in the genus—"BIO" definitely. Taller species gleaned to date include *P. eatoni*, to three feet, with dangling tubes of sealing-wax red, *P. palmeri*, with pink catalpa-like flowers, and *P. pachyphyllus congestus*, tallish spikes of vivid blue. A small amount of seed is available of *Synthyris laciniata*, a sub-alpine of lime peaks, with tufts of small shallowly cut bronzy leaves and short spikes of intense blue, a good plant flowering as the snow goes. Seed of carrot-leaved *S. pinnatifida* is, I fear, too green to distribute.

An alpine umbellifer with parsley-like foliage and short-stemmed heads of intense yellow may be worth trial, for it is quite showy and usually compact at high altitudes.

Composites of interest have been rather limited in number ; of them, townsendias are by far the most attractive. Along an irrigation ditch in an otherwise completely parched region of Wyoming grew a species an inch or two high, with decumbent stems sometimes three inches long, bearing inch-wide daisies of purest pink. On Teton Pass, before we were driven back by torrential rain, we harvested a few seeds of what according to the monograph is *T. montana*, with flowers of deep violet. A few days later, at alpine elevations in central Utah, the true *T. montana* was found, with most of the seeds shed : a somewhat different, invariably compact, plant, making a few inch-wide rosettes completely hidden by white daisies. The next day, some thirty miles away, a more bountiful harvest was obtained of the same or a closely related species. Here the rosettes are smaller, often no more than a half inch across, half as large as the stemless heads, whose rays are pink on the reverse, pink-flushed on the front. A few seeds have been gathered of one or more unidentified species. A perennial *Gaillardia* from Montana sometimes two feet high, with pure yellow—rarely cream—rays has a grace and charm completely lacking in the garden strains. With it grows Composite 1, which makes a mat of silver rosettes each a couple of inches across, bearing on six-inch stems very showy yellow daisies. Seed was obtained of rather coarse *Arnica cordifolia*, and a very small amount of a much more refined species, with flowers and foliage of half the size, which grows on Mt. Timpanogos. Of *Erigeron compositus* (or *trifidus*) several collections were made, of which the second, with broad white rays, is distinctly good, while the third lot is probably from a discoid form. Various other dwarf species have been collected, some growing in tufts, others mat-formers, mostly with lavender or violet flowers. There are small amounts of seed of various other dwarf composites, none of which seems interesting enough to merit general distribution.

Our plans for the future involve a jeep trip into the little-known heights of the Snake Range in eastern Nevada, climbs to two other Nevada peaks where distinctive forms of *Aquilegia scopulorum* were found on previous visits, and the return trip across northern Arizona and New Mexico, with a brief visit to one or two of the myriad high peaks of Colorado. Information on the weather there is lacking, and the harvest is unpredictable.

*(The foregoing article was sent direct from the field and only received after *Journal* had reached galley-proof stage—*Editor*).

Plants, Problems, and Letters

ANDROSACE SARMENTOSA v. WATKINSII (Fig. 19)

THE GENUS *Androsace* covers a widely varying range of plant forms from the difficult, tight little cushions of the Aretians, with their flowers borne singly on their stems, to the wide spreading masses of the "Chamaejasme" group to which *A. sarmentosa* belongs. There are several forms and varieties of this species, of which v. *watkinsii* is a much smaller more congested form with smaller light rosettes. The bright pink flowers are borne on many-flowered stems, rising about four inches high, in May. It needs little special care in cultivation so long as one does not try to grow it in undrained shade. It will thrive in scree, rock garden pockets, or any decently drained warm garden soil. Propagation is of the very easiest by detached runners.

L. M.

AQUILEGIA ?

FROM THE Club Seed Distribution of 1956-57 I received seed under the name *Aquilegia scopulorum*, Nevada dwarf. This seed produced one or two seedlings, the first of which has flowered this year. But it is not the *A. scopulorum* to which I have been accustomed, nor is it anything like it.

This *Aquilegia* of mine has foliage very similar to the species whose name it bears, both in colour and texture ; the form of growth is also similar. Here the resemblance ends. My little plant has thrown up a stem nine inches high topped by a panicle of six flowers. These are of medium size, the sepals and petals are short and of about the same length, and deep violet in colour ; the spurs, about one inch long, are hooked. Further, the individual flowers look out horizontally and not upwards, and are almost flat.

I know that *A. scopulorum* is variable, that different forms have been collected in Utah and in Nevada ; but I can find no reference to a form anything like the plant which I now have. It is, I suppose, well within the bounds of possibility that what I have is a hybrid, whether natural or of garden origin, and it would be very interesting to hear if any of my fellow members have flowered plants from this seed, and if so what they have got. The little plant which I have grown is attractive in its own way, but to me it is not *A. scopulorum* ; from my sketchy description can anybody give a name to my *Aquilegia* ?

Midlothian.

K. C. C.

INCARVILLEAS

PERHAPS a few notes on these beautiful plants may be of interest. My first two attempts were not very successful. The seed was sown in a box in a cold frame about the end of March or the first week of

April. There is usually a fairly high percentage of germination. When large enough to handle they were pricked out into boxes and kept in the cold frame until the following Spring, then planted out where wanted to flower. They grew fairly well, but the winter claimed quite a lot. After this experience I altered the procedure and instead of planting out at one year old, I ran them out for a year in good fairly rich deep soil in a cold frame, and then planted them in their flowering quarters (two years old). The results proved the wisdom of this ; most of them flowered, and after a couple of years in the open the stems reached up to eighteen or more inches. I had two colonies of about fifty plants each, one lot facing due south, and the other having trees near them, did not get the same amount of sun. The colony getting a little shade was if anything the best. The soil was certainly anything but light, but a good proportion of old potting soil and leaf mould was worked into it. I should mention the colony that was a little shaded was on a sloping piece of rockwork. The other lot was on a flat piece, but raised. A few years ago when a reconstruction of the rockwork took place and the tubers dug out, some of them were ten to twelve inches long. The variety grown was *delavayi* and some of them must have been fifteen or more years old. The smaller variety *brevipes* seemed to prefer a rather lighter soil. A final note ; they received no protection in the open ground, although a groundwork of the small *viola gracilis* was used, which no doubt gave a little protection.

Glasgow.

T. SHARPE

KELSEYA UNIFLORA (Fig. 24)

IT APPEARS from some remarks made about the *Kelseyia* shown at Edinburgh that some members have not found it an easy plant to grow or to flower. It has not been one of my problem plants, although it has been an exercise in patience. My method of cultivation appears to suit it and I pass it on to any interested members.

Take a seven-inch half pot, or a pan if you are prepared to transfer the plant later. Select a lump of tufa that will fit comfortably inside the pot. (Remember the shape of the tufa will eventually be that of the plant). Procure a brace and bit, one of Woolworth's will do, and bore a hole through the centre of the tufa. Enlarge the hole to about half an inch diameter and make a few short drillings at the sides of the main aperture for root passages.

Give the pot good drainage, add a little grit to the potting mixture and bed the tufa into it. Take a small *Kelseyia* and insert the roots into the hole in the tufa. Fill up with fine soil, leaving no air spaces. Finish off with some fine grit round the collar. Give full sun with a little shading in summer. During the first two or three years water the tufa round the plant, then plunge the pot in sand and bottom water. Keep fairly dry during the winter months.

If all goes well, you may expect an odd flower in the fifth or sixth year. Ignore the disparaging remarks of your friends and by the seventh or eighth year the plant, now thoroughly at home, will give of its best and a Forrest Medal is yours. One last word. Don't forget to remove the flowers after a Show if you want a good performance next year. Four hundred capsules take a lot out of a plant.

Aberdeen.

H. ESSLEMONT

SOME FURTHER NOTES ON OXALIS LACINIATA

WHEN VISITORS to the garden are shown this fragile-looking blue oxalis they nearly all say "South American? Will it be hardy, I wonder?" Since 1955 I have been growing half my plants in the garden and the others in a frame with wire-netting sides. In September 1957 I decided to lift all the open ground plants into pots in the frame, not because I doubted their hardiness, but because their frail grey leaves do not show up well against the grey whinstone top dressing, and their examination involves grovelling on rocks. The frame brings them up above waist level and makes easier the close inspection which they deserve. I *thought* I had lifted them all, and it was not until six months later that I found a rhizome which had been left loose on the surface of the ground with no protection from frost, snow, rain and drought during that long period. It looked shrivelled but was potted and its leaves were up within a fortnight. Although it has not yet flowered, it is shooting out two new rhizomes on the surface of the soil, and there are probably some more down below.

Other questioners have asked: "Is it at all difficult?" No, it survives quite horrible ill-treatment. In the Spring I found a single leaf growing in the scree near the place where lifting operations had taken place. This leaf was coming from a minute scrap of rhizome which had managed to get itself buried 6 ins. down. It was lifted, and the petiole, which was 8 ins. long instead of the usual 2 ins., was coiled round in a 3 in. pot. There is still only this one leaf, and I have this very moment (July 28th) taken it out of its pot again to find out what is happening. Lo and behold, there is a beautiful fat new rhizome 1½ ins. long growing from that minute scrap, and all the food material stored in it must have been manufactured by that single small leaf. What a miracle! I shall never again have the effrontery to enter it in the class for "New, Rare and Difficult." It needs a new class for "Easy of Cultivation but New and Rare." Why not? Surely a new plant which insists on living is better than one which fades out of cultivation again.

How about propagation? There is no difficulty about lifting the plants about the third or fourth week in September, pulling the rhizomes apart, and potting them up separately, or all together to make a good panful. Those who have acquired more than one plant should be careful not to mix clones in the same pan. A mixed collection of

blue, metallic blue, violet, silver blue, and pinky purple may be very interesting, but is probably less acceptable to judges than a pan with flowers which all match each other in colour.

I have been unlucky with seeds. It was only this year that I noticed that the flowers are heterostylous. This always indicates that cross-pollination is desirable and perhaps obligatory. I had about a dozen flowers out simultaneously on two plants in June, and although bees were working on them from morning till night the dead flowers wilted away without any seed being set. When another plant with a different style-stamen arrangement came into flower, I cross-pollinated long-style pollen on to short-style stigma and vice-versa. This is what Charles Darwin designated "legitimate" crossing (Origin of Species ; Chapter IX, sub-chapter 'Reciprocal Dimorphism and Trimorphism'). This resulted in three fine capsules. Unfortunately two of them exploded in the night in the manner of *Oxalis corniculata* and all the seed was lost. The third one was harvested too soon while the seeds were still white, but they have been sown with faith and hope. However, there are plenty more flower buds still to come out, and should they open only one at a time or have the wrong length of style it is only a short walk up the hill to borrow a few pollen grains from Mrs. Tweedie. Next time I shall have some polythene bags ready to use when dehiscence approaches.

A piece of good news is that the plant which Mr. and Mrs. David Tweedie submitted to the Joint Rock Garden Plant Awards Committee at the Chelsea meeting is now adorned with the R.H.S. Certificate of Preliminary Commendation.

I am told that it should now be labelled *Oxalis squamosa-radicosa* (syn. *laciniata*), a clumsy name for a pretty plant. This sort of thing strengthens the case of the people who complain about plants having Latin names. No doubt they will very sensibly continue to call it "The Blue Oxalis."

L. C. BOYD-HARVEY

PHLOX SUBULATA VAR. "TEMISKAMING" (Fig. 20)

Phlox subulata v. "Temiskaming" is the most brilliantly coloured of the many fine varieties of this easy, useful, and in every way garden-worthy species of Phlox. It is a strong growing species, and in a few years will form a wide-spreading mat four or five inches high which in June is completely hidden in a profusion of magenta-red flowers. Further colour is again provided later in the year by the red autumn colouring of its leaves. *Phlox subulata* varieties are not in the least fussy about aspect or soil conditions provided they are light and well drained. They stand the hot dry conditions of a wall top very well indeed and make a brave show in their season. Three-inch cuttings inserted in a cold sand frame in July should root one hundred per cent.

L. M.

PHYLLODOCE COERULEA* (Fig. 21)

THIS PLANT of many synonyms (it has been known as *Andromeda coerulea* or *taxifolia*, *Bryanthus coeruleus*, *Menziesia coerulea*), and a natural range covering the alpine arctic regions of Northern Europe, North America, and North Asia, just qualifies as a Scottish native by its one known location in this country on the Sow of Atholl in N. Perthshire. An ericaceous plant, it, like the rest of its race, likes a lime-free soil containing a good proportion of peat or other humus, good drainage and an open, cool situation. It is a small heath-like shrub seldom reaching more than six to eight inches, with narrow, linear leaves less than half an inch long. The flowers, little narrow-mouthed, ovate purple bells, are borne in small terminal clusters of threes or fours during the summer. It may be propagated by layers or cuttings.

L. M.

RHODODENDRON KEISKII

THIS PLANT from Japan, a fine specimen of which was Forrest Medal winner at the Club Show at Dumfries in April this year (see fig. 25), is a low-growing, compact little shrub in cultivation, though said to reach nearly six feet in height sometimes in nature. It is one of the very few yellow flowered species in the Triflorum series and is a good clear, unspotted lemon yellow. The trusses of from three to five widely bell-shaped flowers, opening in April, are very freely borne and even though not very long lasting they make *Rh. keiskii* a most attractive and desirable plant for the rock garden.

It will stand quite an open position and fair amount of sun, but even though hardy enough it may with advantage to its opening flower buds be planted in a position protected from early morning sun. Like the rest of its race it is a lover of abundant lime-free humus in the soil and reasonably good drainage.

East Scotland.

"M."

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear —,

I wonder if you would be so kind as to pass these inquiries to some member of the S.R.G.C. who out of his experience would answer them for me. I meant to have a word with the member who was answering enquiries at Edinburgh Show, but as usual on such occasions I finally had to rush for my train.

(1) Does *Linaria alpina* react successfully to cutting back after flowering?

*See also Plant Notes on page 253, Journal No. 20 (April 1957).
—Editor.

(2) I have a *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrid which is growing very vigorously. I would like to increase it. Should I dig it up in the autumn and break up the root ?

(3) I find *Aethionema coridifolium* becomes woody and untidy after the winter. Would it be wise to cut the plants back in autumn ?

(4) Is *Ramonda myconii* usually difficult to germinate ? How long might one expect to wait for it to germinate if sown in seed compost and the pan kept in a polythene bag ?

(5) The same question about *Rhodohypoxis*. I have tried three times to grow these, without one seed germinating.

(6) How deep should cyclamen corms be planted ? I would like just a small patch of autumn cyclamen at the front of a shaded part of the rock garden. Would I be better to buy plants than corms ?

(7) Should rockery phlox (*subulata*) be pruned in the same way as aubrieta ?

(8) I have read that *Daboecia cantabrica* should be pruned well back after flowering. How far is "well back" ?

* * *

We live in an old manse, the garden and shrubbery, etc., of which had once been very well kept, but which had been allowed to revert to the wilderness during the five years before we came. We are about 600 feet up. After about four years of navvying we have got a good fruit and vegetable garden, a nice herbaceous border, and the beginnings of a rock garden that can be extended almost indefinitely. The soil, when the weeds have been skinned off, is largely beech mould and seems to grow everything. There is far too much for my wife and myself, of course, but we get a lot of pleasure out of our labours.

With kind regards,

Angus.

R. A. DAW

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER TO OUR PRESIDENT

Dear General Murray-Lyon,

I cannot forego the pleasure of seeing a "cousin," or "grandmother," or "aunt," of our *Romanzoffia sitchensis* in the current issue of the S.R.G.C. *Journal* ; and your note of comment on page 9.

It so clearly resembles *R. sitchensis*, which I have frequently come across under the dripping rock ledges in the Canadian Rockies at about 6000-7000 feet altitude, always secluded, but as happy and content as a "Mist Maiden" should be. I am further glad to note you follow Samson Clay in disregarding the descriptions of both Farrer and Correvon in reference to the delicate rich white velvet flowers with their pale yellow stamens and heart-of-gold, and you do not refer to them as stars. Henshaw describes them well in her "North American Flowers of the Rockies." They always appear to have

infinitesimal specks of honey scattered over the creamy-white blossoms, and I have never seen them without the drip, drip, of ice-water refreshing their life in the fissures among the rock walls where they prefer to live.

Romanzoffia unalashkensis looks amazingly well and happy with its lot in Edinburgh. I do not know what the significance "v. *glabriusula*" refers to.

I have not been to Alaska, but usually take a pack-trip, with ten pack horses, if I do not attend the annual Alpine Club of Canada two-week camp, where the rock-climbers do their stuff, and some of us do the screes or moraines while the snow is still going in July or August.

I do note in Part I your reference to *Erigeron aureus*. We can, I hope, call this a "Canadian" or "colonial." It is a gem of its race, and worth a gold sovereign any day. Strange, I have never brought a couple back with me to Manitoba! Only 1500 miles!

Thank you, "Romanzoffia"—a splendid name for so small a specimen of the alplands.
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

ARNOLD O. BRIGDEN

Review of the Year

By THE PRESIDENT

ANOTHER YEAR has passed, and, by the time this appears in print, I will have begun my last year as President.

Our membership still continues to increase, not in spectacular leaps and bounds as a few years ago, but steadily; the figure now is 3,345. New members are mostly brought in by friends belonging to the Club. As usual, however, we got quite a number of recruits at "The Highland," where I hear we had a very nice stand as usual, thanks to Mrs. Hamilton, our County Representative for Ayrshire, and her assistants.

County activities have been on much the same lines as usual, with a few more functions at a few more places. There are still one or two counties without a County Representative, however, and I hope members in those counties will help themselves and me by trying to find some suitable person to take on the job. I look upon county activities as an important service to our members. Local activities should, however, be initiated and run by local people, though the other office-bearers and I are always willing to help in any way we can.

Our third "Discussion Week-end" is to be held in Perth on the 25th and 26th October; details are given elsewhere in this *Journal*. The other two Week-ends were great successes, and this one ought to be too, as we have, I think, a very good programme.

Our Shows this year were quite good, though (as we always say!) the weather made things rather difficult for exhibitors. There was a welcome increase in the number of exhibitors in the Novices' Classes, many of the exhibits being quite worthy of Class I.

I am sure members are grateful to Show Secretaries and their committees for all the hard work entailed in running our Shows. We are grateful also to the Judges, whose work is perhaps not always sufficiently appreciated. They give their services at the expense of a lot of their time ; in some cases, I believe, it means the expenditure of a day's leave from their annual allotment.

The two meetings of the R.H.S. Joint Committee produced quite a crop of interesting and well-grown plants. A note of Awards appears elsewhere. One of these Committee Meetings was held in Dumfries for the first time, and the fine show of plants there fully justified the innovation.

I was very glad to see in the April *Journal* the article "Behind the Seeds," which gave an idea of all the work entailed in running the Seed Distribution. Mrs. Davidson and her helpers have again put up a very fine show, and I am sure all participating in the Distribution are most grateful.

The Slide Library is steadily building up under the able Curatorship of Dr. James Davidson, and is proving a great help to lecturers.

This number of the *Journal* will, no doubt, be up to the usual high standard, although the editor was rather worried at the shortage of material which had reached him by 24th July, the appointed date. Contributors would greatly ease the editor's work and worries if they sent in their contributions on time.

There was quite a spate of new contributors for last September's *Journal*, but there was a sad falling off for the April number. Please keep it up, and if you have not yet contributed, do try and produce something, even if it is only a short plant note. We have a most hard-working and efficient editor, but he cannot produce a *Journal* without the co-operation of others, so please do consider if you could not help.

One side of our publishing business is flourishing owing to the initiative of our Honorary Publicity Manager, Mr. James T. Aitken—Advertisements. He is also to be congratulated on many new ideas for publicising our Club.

Not often mentioned, but worthy of notice, I think, are the Members of Council who give quite a lot of their time to the Club, especially those who serve on various committees. Last, but by no means least in importance, are the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer. Without them the Club would just grind to a standstill.

On re-reading my last year's Review, I see I finished up with a mention of our "New Venture," the Discussion Week-end. Next year's "New Venture" will be "The Week" in St. Andrews in July 1959, details of which will be found on another page. I believe there are still a few vacancies, so send in your name at once if you wish to attend what, I am certain, is going to be a most interesting and enjoyable function.

D. M. MURRAY-LYON

Royal Horticultural Society

JOINT ROCK GARDEN PLANT COMMITTEE

THE COMMITTEE met at the Scottish Rock Garden Club Show at Dumfries on 9th April 1958, and the following awards were made :—

AWARD OF MERIT :

To *Forsythia viridissima bronxensis*, as a flowering plant for the alpine house and rock garden. Exhibited by R. B. Cooke, Esq., Kilbryde, Corbridge, Northumberland. (See Fig. 26).

To *Saxifraga retusa*, as a flowering and foliage plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Mrs. W. Duncan, Newlands, Dumfries.

CERTIFICATE OF PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION :

To *Primula auricula* "Blairside Yellow," as a flowering plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by Messrs. King & Paton, Barnbarroch, by Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire.

CULTURAL COMMENDATION :

To Mrs. D. F. McConnell, Knockdolian, by Girvan, Ayrshire, for a well-grown plant of *Primula allionii* "Mary Berry."

To N. H. Brown, Esq., High Gables, Hardthorn Road, Dumfries, for a well-grown plant of *Draba mollissima*.

The Committee also met at the S.R.G.C. Show at Glasgow on 13th May 1958, when the following awards were made :—

AWARD OF MERIT :

To *Potentilla alba*, as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Mr. and Mrs. R. Baillie, Grainfoot, Longniddry, East Lothian.

CERTIFICATE OF PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION :

To *Douglasia vitaliana*, as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Messrs. Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire.

To *Ranunculus sp. (buchanani x lyallii)*, as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Messrs. Jack Drake, Inshriach Nursery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire.

CULTURAL COMMENDATION :

To Mr. Jack Drake, Inshriach Nursery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, for a well-grown plant of *Pleione limprichtii*.

To William Urie, Esq., Northcote, Turnberry, Girvan, for a well-grown plant of *Anacyclus depressus*.

To Mr. and Mrs. R. Baillie, Grainfoot, Longniddry, East Lothian, for a well-grown plant of *Veronica bombycina*.

To H. Esslemont, Esq., M.B.E., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for a well-grown plant of *Androsace imbricata*.

Show Reports

PENICUIK

THE PENICUIK SHOW was held on Saturday, 8th March 1958, in the usual hall, and again in conjunction with the Penicuik Horticultural and Industrial Society's Bulb Show. The day was almost as bad as it could be, as it snowed off and on all day. The bad state of the roads led to the cancellation of the exhibit from the Edrom Nurseries, for they came to grief on the road, fortunately without personal injury. The severe winter undoubtedly added to the difficulties of the competitors, as almost all plants were markedly late, and many were far from being ready by the date of the Show.

In spite of all these troubles, a very good entry was staged and the standard of the plants was very high and the competition close. The Forrest Medal was awarded to *Saxifraga x jenkinsii*, shown by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey. This was a very fine plant which a meticulous examination by the Judges could not fault, as it was in perfect condition and exceptionally good flower. The runner-up and winner of the Midlothian Vase for the best plant in Section I was *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus* shown in full flower and good condition by Dr. and Mrs. Tod. The same exhibitors won the Midlothian Bowl for the highest number of points in either section. A Gold Medal was awarded to Ponton's Nurseries for an exhibit of Rock Plants—a good selection, by the way, of early rock plants and rock garden bulbs.

There were several interesting plants on the benches as, for example, *Cyclamen persicum* species from collected wild seed, shown by Mr. Hartley of Silverburn House. This was interesting as the parent of the large house cyclamen. It is hardy in the alpine house, but not outside. The blue *Tecophilaea* has been mentioned above, but how many have noticed its very fine scent? We were delighted to see Mr. Archibald with us again and to see his *Kalmiopsis* and *Cassiope* in flower—surely a tribute to his skill as a plantsman. Two other interesting plants exhibited were a well-berried *Pernettya tasmanica* and *Pleione humilis*, both shown by the President, Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon, and Mrs. Murray-Lyon.

The Kabschias were in very good condition this year and some very large plants were exhibited, notably by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey and Dr. Davidson. Miss Crawford of Edinburgh also had entered two very good specimens. The standard of the Crocuses was easily the best we have yet seen and several of the pans were of really outstanding quality, especially Mrs. Murphy's pan of "Blue Bird." They were of a much more level growth this year than they have often been in the past. The same was true of the Irises, notably the pans of *I. danfordiae* which so often comes "blind" on one or two bulbs. The Narcissi, too, were very good, and particularly a pan of *N. cyclamineus* from Mr. Hartley. The season was rather late for Primulas, though Mr.

Archibald's *P. aureata* and Mrs. Aitchison's *P. edgeworthii alba* were both notable plants ; the latter got the first prize in its class.

The Judges were Mr. K. C. Corsar, Mr. James Robb and Mr. S. F. Hayes, and they also judged the Penicuik Society's Bulb Show, which provided some fine entries, the Pot Plant Classes being particularly notable. The writer is particularly indebted to the ladies of the Penicuik Society for once more making things so easy by their very capable and efficient organisation. The attendance of Members of the Club was very gratifying, especially in view of the weather.

HENRY TOD,

C.R. Midlothian and Hon. Show Secretary.

DUMFRIES

A LATE Spring upset the timing of many exhibits this year and a week previous to the Show it appeared as if we were going to have very little to show, but a call to local members to rally round produced over 300 entries, and provided a really grand display of plants. The visit of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee was responded to very well and two tables of plants were on display. It was most encouraging that several awards were made, both to local and other members.

Mrs. Kennedy, Blackwood, Dumfries, opened the Show, but attendances both days were below average.

The Forrest Medal was won by a pan of *Rhododendron keiskei** shown by William Urie, Turnberry, Girvan. The same exhibitor won the Walmsley Challenge Cup for Three Pans of Alpines.

The Club Bronze Medal was won by Magnus Ramsay, Kirkbean, Dumfries, who staged some really fine exhibits for a beginner ; it was most gratifying to see so many new exhibitors in this section this year. The Lewis Trophy, confined to members resident in the South-West, was also won by Magnus Ramsay with a pan of *Primula edgeworthii*.

Prizes for best Hardwood Plant and best Softwood Plant were won by William Urie and Norman Brown, for best Cactus or Succulent by William Wilson, Dumfries.

Trade stands were very good. Messrs. Longmuir & Adamson, Dumfries, won the Large Gold Medal for Built-up Rock Garden containing primulas, haberleas, double primroses, cassiope in variety, various anemones, hepatica, and a background of flowering shrubs. Messr. Harper & Sons, Stranraer, gave us a great display of narcissi, including many novelties, for which they received a Large Gold Medal. Colmonel Gardens, Girvan, were awarded a Gold Medal for a Floral display of Primulas, Reinelt polyanthus, Irises *bucharica* and *graeberiana*, and narcissi, in fine condition. Mssrs. King & Paton, Dalbeattie, also had a Gold Medal exhibit of a Built-up Rock Garden featuring dwarf conifers, primulas, ericaceous plants, and anemone

*(See Fig. 25).

species, with colourful shrubs as background. A Gold Medal exhibit of Cacti and Succulents staged by two local members was the best display of its type we have seen for a long time.

The Crichton Royal Institute, as usual, put up a very colourful table of alpiners in pots and pans, and were awarded a Cultural Certificate for this display, which contained primulas, haberleas, sedums, saxifrages, fritillarias, and many other items. They provided decorative plants for the hall and platform. Messrs. Ponton's, Edinburgh, and Floral Crafts, London, helped with displays also.

To all exhibitors, committee, Crichton Royal, and others who helped a successful Show, I am most grateful.

R. FORBES, *Hon. Secretary.*

DUNDEE

AT THE TIME of going to press no report of Dundee Show had been received and the following is compiled from memory, aided by notes taken while going round the Show, so we ask to be excused for any omissions or inaccuracies which may occur.

Held as in previous years in the Marryat Hall, on 9th and 10th April, there was a really surprising entry of meritorious plants after such a bad season lasting right to within a few days of the Show. The Alexander Caird Trophy (for Class 1—best six pans) was very worthily won by Major W. G. Knox Finlay with very good pans of *Crocus tauri* (which also won the Forrest Medal), *Primula sonchifolia*, *P. edgeworthii*, *Saxifraga* "Amitie x Riverslea," *Dentaria polyphylla*, and *Townsendia formosa*. Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Pitlochry, won the Dundas Quaich (Class 2—best three pans) with fine pans of *Pleione pricei*, *Saxifraga x megasiflora*, and *x Phyllothamnus erectus*. Mrs. Grace, St. Andrews, and Mr. Rorie, Dundee, were respectively second and third, and noted in their entries were good plants of *Primula clarkei*, *Saxifraga x jenkinsae* and *S. oppositifolia*. Class 3 was won by a fine plant of *Primula griffithii* belonging to Major Knox Finlay, followed by *Ranxania japonica* of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart. Mrs. Pattullo was first in Class 4 with a very well-flowered plant of *Hepatica angulosa*, closely followed by Mr. D. Dorward with *H. triloba*. Other entries were also good.

In Class 5 Mr. Rorie was first, again with a very fine *Sax. oppositifolia* and *Salix repens*. Class 6 went to Mr. Dow, Perth, for another very fine *Sax. oppositifolia*, followed by a *Salix reticulata*. Class 7 (for silver-grey foliage) was won by *Celmisia linearis*, and Class 8 (cushion plant) by a *Sax. cochlearis*, belonging to Mr. J. G. Carstairs, from seven competitors, which included *Draba rigida* and *Androsace imbricata*. There were six entries in Class 9 (three pans of saxifraga) which Mr. Carstairs won with pans of *Ss. burseriana sulphurea*, *oppositifolia splendens rosea*, and *apiculata* var. "Boston Spa." There were ten entries of very fine quality in Class 10, and first was *Sax. burseriana*

sulphurea, while *apiculata*, *burseriana* var., *x jenkinsae*, and *burseriana crenata* were also noteworthy.

Major Knox Finlay was first in Class 11 with *Pp. boothii*, *bhutanica*, and *aureata* form, and in Class 12 with *P. pycnoloba*. In Class 14 Mr. Mitchell's *Primula allionii* gained first, to be followed by *Pp. marginata*, *pubescens* "Faldonside", and others. A fine double pink Hepatica was first in Class 19, and we were delighted to see a specimen of *Hermatodactylus tuberosus* in Class 21, even though it could only claim a second to *Iris reticulata*. Class 23 brought out seven entries all good, and Class 27 a further nine entries. Many fine plants were to be seen in the bulb and corm classes.

Classes 38 and 39 brought out nine and ten entries respectively, and in Class 40 Mr. Carstairs was first with three very fine pans. In Class 45, it was good to see specimens of *Arcterica nana* and *Orphanidesia gaultherioides*, while Classes 47 and 48 were strongly contested, with a number of very fine dwarf conifers on show.

Section II was rather weak in numbers, but some nice plants were to be seen—notably a good plant of *Primula bhutanica* shown by General Menzies. The prize-winning entry of Mrs. Grace in Class 81 was a really lovely arrangement, and Miss Halley's Azalea in Class 82 was another noteworthy specimen. All the entries in Classes 83 and 84 were good and competition was strong.

Mr. Stewart Mitchell had every reason to feel satisfied with the Show after such a season, but it is a great pity that the weather and other occurrences so adversely affected attendances. He is very much to be congratulated on the willing band of helpers who rally round so loyally and ably.

EDITOR

EDINBURGH

THIS YEAR April came with Winter still with us, and the bad conditions persisted almost to Show-opening date.

One of our oldest members, Mr. Henry Archibald of Carnwath, was once again the winner of the K. C. Corsar Challenge Trophy and Silver Medal in the class for six plants—*Primula aureata*, *Sanguinaria canadensis flore pleno*, *Jeffersonia dubia*, *Helichrysum virgineum*, *Primula marginata* and *Cassiope lycopodioides*.

The Carnethy Medal was won by Mr. R. B. Cooke of Corbridge, Northumberland, for three very fine pans of choice plants—*Primula sonchifolia*, *Pleione pricei* and *Rhododendron obtusum* var. His name appeared again in the class for rare and difficult plants, where he gained the Elsie Harvey Memorial Trophy with *Pleione limprichtii*, *Primula deuteronoma*, and *Bryocarpum himalaicum*.* Mr. Archibald was second, and noteworthy were *Kalmiopsis leachiana* and *Daphne rupestris*; in third place were Dr. and Mrs. Henry Tod, with *Primula obtusifolia* and *Pleione formosanum* outstanding.

First in the one-pan class for rare and difficult plants was *Kelseya*

*See Fig. 27.

uniflora, worthy winner of the George Forrest Memorial Medal, and grown to supreme perfection by Mr. H. Esslemont of Aberdeen. This compact high alpine cushion from the mountains of Montana was first introduced in 1939. (See Fig. 24).

In the native section was a pan of *Primula scotica*, well grown by Dr. D. M. Morison of Edinburgh, and among the foliage plants a lovely pan of the silver-leaved *Helichrysum marginatum* exhibited by Mr. N. M. Brown of Dumfries, who had entered many other prize-winning exhibits, amongst them the best flowered *Draba mollissima* I had ever seen.

The Reid Rose Bowl for highest pointage in Section I was deservedly won by Mr. and Mrs. R. Baillie, Longniddry. Notable in a large entry was *Saxifraga* var. "Cranbourne," and *Saxifraga retusa* (*oppositifolia* section).

Outstanding among dwarf conifers were *Pinus silvestris beauvronensis*, grown by Mrs. Neilson, and *Microcachrys tetragona* exhibited by Mr. R. B. Cooke.

Among the Asiatic primulas the three-pan class was won by Mr. R. B. Cooke—*Primula sonchifolia*, *Primula rosea* and *P. gracilipes*, all well flowered and of good quality. There were several good pans of *P. clarkei*.

European primulas were very well represented and Dr. Booth of Edinburgh had a very fine first prize group—*Primula marginata* "Pritchard's variety," *P. pubescens alba*, and *P. rubra*.* There was a very fine plant of *P. bilekii* with large flowers and good colour. Another very fine exhibit by Mr. R. B. Cooke was *Anemone blanda atrocoerulea*. There were few pans of gentians, but a magnificent pan of *Gentiana acaulis* var. *coelestina* was exhibited by Mr. N. M. Brown.

As usual at the April Show the dwarf bulb section was well supported. Outstanding among the exhibits of narcissus species was a pan of *Narcissus rupicola* exhibited by Dr. James and Mrs. Davidson, of West Linton; Mr. R. B. Cooke had a pan of *Narcissus bulbocodium tenuifolius*. The Tulipa species were well represented and a winning entry by Dr. and Mrs. Henry Tod was *Tulipa biflora*, a pretty little species from the Atlas Mountains, expertly cultivated and presented.

Among the novice classes there were many magnificent entries, Mrs. B. H. Murphy winning the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl with *Primula denticulata*, *Narcissus bulbocodium* and a Saxifrage.

The Bronze Medal for the highest pointage in Section II was won by Mrs. A. F. McInnes, Edinburgh. A very lovely *Camellia saluensis* x "J. C. Williams" was grown to perfection by Dr. D. M. Morison, as was also a plant of *Abutilon megapotamicum*.

Among the non-competitive classes were six plants of *Primula aureata* grown to perfection by Mr. David Livingstone, a very beautiful yellowish-green leafed *Acer japonicum* grown by Mrs. Neilson, lovely hand-painted china dishes painted by Mrs. Wilson of Dunfermline, photographs by Mr. T. C. Clare of Berkshire, and paintings by Mrs. Wilson and Miss Dickson.

*See Fig. 23.

Great appreciation is due to all members of the trade who supported this Show so vigorously and so well. Mr. Jack Drake's display was awarded a Large Gold Medal. The standard here was very high. I admired the following : *Ranzania japonica*, a Japanese woodlander, as also is *Jeffersonia dubia*, and among many very fine primulas noteworthy were *Primula edgeworthii alba*, *P. sonchifolia*, *P. forsteri* seedling, and a very fine type of *P. bilekii*. There was also a double pink *Hepatica*, several pink forms of *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, *Soldanella alpina*, and a very beautiful pan of *Phyllodoce coerulea*.

Lt.-Colonel J. H. Stitt of Blairgowrie provided a pan display which was a worthy Gold Medal award ; I liked *Rhododendron repens* var. "Little Joe," and *Rhododendron repens* x *Williamsianum* var. "Treasure." There was a host of wonderful double primroses and other primulas. One pan of *Primula gracilipes* was awarded the Bhutan Drinking Cup.

Another Gold Medal winner was Messrs. Delaney and Lyle of Alloa with a very fine display indeed. All plants were good ; some that I admired were *Prunus triloba*, *Lewisia tweedyi*, *Chaenomeles japonica* var. "Firedance," brilliant cardinal red blossom, and an original type plant of *Primula juliae* species—an unusual subject nowadays.

Mr. J. R. Ponton again provided a stand of great merit. I singled out *Primula chionantha*, forms of *Narcissus triandrus*, *Primula rosea grandiflora*, *Anemone ranunculoides*, and *Erythronium dens-canis*.

I thought Mr. J. Robb of Pathhead had once again achieved a high standard of presentation : *Fritillaria meleagris*, *Primula frondosa*, and *Gentiana verna angulosa* were there, and the attractive little *Olearia gunniana alba compacta*.

Messrs. Young & Thompson provided an attractive display of *Primula juliae* hybrids interspersed with *P. denticulata* in a variety of attractive shades.

The Edrom Nursery stand was, as usual, a riot of primulas, rhododendron, anemones and erythroniums. I noted *Primula* var. "Pink Drift," *Anemone blanda rosea* and *Primula sonchifolia*.

Messrs. Kibble & Clare of Berkshire had, among very fine pot-grown dwarf conifers, many pans of rock plants of great merit and interest such as *Genista lydia*, *Iris gracilipes*, a Japanese woodland iris of great charm, and *Salix myrsinites jacquinii*. May I express my appreciation and thanks to this partnership in coming so far to give so much and so willingly. May it herald the return of support from south of the Border.

Mrs. Laing of Hawick staged lovely things as *Primula allionii alba*, *P.* "Kinloch Beauty" and *Arabis* "Rosabelle."

Mr. Murray of Bridge of Earn had a fine display of mixed polyanthus, double primroses, and blue primroses.

Once again the Cacti and Succulent Society put on a magnificent display ; noteworthy were pinkish leaved *Echeveria hovii* and *Euphorbia splendens*, and most praiseworthy were neatly classified separate displays of Crassulæ and Cacti.

Messrs. Laurie of Dundee provided a high quality stand of shrubs ; noteworthy, I think, were the dwarf barberry *Berberis stenophylla coccinea*, *Viburnum carlocephalum*, the beautiful white azalea, *A. "Palestrina," Magnolia stellata*, and Acers.

May I express my appreciation and thanks for the support given by Fife Redstone Quarry Co. Ltd., Fife ; the Edinburgh Botanical Society ; the Scotland's Garden Scheme Committee ; Messrs. Brown's (Booksellers) ; the stand of ornamental jewellery, and to all exhibitors who had provided plants for discussion and interest at our own S.R.G.C. stand.

The Rhododendron Show arranged by the National Trust for Scotland was held, this year, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Show. The display of colour was overwhelming ; I stood in awe admitting a truss of *Rhododendron sinogrande*.

A word of praise and thanks is due to the Royal Botanic Garden staff for providing a lovely stand of species Rhododendron blooms in vases.

The Boonslie Cup, awarded for a miniature garden "planted with Rock Garden plants to provide flower and foliage interest throughout the season," was won by our Hon. Show Secretary, Mrs. Doreen Murphy.

W. ADAMS, C.R.

SCOTTISH RHODODENDRON SHOW 1958

At the Scottish Rhododendron Show arranged in Edinburgh on 22nd to 24th April this year by the National Trust for Scotland, in conjunction with the Scottish Rock Garden Club, Sir George Campbell of Succoth, Bart., was awarded the Sir John Stirling Maxwell Rhododendron Trophy for the exhibits from his garden at Crarae which achieved the highest aggregate of points. The National Trust for Scotland Rhododendron Trophy, awarded for the six best species (Class I) was won by Colonel D. R. Carrick-Buchanan of Corsewall, Stranraer.

Although the severe spring weather had raised some doubts about the show this year the entry compared well in quality and quantity with previous years. A total of eleven exhibitors showed 288 entries, and only four points separated the first four gardens in the prize list. The final placings were : 1st Sir George Campbell of Succoth, Bart., Crarae, 25 points ; 2nd Lt.-Col. Sir James Horlick, Bart., Gigha, 24 points ; 3rd equal The Gibson Family, Glenarn, and Major Iaian Campbell, Arduaine, 23 points ; 5th The Earl of Stair, Lochinch, 18 points ; 6th Mrs. K. L. Kenneth, Tigh-an-Rudha, 15 points ; 7th E. H. M. and P. A. Cox, Glendoick, 13 points ; 8th A. G. Kenneth, Strona Chullin, 12 points ; 9th Colonel D. R. Carrick-Buchanan, Corsewall, 10 points ; 10th F. L. Ingall, Corsock House, 6 points ; 11th E. A. Strutt, Galloway House, (one entry highly commended).

The show was opened this year by the Countess of Minto and the

judges were ; The Earl of Strathcona and Mount Royal, Colonsay ; Mrs. R. M. Stevenson, Tower Court, Ascot ; and Mr. F. Hanger, curator of the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Ripley.

Awards were made by the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society who had arranged a meeting to coincide with the opening day of the show. The committee's recommendations included a First Class Certificate to *Rhododendron (dalhousiae x nuttallii)* 'Victorianum', exhibited by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh ; and Awards of Merit to *Rhododendron* ('Albescens' x *ciliicalyx*), exhibited by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh ; *Rhododendron (hodgsonii x sinogrande)*, exhibited by the Gibson Family, Glenarn ; and *Rhododendron chrysanthemum*, exhibited by Mrs. K. L. Kenneth, Tigh-an-Rudha, Ardrishaig.

The following were present at the meeting of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee ; Col. The Lord Digby, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. in the chair, and Lt.-Col. The Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. The Lord Elphinstone, Sir George Campbell, Mr. H. L. P. Baker, Dr. J. M. Cowan, C.B.E., V.M.H., Mr. E. H. M. Cox, Dr. H. R. Fletcher, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.E., V.M.H., Mr. A. C. Gibson, Mr. M. A. C. Noble, Mrs. R. M. Stevenson and Mr. R. Adams, (Secretary).

GLASGOW

THE SHOW was held in the McLellan Galleries on Tuesday and Wednesday, 13th and 14th May. The opening ceremony should have been performed by John T. Renton, Esq., C.B.E., of Branklyn, Perth, but sudden illness prevented him from doing so, much to the sincere regret of many present. The duty of opening fell upon our President, Major-General Murray-Lyon.

The entries for the various sections totalled 436 from 53 exhibitors. A pleasing feature here was a substantial increase in the number of entries for Section II, and as a result there was keen competition in many of the classes in this section. The districts in the West which contributed most to this increase were Bearsden and Milngavie. Should Giffnock, Whitecraigs, Bridge of Weir, Kilmacolm and Greenock, with their many lovely rock gardens, support the Show in the same way, then it would be our pleasant duty to hire another gallery to house the increased entries. The friendly rivalry so engendered would help to make us a happy family and surely that is one of the main functions of the Club.

In Section I, H. Esslemont of Aberdeen won the George Forrest Medal with a pan of *Androsace imbricata*. It was an outstanding exhibit, smothered in flowers, the like of which is seldom seen on any show bench. What care and patience must have been exercised throughout the years by the owner to bring such a difficult subject to such a state of perfection !

The Dr. William Buchanan Rose Bowl for Six Pans of Rock Plants was won by William Urie of Northcote, Turnberry, with *Rhododendron*

Blue "Diamond," *Tiarella wherryi*, *Oxalis enneaphylla*, *Lithospermum oleifolium*, *Pleione pricei* and *Iris innominata*.

The Henry Archibald Challenge Rose Bowl was also won by Mr. Urie with *Paeonia cambessedessii*, *Daphne collina* and *Anacyclus depressus*. Mrs. E. A. Jackson of Bearsden, who was runner-up here, last year competed in the novice class and won the Bronze Medal.

The Crawford Silver Challenge Cup awarded to the winner of most first prizes in Section I, outside of Classes 1 and 2, was won by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baillie of Longniddry. In Class 57, for a container of various rock plants, J. D. Crosland of Aberdeenshire gave us an object lesson on what could be done in this line.

One notable absentee from the show bench this year was Henry Archibald, Ogcastle, Carnwath, always a staunch supporter of the Glasgow Show since its inception some twenty odd years ago. Illness prevented him from showing this year, but let us hope he is restored to full health in the near future.

In Section II, the Bronze Medal for most points was won by Mrs. W. Collis Brown of Milngavie—a worthy winner, entries having more than doubled themselves from last year. Perhaps this is the most gratifying feature of the Show. It is a healthy sign and augurs well for the future. In Class 85 for Table Rock Garden, Miss Mary Mackie found strong opposition from Mrs. Garrick. Both efforts were most praiseworthy.

In Section III—not for competition—William Urie of Turnberry was awarded a Certificate of Merit for a display of rock plants.

A pleasing feature in Section IV was the number of competitors in the classes for cut flowers. In the two classes set aside for this purpose Miss Mary Mackie of Milngavie gained first prize. In the classes for greenhouse plants J. A. R. Tainsh gained two firsts. A. B. Lamont of Kilmacolm was successful in the classes for single primroses. He also gained awards in the auricula classes. Dr. D. F. Booth of Portobello won first place for 2 pans and 1 pan of garden or border auriculas. In the classes for Narcissi R. J. C. Biggart was most successful, while Lady Allan Hay took first place for an 8 in. vase of tulips.

The classes for Polyanthus showed increased entries and made a striking display on the show bench.

The Rhododendron Section (Section V) occupied the greater part of one of the galleries. In this section the Earl of Stair gained first prize for most points; other prize winners were Mrs. K. L. Kenneth and A. G. Kenneth of Ardrishaig, and Mrs. J. Hally Brown of Skelmorlie.

The judges for Sections I and II were Alfred Evans, Esq., David Livingstone, Esq., and Dr. Henry Tod. The judges for Section IV were Tom Sharpe, Esq., and Robert Hulme, Esq., and the Rhododendrons were judged by H. C. Davidian, B.Sc., and William Buchanan, Esq.

The following trade awards were made :—

Large Gold Medals : to Jack Drake of Aviemore for Rock Plants in pots ; to William B. Boyd of Barrhead for Built-up Rock Garden ; to George Murray, Moncrieffe Nurseries, Bridge of Earn, Perth, for a magnificent display of polyanthus and primroses in many new colours ; to J. A. Wilson, Glasgow, S.4, for Rock Garden built on the ground. This was an entirely new feature in the Glasgow Show and attracted much attention and admiration.

Gold Medals were awarded to : Lt.-Colonel J. H. Stitt, Blairgowrie, for rock plants in pans ; to Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire, for built-up rock garden.

Summing up, it was a most successful Show. A happy atmosphere prevailed throughout. The Show Committee worked hard, but they were ably backed by the general run of members. Such co-operation makes the task of running the Show a very pleasant one.

Thirty-one new members were enrolled.

E. D.

ABERDEEN

A VERY satisfactory Show was held on 29th and 30th May and there was a good entry of plants of high quality. The Forrest Medal was awarded to a superb plant of *Eritrichium nanum* grown by Mr. Harold Esslemont, who deserves special mention in these notes, having done so well not only in our own Show but also at the Edinburgh and the Glasgow Shows. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Miss Gill, and the local award of an Aberdeen Bronze Medal went to Mr. Sutherland. A Certificate of Merit was awarded to Mr. Aitken for a fine plant of *Spiraea Hendersonii*, and Mrs. Elliot won the other local special prize.

It came as a great surprise, and a pleasant one, to learn that Dr. Tod had decided to present a trophy to be known as the "Walker of Portlethen Trophy" to be awarded at future Aberdeen Shows for the exhibitor with the maximum points in Section I. I have pleasure in saying that this very fine trophy has now reached me, and should be a very fine encouragement to competitors in future. The Committee wish to express their sincere thanks to Dr. Tod.

The Trade were represented by the following stall-holders :— Jack Drake ; Mrs. McMurtrie ; William Smith & Sons ; Springhill Nurseries ; Ponton ; Lt.-Colonel Stitt.

As in former years there was a grand display of pot-grown plants by the Cruickshank Botanical Gardens.

Professor Matthews introduced Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon, who opened the Show and spoke of the progress of the Club throughout Scotland and elsewhere.

W. MITCHELL

DUNFERMLINE

DUNFERMLINE SHOW, held in the Music Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, on 6th and 7th June, was opened by Lady Elgin who, as the Club President, Major-General Murray-Lyon, remarked in his introduction, was well known to all keen gardeners in a wide area around Dunfermline. In a very gracious address Lady Elgin warmly congratulated exhibitors on the high quality (and quantity) of their entries in a difficult season, and wished the Club well.

Outstanding in a Show of many noteworthy entries was the great increase in Section II and the high standard attained by many members showing for the first time. Entries in this section increased from eleven last year to sixty this year, and many of them could have been among the prize-winners in the Open Section.

The FORREST MEDAL for the most meritorious plant in the Show was won very worthily by a handsome pan of *Oxalis laciniata*, a colourful-flowered and fine-foliaged plant recently introduced from Patagonia by Mrs. Ruth Tweedie of East Lothian : this, of course, also gained the special prize for the best plant in Section I. The CARNEGIE DUNFERMLINE TRUST TROPHY for most points in Section I was won by Mr. and Mrs. R. Baillie, who staged many fine entries, among which good specimens of *Sax. cotyledon*, *Lewisia brachycalyx* hybrid, *Phyteuma comosum*, and *Rhodo*. "Blue Diamond" were noteworthy. The INSTITUTE OF QUARRYING QUAICH for most points in Section IV (confined to Fife members) was won by Mr. J. Y. Carstairs, who also staged many fine plants very well displayed. In both these sections competition was very keen and the margins of points very close.

In Section II, where the BRONZE MEDAL for most points was won by Mr. J. P. Moir of Lundin Links, the entries, as mentioned earlier, were a record on all previous Shows, but even more encouraging was the very high standard attained in both plants and their presentation on the show bench. The MRS. W. B. ROBERTSON CUP, in Section I, for three rock plants of distinct genera, was won by Mrs. A. W. Wilson with *Globularia incanescens*, *Rhodo. lepidotum*, and *Boykinia jamesii*, while other entrants in this class showed good plants of *Saxifraga cebenensis*, *Sax. cochlearis*, *Rhodohypoxis* "Margaret Rose," and *Globularia bellidifolia*.

All six entries in the class for native plants were good, well-flowered specimens, as were the entries in the saxifrage class. The Sedums in Class 8 and Sempervivums in Class 9, with thirteen entries in the two classes, were likewise of a generally high quality, with little to separate them. A particularly fine specimen of *Sedum spathulifolium* v. *aureum*, flowering very freely, caught the eye because this is not one of the easiest plants to do well far less flower well.

Dianthi, due to the backward season, were late and not up to the usual high standard of flowering, and the several *Oxalis* on show in various sections, though fine specimens and profusely flowered, had

their flowers tightly closed on the dull cold morning. In the class for silver-grey foliage a good plant of *Veronica bombycina* could only gain a second prize, and in Class 27 a beautiful pot of *Tulipa batalinii* "Bronze Var." could only gain a third, so keen was the competition.

In Section II, as already stated, the competition was intense, with several classes having five, six, or even eight entries. Good plants of *Saxifraga aizoon lutea*, *caespitosa*, *Crassula sediformis* as a cushion plant, *Edrianthus serpyllifolius major* (the Best Plant in Section II—J. P. Moir), and *E. pumilio* caught the eye, as did many fine pans of *Sempervivum* and *Sedum* in Class 34, where Mr. Moir's *Semp.* "Jubilee" and Mrs. Christie's *Sed. spathulifolium* v. *purpureum* gained hard-won first and second. These two competitors also fought it out to the same result in Class 42 with very excellent miniature gardens. In Section IV Mr. A. Duncan won the three pan class with *Gypsophila cerastioides*, *Penstemon roezlii*, and *Linum arboreum*, while Mr. C. G. Halley's specimen of *Pinus beauvronensis* was worthily adjudged the best plant in the section. The class for silver-grey foliage was won by a pan of *Sedum spathulifolium* "Capablanca" in perfect condition, closely followed by *Salvia argentea* v. *alpina*.

This year the paintings in the Children's Section showed improvement over the past two years. It was obvious that more children were painting from real flowers; some produced very fair botanical drawings. The miniature gardens were full of interest, representing very many different types. One (Sandy Russell) had a beautifully laid out allotment with neat rows of tiny seedling vegetables. High School in particular gave a splendid display; the entries could have competed in the Open Class. Donald Brown's first, Douglas Brown's second, and David Gray's third were all first class exhibits. Townhill School also had some very good gardens to show, Allan Souter taking first place.

County Activities

ABERDEENSHIRE and KINCARDINESHIRE

AT THE OUTSET it is perhaps worth recording that the membership of our branch has more than doubled in the last five years. During the past session there were five meetings, which were all well attended. We were indebted to Professor J. R. Matthews for the use of the Botany Lecture Theatre for a welcome return visit of Major Sherriff. We enjoyed again his film of the Himalayas and Tibet, and his descriptions and comments.

Our other meetings were held in Provost Ross's House and our speakers were all, I think, addressing our members for the first time. Dr. M. A. H. Tincker dealt very successfully with the scientifically-difficult subject of flowering. As he was one of the pioneers in this country in the study of the relationship of the daily light period and flowering, he spoke authoritatively. Mr. J. G. Roger, of the Nature

Conservancy, gave a very interesting talk on our mountain plants which he knows so well. His own coloured photographs of the plants in their native haunts were greatly admired.

As our guide to Rhododendrons for the rock garden we had Mr. Davidian of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and most acceptable and reliable he proved. Surely no Rhododendron-hybrid's parentage is hid from him ! In February we had a visit from Dr. Henry Tod, who spoke on "Adventuring with Plants." Here we learned of some things which the speaker had tried with plants—some successful, some not ; but mainly we gathered something of the speaker's satisfaction in trying to grow plants and were stimulated. At our last meeting Mr. Richard Trotter, Flichity, Inverness, spoke on "Hardy Bulbs" and delighted us with legend and personal anecdote. It was most interesting to meet and hear one who had been a friend of E. A. Bowles.

Again we thank all our speakers for coming to Aberdeen and for the interest they aroused and the pleasure they gave.

No report from Aberdeen would be complete without expressing our members' pleasure at the achievement of Mr. Harold Esslemont in winning three Forrest Medals at this year's Shows. It was confidently anticipated that such success would come his way once he essayed these forays to the south, for obviously his patient nursing of his plants was producing wonderful results. The Aberdeen branch has reason to be grateful to Mr. Esslemont not only for setting this high standard of plant culture, but also for the hospitality he so generously extends to our guest speakers.

Our programme for next session is incomplete. But members might wish to note a change both in the day of our meetings and in the venue. Our meetings during 1958-59 will be held on the **last Wednesday** of October, November, January, February and March in the Y.M.C.A. in Union Street.

J. STIRLING, C.R.

ANGUS

A WINTER session of six meetings was opened on 14th October with a showing of colour slides taken by the C.R. on his Swiss holiday. On 4th November J. C. Lawson spoke on "Alpines at Inshriach," showing fine colour transparencies of well-grown specimens to illustrate the lecture. H. H. Davidian, B.Sc., of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, gave on 2nd December a most perfect lecture on "Rhododendrons in Cultivation." Both lecture and illustrations were beautifully arranged and presented. We were fortunate to have this expert talk on a Genus in which there is much general interest. The usual Members' Transparency Night was again a success and has established itself as a regular feature. This was held on 13th January 1958.

Another well-arranged and beautifully illustrated lecture was "Scottish Alpines and their Conservation," given by J. Grant Roger, B.Sc.,

F.L.S., of the Nature Conservancy, Edinburgh, on 3rd February. Native alpine are another subject very close to the hearts of our members and Mr. Roger was just the expert to further our knowledge.

No Angus winter session is complete without J. L. Mowat of St. Andrews in some capacity or another, and we worked him rather hard on 3rd March, when he gave us an excellent illustrated lecture on "Worthwhile Plants," after which he "judged aloud" at a small members' Show, with useful information about the plants exhibited and about showing generally.

The summer visits were to Keillour Castle on 14th June and to St. Andrews University Botanic Gardens on 21st June.

At Keillour we were shown round in three parties, by Major and Mrs. W. G. Knox Finlay, and Mr. Christie, the Head Gardener. Keillour was in one of its loveliest moods, with Azaleas, *Meconopsis* and Primulas making delightful pictures with their woodland settings. Skilfully associated with these were a tremendous amount of other interesting plants. Of particular interest was the *Jankaea heldreichii* we had seen soon after its arrival from Mt. Olympus, and now established in the East Den, cultural difficulties overcome, but slugs giving trouble. Near here were a number of plants of that charming wee *Meconopsis bella*. At another place *Campanula allionii* and *Rhodohypoxis platy-petala* associated well. A neat form of *Silene maritima* from Iceland was attractive. A very good form of *Primula reidii* var. *williamsii*, and a group of *Primula capitata* var. *crispata*, and *Leiophyllum buxifolium* completely covered with flowers were noteworthy. Most striking colour was shown by an *Embothrium*—red hot! With its lemon yellow flowers and grey-green foliage, *Ennopsis evansii* was another outstanding plant. And, of course, there were *Nomocharis* in variety, and promise of many delightful and rare lilies.

The visit to St. Andrews was a joint one with the Fife Group, and Mr. Mowat and Mr. McDermott saw that the party got answers to all their questions. The variety here is very great and, when the glass-houses are included, covers every specialist interest. Here again, Azaleas, *Meconopsis* and Primulas were outstanding, the new peat garden at Dyer's Brae making a colourful and charming picture. The Rock Garden proper was full of interest for those who confine themselves to this type of gardening, the scree having many happy inmates. The peat walls in the West Garden were in good form, with *Nomocharis*, *Ramondas* and *Haberleas* in especially good condition. The new Heath Garden was looking well, but with little flower, the *cinereas* just starting into bloom. A few individual plants I fancied were the *Rhodohypoxis*, *Lupinus ornatus*, *Globularia* "Hort's Variety," *Arenaria montana*, *Linum* "Gemmell's hybrid," and *Celmisia gracilentia* just coming into flower. A mixed bag, but I have "crop for a' corn." These gardens are open to the public, of course, and members visiting St. Andrews should make a point to visit them.

STEWART MITCHELL, C.R.

ARGYLL and BUTE

OCTOBER 1957 was a busy month among members in Argyll and Bute, for Mrs. Boyd-Harvey made a tour of Oban, Tarbert, Carradale and Rothesay, speaking in each town on "Growing Mountain Plants" with such enthusiasm that the area membership was increased and devotees encouraged once more. In Dunoon the Cowal area members began their season suitably enough by hearing Mr. E. Darling talk of "The Rock Garden round the Year," and at the end of the month Mr. A. Evans talked on "Acid-loving Plants."

In November Mr. J. F. A. Gibson showed his lovely colour-films of his Rhododendrons at Glenarn, Rhu. Mr. S. Mitchell, our Treasurer, started 1958 by telling us of "Some Interesting Rock Plants" in January, to be followed in February by a number of Cowal members, including Mrs. Hinge, Dr. Fordyce and Mr. Loam, talking on building their gardens and of their plants. The February symposium was followed by a business meeting. In March Dr. H. Tod talked on "Showing Plants" and demonstrated some of the pitfalls of exhibiting. All these lectures were beautifully illustrated in colour and greatly enjoyed by the growing Cowal membership.

In April Mrs. D. J. McDiarmid invited the members to hold a "Bring and Buy" sale in her garden at Burnbank, Dunoon, when a pleasant social evening permitted the exchange of many excellent plants and also boosted the area funds.

We look back on a succession of fine lectures, for which thanks are due to the lecturers, to the members who offered hospitality, who raffled plants, and helped in so many ways. And we look forward to a promising programme in Cowal, which we hope to augment by lectures, still to be arranged, to members in other centres. The Cowal meetings will be at 7.30 p.m. in the Imperial Tea Room as under :—
September 30th 1958 : Mr. D. Livingstone, "The Small Rock Garden and its Plants."

October 28th 1958 : Mr. S. V. Coats, "A Clydeside Garden."

November 25th 1958 : Mr. S. A. Howat, "Reminiscences of an Alpine Nurseryman."

January 27th 1959 : Mr. A. Evans, "Miniature Bulbs."

February 24th 1959 : Mr. J. Taggart, "Taming a Two-acre Wilderness."

March 31st 1959 : Mr. A. B. Duguid, "Alpine Propagation."

J. F. MCGARVA, C.R.

BERWICKSHIRE

THE MEMBERSHIP for Berwickshire has increased and attendance at the meetings has been fair. We had two small Sales and Exchange of Plants to raise funds.

A Lecture by Mr. D. Livingstone on "Rock Garden Plants throughout the Year" was much enjoyed, as was also, in early Spring, a Demonstration by Mr. Duguid on "The Construction of Troughs and Sinks." This inspired some of us to try our hand at making some troughs ourselves.

Visits to six gardens outside Berwickshire were well attended and much enjoyed. Mrs. Short's garden at Old Graden was outstanding for rock and water garden plants. The members also much enjoyed seeing the wonderful flowering shrubs at Coupland Castle by kind permission of Lady Aitchison.

E. K. SWINTON, C.R.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

WE WERE extremely fortunate in having our President, Major-General Murray-Lyon, to open our winter activities in October, when he gave us a very fine lecture on rock garden plants in general, and even more fortunate when he again visited us in November and brought with him a new visitor in Dr. D. M. Morrison. They gave a joint talk on "Swiss Alpines in their Native Habitat," and again the lecture was keenly enjoyed by a very appreciative audience, who also showed great interest in the quality of the photography. Plants were sold at both the above meetings to aid local funds.

Our January lecture was taken by two of our local members, Mr. R. Forbes, our Show Secretary at Dumfries, and Mr. C. Marchbank, who is associated with the rock gardens at Crichton Royal, Dumfries. Their talk covered many groups of rock plants, particularly those which form the basis of most rock gardens. The talk was very well received by an increasing audience, and was supplemented by keen discussion.

In February we welcomed a well-known lecturer in Dr. Henry Tod, whose talk was very well received by a good audience. Dr. Tod's talk paid particular attention to the practical side of the growing of rock garden plants, and he had many questions to deal with from his audience. This was Dr. Tod's first visit to Dumfries, and we look forward to an early return.

In March we had as our lecturer a native of Dumfries in Dr. James Davidson from West Linton, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. We were treated to some landscape coloured photography, taken on Dr. Davidson's plant-hunting expeditions, of a standard very seldom seen. The success of the evening can best be summed up in Dr. Davidson's own words that "he had enjoyed talking to us." A small 'bring and buy' sale of plants again helped our funds. This meeting ended our winter activities.

In early May we had a most successful evening visit to the well-known rock garden at Crichton Royal, Dumfries. Although the weather was not at its best, we spent a most enjoyable evening in the rock garden,

where particular notice was taken of *Daphne cneorum*, *Daphne blagayana*, *Gentiana acaulis*, *Haberlea rhodopensis*, and many other choice plants. We also visited the Alpine House and greenhouses and, through the kindness of Dr. Harper, Physician Superintendent, who takes a keen interest in all our activities, we were invited to view the beautiful Crichton Memorial Church. Two of our own members, Mr. McDonald, who is head gardener at Crichton Royal, and Mr. Marchbank, his assistant, acted as guides to us during the evening.

At the end of May we had the pleasure of a visit to Miss Dickson's beautiful garden at Woodhouse, Dunscore, where we were shown the garden by Miss Dickson herself, who is one of our keenest members. The lovely natural site and surroundings of the garden were much admired, and rhodos and meconopsis, both great favourites there, were outstanding. Particular notice was taken of a lovely specimen of *Rhodo. cyclium (callimorphum)* which was just at its best, and, in the wild garden, some very fine *Omphalogramma vinciflorum* attracted members' attention. This was a very successful outing, and our thanks were accorded to Miss Dickson for escorting us during the evening.

Taken as a whole, our past season has been a very successful one and the support of our members has been most gratifying. In a scattered area such as ours it was quite an achievement to have attendances at our meetings reaching, and even exceeding, 50% of our total strength. Our membership is increasing and, up to date, we have 83 members, and hope to reach our century before very long.

NORMAN M. BROWN, C.R.

DUNBARTONSHIRE, GLASGOW and RENFREWSHIRE

THE WINTER activities were run more or less on the same lines as formerly. All meetings were well attended and on some occasions accommodation was severely taxed. Talks, which were usually illustrated by coloured slides, were given by the following members: Dr. Henry Tod; Mr. and Mrs. John T. Renton; J. F. A. Gibson, Esq., of Glenarn, Rhu; Professor G. Pontecorvo; Dr. Alex. R. Hill; Dr. Richard B. Pyke; and H. C. Davidian, Esq., B.Sc. To each and all of the above the committee express their sincere gratitude and thanks.

During the summer the following gardens were visited:—

- (1) Crarae Lodge, Inverary (Sir George J. Campbell, Bt.).
- (2) (a) "Melvaig" (Robert J. C. Biggart, Esq.); (b) "Ulverscroft" (Philip A. Crow, Esq.); (c) "Killochries" (Miss J. M. Woodrow), all in Kilmacolm, and (d) "Holmhurst" (Miss M. H. Cunningham), Bridge of Weir.
- (3) "Ascreavie," Kirriemuir, Angus (Major George Sherriff, O.B.E., V.M.H.).

Every available seat on the buses was booked months ahead, and on each outing many members travelled in their own cars, and members

who failed to get a seat in the bus were indebted to them for getting to their destination. To the owners of these lovely gardens it is difficult to express our sense of indebtedness for a great privilege. Most of our gardens are on the small scale, and a new and beautiful rock plant or shrub demands that some plant or other that has graced our rock garden in the past must be sacrificed to make room for the new. Many present must be in that predicament, seeing for the first time many of the recent introductions to the rock garden. For justice to be done to these gardens each would require a separate article in the *Journal* and it is to be hoped that someone more competent than the present writer will undertake that task.

Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month, beginning October. The venue, as in former years, is Rosalind's Tea Rooms, 33A Gordon Street, Glasgow, C.1, at 7.15 p.m. Dates and Talks as follows :—

Monday, 6th October 1958 : Coloured slides taken by Professor G. Pontecorvo of rare alpinines growing in Mr. Buchanan's garden at Bearsden, with commentary by all and sundry.

Monday, 3rd November 1958 : Mrs. L. C. Boyd-Harvey, "Sinks, Troughs and Raised Beds."

Monday, 1st December 1958 : David Livingstone, Esq., "My Favourite Rock Garden Plants."

A full list of dates and talks will appear in the *Year Book*, and a circular giving all details will be posted to all members in Dunbartonshire, Glasgow and Renfrewshire, and to members near Glasgow in Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire and Argyll. Arrangements for visits to gardens at Kilcreggan and Turnberry are in progress.

E. D., C.R.

EAST LOTHIAN

THE FIRST winter lecture was given on "Plant Photography" by Mr. C. W. Sanderson. Members have enjoyed seeing his slides during previous winter lectures and it was of great interest to other photographers to learn the methods he uses to get such successful results.

In December Mrs. J. H. Younger took us for an imaginary tour in search of British wild flowers. Her talk was illustrated with colour slides which included not only the well-known natives of the Scottish Highlands but also *Gentiana verna* growing in Yorkshire, and *Anemone pulsatilla* on a grassy bank near the English east coast.

The County Annual General Meeting was held in February and was followed by a discussion on propagation methods. That was the intention, but with so experienced a grower as Dr. Henry Tod in the chair, members came to the conclusion that listening to each other talking would be less profitable than questioning Dr. Tod. The "discussion" therefore developed into a one-man Brains Trust. A serious

criticism was that the time passed too quickly and tea seemed to arrive too soon.

On 1st March a large audience was attracted to a demonstration of flower arrangements by Mrs. M. C. Murphy of Edinburgh. It is easy enough to bedeck the house with flowers at the height of the summer, but quite another thing during the prolonged winter of 1957-58. Mrs. Murphy, by the use of unusual containers, showed how to make a few flowers go a long way.

The Bring and Buy Sale was once again held at Somnerfield House, Haddington. Thanks to the organising ability of Mrs. MacFarlane, this affair always runs on oiled wheels, and thanks to the generosity of "bringers" a very satisfactory sum was raised to cover the expenses of county meetings and the Autumn Show.

The first visit of the season was to Mr. Sanderson's dry and sunny corner of the county. His garden faces south and occupies the space between a high and a low wall. Everything there seems to be particularly dwarf, compact and floriferous, and Mr. Sanderson always manages to have plants seldom seen in other gardens, and old plants which have passed out of cultivation elsewhere.

The next visit was out of the county to Quarry House, Balerno, Midlothian. Mrs. Maule, our hostess, is the sister of Mrs. Richard Baillie, Mrs. G. Hannah and Miss Nancy Bowe, all of East Lothian, and like them she has a very discriminating taste in plants and the skill to grow them well. The garden is not only interesting but also very beautiful in its rocky setting.

Miss Nisbet's garden was open in June in connection with Scotland's Gardens Scheme, and a special invitation was sent to S.R.G.C. members. This garden is famous for its extensive plantings of *Meconopsis* species and hybrids. *Meconopsis x sarsonsii*, the hybrid between *M. integrifolia* and *M. betonicifolia*, has arisen spontaneously in the garden, and comes true from seed. Among this year's flowering seedlings of this hybrid Miss Nisbet was astonished to find one which was undeniably pink.

There are a number of members who find it inconvenient to attend meetings at week-ends, and for their sake some members in North Berwick, Dirleton and Longniddry opened their garden during the first week in June from Monday to Friday. Unfortunately Monday to Friday appeared to be no more convenient than Saturday and Sunday, and a high proportion of members must have been away on holiday during that week. This was a great disappointment, but hosts and hostesses were delighted to welcome the "faithful few" and some very pleasant unofficially arranged visits ensued during the following week.

East Lothian members continue to support Shows in addition to their own. Since the last autumn *Journal*, three more Forrest Medals have been awarded to plants grown in East Lothian: *Cyclamen neapolitanum* var. *album*, *Saxifraga x jenkinsii* and *Oxalis laciniata*.

Other awards include : the East Lothian Trophy, Mrs. Boyd-Harvey ; the East Lothian Silver Cup, Mr. Peter Kerr ; the Logan Home Trophy, Mr. David Tweedie ; the Club Bronze Medal, The Hon. Miriam Pease ; the Reid Rose Bowl, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baillie ; the Crawford Silver Challenge Cup, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baillie ; the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baillie.

The arrangements for the rest of 1958 are :—

Thursday, 11th September : The North Berwick Show in the Sun Parlour, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, 3rd October : Illustrated Lecture on "Campanulas" by Mr. David Wilkie, at Hope Rooms, Forth Street, North Berwick, at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 1st November : Illustrated Lecture on "Plant Hunting in Patagonia" by Mrs. David Tweedie at County Buildings, Haddington, at 3 p.m. Tea at the George Hotel.

Saturday, 6th December : Illustrated Lecture on "Lilies" by Mr. Alfred Evans at Marine Hotel, North Berwick, at 3 p.m.

L. C. B-H. for CHRISTIAN NISBET, C.R.

FIFE—EAST

DURING THE winter session 1957-58 the group carried out an active programme of monthly evening lectures, which on the whole were well attended.

The first was in St. Andrews on 11th October, when Mr. David Wilkie gave a most interesting and instructive talk, illustrated by slides, on "Campanulas." This talk, following so soon on Mr. Stewart Mitchell's articles in our *Journals*, revived interest locally in a family of plants which decidedly merits more attention than it usually gets. Our meeting on 7th November was held in Cupar, where a good attendance of members greatly enjoyed a programme of coloured slides shown by Lady Morrison-Low, Mr. James Weir and Mr. Charles Halley, who, in their turn, answered questions asked and took part in the general discussions which followed. In St. Andrews on 6th December members were regaled with a wonderful series of coloured slides taken in his garden throughout the year by Mr. A. K. Johnston, who was also called on to answer many questions regarding varieties, treatment, and hardiness to local conditions of the plants he showed.

Mr. Stewart Mitchell enthralled a large meeting of members in St. Andrews on 13th February with an engrossing talk and a wonderful set of slides covering his plant-hunting holiday in Switzerland last year. It is hard to know whether such colourful pictures of rock plants in their natural settings inspire or depress us in our efforts to achieve these perfections in our gardens. On 6th March, again in Cupar, Mr. Grant Roger held a very interested audience with an

enthraling talk, illustrated by superb colour slides on the rarer and more interesting plants of our own Scottish hills. Questions and discussion which followed showed how loth were members to come back to the lower levels of Fife.

Our winter programme ended on 11th April with the ever-popular "Judging Competition" night. With the backward season, and the unavoidable absence of some of its most active supporters, there were fears that the evening might not be as successful as usual, but these fears proved to be groundless. The evening was more than made by members who brought plants for the first time, and of a very praiseworthy standard, so that a very good competition in seven classes was possible, and an abundance of specimens was provided for demonstration and discussion.

Lady members of the group organised and carried through in May a most successful Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale, at which a record sum was raised to carry the group safely through the coming season with something to spare. We all owe our warmest thanks to those ladies who arranged and conducted such a happy and successful morning.

On Saturday afternoon, 21st June, a new venture was tried out when Angus and Fife members, nearly 50 strong, met together in the University Botanic Garden and after going round together, exchanging queries and experiences as they went, adjourned to a nearby hotel for tea. Afterwards some visited Balgove with Mr. and Mrs. Weir, while others chose to return to the Botanic Gardens for a further session. On the evening of 11th July a party of nearly 40 visited Maryfield Nurseries, Leslie, and then the garden of Mr. J. Y. Carstairs, East Wemyss. It was a delightful evening and members scattered to every corner of the nursery busy with notebooks (the range of dwarf conifers, heaths, campanulas, gentians, cyclamen and rare plants seemed unending) and beseiging Mr. Lyle and his brother with a spate of questions; so much so that it was hard to get the party together again to go on to East Wemyss. Here Mr. and Mrs. Carstairs extended a warm welcome to their garden (and also their house). While half the party of enthusiasts hung over the frames arguing plants and discussing Show cultivation, the others were royally entertained by Mrs. Carstairs. The two halves of the party then changed over, and after a very happy evening it was not till a late hour that members set out for home. It was agreed that after such an evening any further organised meetings this summer would be in the nature of an anticlimax.

J. L. MOWAT, C.R.

FIFE—WEST

ALL THE meetings were well attended and we are very grateful to the following lecturers who so kindly gave us such wonderful and entertaining evenings :—

January 30th : Mr. William McCormac, President of the Dunfermline Naturalist Society and member of the Council of the Photographic Society for his delightful colour slides of "Visits to Famous Gardens" which included the gardens of the National Trust Cruises of the past two years. It was really wonderful to see such beauty and grandeur and be taken on such a delightful journey round the British Isles.

February 20th : We were very glad to welcome once again Mr. James Aitken, Perth, who showed us new colour slides of the "Scottish Mountains and their Flora," starting with photos of his own part of the country right across to the North-West. His flower studies were superb, with some most dramatic photos of the Mountains, which make one realise that it is not necessary to go very far afield for magnificent scenery.

March 20th : Mrs. A. W. Wilson showed colour slides of "A Holiday in South Africa" taken during their winter months with photos of flowering shrubs, some native customs, and views of various places visited.

April 17th : Mr. Stewart Mitchell once again visited us and his talk with colour slides of "A Swiss Tour" was very thrilling. He showed us some magnificent views and his flower studies, without exaggeration, were breath-taking.

Meetings will be arranged for 1959 and we hope to hold one in Aberdour. Members have come from as far as Aberdour, Kirkcaldy and Alloa. We missed the Kinross group this year and hope to see them next year.

E. D. W., *Assistant C.R.*

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

COUNTY ACTIVITIES were hampered by the unusually bad weather and by sickness ; nevertheless, this year has been a very pleasant one.

The annual Bring and Buy Sale, which provides County funds for the coming year, was held in September and was the most profitable ever held.

Then followed a wonderful lecture in October by Major-General Murray-Lyon. The hotel room taken for the occasion was packed to capacity. General Murray-Lyon spoke authoritatively on the many and varied alpines that can be grown in a small space in a city garden, illustrating his talk with fine slides. That night made a record in new members.

In December a meeting was held to discuss Propagation. Again there was a large audience who showed a great deal of interest in the subject.

On 22nd February Mr. H. H. Davidian lectured on "Dwarf Rhododendrons." Unfortunately there was a heavy fall of snow that day

and many members were bitterly disappointed at being unable to get to the hall. That Mr. Davidian should have arrived, indeed have set out to do so on such a day, was very greatly appreciated. At the request of so many members, Mr. Davidian has promised to repeat his lecture this coming year. All the arrangements for the above meeting were taken over, at very short notice, by Miss V. C. Young, who so cheerfully came to the rescue of a sick and very worried C.R.

An outing to the fine rock garden at Northcote, Turnberry, was arranged for May, but this was later cancelled. Mr. Urie has been most kind in asking the Club to visit the gardens next year. Next season's activities will be advertised in the usual way. The Kirkcudbrightshire members are deeply appreciative of the kindness of the lecturers and garden owners.

E. M. H. KING, C.R.

LANARKSHIRE

THE MONTHLY meetings will be resumed, beginning on the first Monday in October. Full particulars of this and the other meetings will be sent to each member in the county in September.

GEORGE F. LAURIE, C.R.

MIDLOTHIAN

THE MEETINGS were once again held in conjunction with the Edinburgh Section as follows :—

October : "Lilies and their Cultivation," by Mr. Alfred Evans.

November : "Gardens and Plants I have Photographed," by Mrs. J. L. Sykes.

December : "Winter-flowering Plants," by Mrs. L. C. Boyd-Harvey.

January : "Rock Garden Plants throughout the Year," by Mr. David Livingstone.

February : "Some of my Rock Garden Favourites," by Mr. J. L. Mowat.

March : "The Naming of Plants" by Mr. James Keenan.

April : "How Soil is Made," by Dr. Henry Tod.

In March the Midlothian Show was held at Penicuik ; a report appears elsewhere. The last meeting of the season 1957-58 was held in May, when a small Show was put on and the exhibits were judged by Mr. Hayes and Dr. Tod in the presence of the audience, the Judges' discussion of their decisions being used as a commentary on the exhibits and their merits, and the methods of judging.

All the above lectures were illustrated with coloured slides and drew very good attendances.

HENRY TOD, C.R.

EDINBURGH AND MIDLOTHIAN

MEETINGS will be held each month in the Scottish Tourist Board's Hall, 2 Rutland Place (West End of Princes Street), Edinburgh, 1. Doors open at 7.45 p.m. for 8 p.m. prompt.

Tea is served after the lecture and before discussion time at a charge of 2/6 per head, which includes charge for hall (increased this year, hence 6d on our charge). Members are urged to bring interesting plants along to each meeting.

A Syllabus will be issued in October to the joint groups. Here are the dates : Tuesday, 14th October ; Tuesday, 11th November ; Tuesday, 9th December ; Tuesday, 20th January ; Tuesday, 17th February ; Tuesday, 17th March ; Tuesday, 14th April ; and Tuesday, 12th May.

W. R. ADAMS, C.R.

PERTHSHIRE

ON 20th September 1957, the first day of the Club Show in Perth, Mr. David Wilkie spoke on "Less Common Rock Plants" to the great interest not only of local members but also of the many keen plantsmen in the Fair City on that day for the Show.

No area meeting was arranged for October as the A.G.M. was held in Perth on 26th October, when members enjoyed the privilege of hearing Mr. Alec Gray's comprehensive survey of miniature daffodils and the problems arising in their cultivation.

On 5th November Mr. John C. Lawson, Mr. Jack Drake's partner, showed slides of many of the plants at Inshriach and commented on their cultivation.

On 3rd December at our "Members' Evening," when members of our own group were invited to show their slides and plants of interest and to raise their plant problems or pass on good tips or warnings of snags encountered in cultivation, we enjoyed specially a further selection of Mr. James Aitken's splendid photographs of plants and places in Mull and on the west coast of Scotland, and "discovered new talent" when Mr. Lacey, our City's Park Superintendent, projected delightful slides of scenes from the municipal gardens.

On 5th February 1958, Mr. J. Cartwright, our local Horticultural Adviser from the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, spoke on "Beauty without the Beast," giving us up-to-date information about pest control in the Rock Garden, where the special conditions tend to favour certain types of pest and create difficulties in dealing with them.

On 4th March Mrs. E. D. Wilson, C.R. from West Fife group, gave us the "Plants, Places and People" talk which we always try to include in our syllabus as this item is always very popular. Mrs. Wilson spoke on her recent winter holiday in South Africa and delighted us with her highly interesting and frequently amusing commentary on magnificent

slides ranging from aerial mountain photographs to close-ups of plants and gardens. After seeing her gorgeous technicolor photographs of tribal dances, we think we know what happened to the H.L.I. kilts.

Mr. J. L. Mowat "Judged Aloud" so interestingly and enthusiastically on 1st April that several members were encouraged to show at Dundee on 9th April. Questions were numerous and wide-ranging, and a very interesting selection of plants was displayed despite the wintry conditions.

Two district meetings were held at Blairgowrie. On 28th November Mr. A. Kennedy Johnston, J.P., showed exquisite slides of his very fine plants at the Rowans, Invergowrie, and on 27th February our Honorary Treasurer gave us one of his typically enthusiasm-whetting talks, impeccably illustrated, on plants for the small rock garden. It is a great pity that both talks were only lightly attended, although there are many members in the district and the poor response to these excellent speakers does not encourage the C.R. to arrange further meetings for the special convenience of members in this area.

Two garden visits were made. On 14th May, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Euan Cox, we saw at Glendoick a very wide range of the dwarfier rhododendron species and Japanese hybrid azaleas at their best. Undoubtedly, members who were not already rhododendron enthusiasts came away converted. Magnolias of several species were much admired, as was the completely suited *Phlox stolonifera*, which I have never seen so happy elsewhere. At Glendoick it might almost be described as ramping.

On 4th June we visited the Botanic Gardens at St. Andrews, where Mr. Mowat, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Weir showed us the many wonderful plants and answered innumerable questions. From such a wealth of splendid plants it is difficult to select only a few for special mention, but I have never before seen such wonderful specimens of *Anemone obtusiloba* var. *patula*, such enormous Lewisias as the *howelli* hybrid in the peat wall, or happier plants than the *Cypripedium pubescens*—and what a striking blue were the flowers of *Penstemon albertinus* !

R. G. Dow, C.R.

SELKIRKSHIRE

ON THE 22nd November last year Mr. T. M. Shearer of the College of Agriculture gave an illustrated talk on "Rock Garden Plants." This meeting was held in Selkirk and was well supported. Mr. Shearer brought with him some beautiful slides and invited the audience to ask any questions while they were being shown.

We are indeed grateful to Mr. David Livingstone who travelled from Edinburgh to lecture to us in Old Gala House, Galashiels, on 7th March this year. Apart from bringing with him some very interesting slides, some of them of his own rockery, he produced some lovely

species of crocus and arranged them in pans for our inspection. Although the attendance at this meeting was disappointing owing to the weather, those present thoroughly enjoyed the lecture.

Since April we have added another nine members from Galashiels to our list and so, on the 18th May, we had a worthwhile number for our bus trip to Lady Joicey's estate, Etal Manor in Northumberland. The weather could not have been better and we were able to wander among the glades of Rhododendrons, Magnolias and Cherry blossom. All agreed that they had never seen such a riot of colour in such perfect surroundings.

Mrs. and Miss Sutcliffe very kindly invited members to see their lovely garden at Ovens Closs, near Selkirk. The weather was perfect and we saw some good specimens of rock plants in ideal surroundings. Our hostesses entertained us to tea, which was much appreciated.

P. F. EWART, C.R.

STIRLINGSHIRE

THIS YEAR we held three meetings in Stirling and one in Falkirk. The opening meeting of the season, in Stirling, was addressed by Major Knox Finlay, as already reported.

In November Mr. J. A. Stainton gave a lecture to a large audience on recent botanical expeditions to Nepal, illustrating his talk with magnificent coloured slides of the country and its beautiful flora.

In March we had the pleasure of having Mr. J. A. Aitken to lecture on "The Scottish Mountains and their Flowers," and his exceptional slides of our native mountains and plants were very much appreciated. In April a meeting was held at Falkirk, when Mr. David Livingstone gave a very helpful and stimulating talk on "The Small Rock Garden and its Plants." This lecture was illustrated with excellent slides from the Club Slide Library. In May a number of members paid an all too short evening visit to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, where, in spite of the late and difficult Spring, there was much to note and admire.

The first meeting for the 1958-59 season will be on Monday, 27th October, at 7.30 p.m. in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling, when Mr. Stewart Mitchell will give an illustrated lecture on "Swiss Alpines."

Members will be notified of any later arrangements in due course.

J. McEWAN, C.R.

SUTHERLAND, CAITHNESS, ORKNEY and SHETLAND

A PLEASANT outing of the Caithness branch was held at Dunnet Head, the most northerly point on the mainland of Scotland.

On the neighbouring sand-dunes of Dunnet, some specimens of *Primula scotica* were found to have just finished their first blooming, this being June 25th—rather later this year.

Other flowers found were Prunella, Buckbean, Herb-Robert, Red Rattle, Common Milkwort, Heath Milkwort, Eyebright, Marshmarigold, Heartsease, Butterwort, Buttercup, Thyme, Early Purple Orchid, Marsh Orchid, Spotted Orchid, Watermint, Marsh Lousewort, Germander Speedwell.

At Dunnet Head, over 300 ft. above sea level, to the east of the lighthouse, was seen a carpet of Vernal Squills waving like a sea in a stiff breeze. Sea pinks in different hues were massed at different heights on the cliff face. Away from the cliff edge were various coloured Orchids, Heath Dog Violet, heathers and wild cotton. What amazed most members was the large number of different varieties to be found in close proximity to each other.

(Mrs.) C. MACDONALD, C.R.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

THIS SUMMER we were fortunate in having two perfect days for our visits to the Barnbarroch Nurseries (Miss King and Dr. Paton) in Kirkcudbrightshire, and to Sir Samuel Beale's lovely garden in Ayrshire. At Barnbarroch there was a wealth of rock plants to see and learn about from seedlings and tiny cuttings to mature heaths and dwarf Rhododendrons obviously tended with great care. At Drumlanford the beautiful setting of copper beeches and 20 ft. Rhododendrons in full bloom showed off the smaller Azaleas and rock garden made on the site of an old grotto.

I would like, on behalf of the 30-40 members who so thoroughly enjoyed these visits, to thank our host and hostesses for their generous hospitality, and for showing us their treasures.

Last winter we had monthly lectures and are indebted to Dr. Paton, Dr. Kellie Brooke, Mr. Brian Taylor and Major Walmsley for their illustrated talks on various aspects of propagation and rock gardens.

Winter meetings will again be held in Newton Stewart from November and it is hoped to see as many members as possible. Dates will be arranged later.

L. W., C.R.

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

THERE WERE four meetings at the Bluebell Hotel, Belford, during the Autumn and Winter season. All were reasonably well attended, but there were not large numbers, and it would be a great pleasure to see more members taking an active interest. With this in view, it is intended to send reminders for each meeting during the coming year, but with present rates of postage this will be a great drain on local funds, and it is hoped that the response will make it worth while.

In September there was a meeting with an exchange of plants, which is always popular; then in October Dr. Henry Tod, F.R.S.E.,

gave a most interesting and unusual lecture, "Adventuring with Plants." This dealt with collecting and raising plants and caused a lively discussion among an appreciative audience. He showed many fine slides.

In November Mrs. L. C. Boyd-Harvey spoke on "The Garden in Winter." By request of the lecturer, over a dozen members brought posies of flowers and berries and arranged them in vases. These greatly added to the enjoyment of an entertaining lecture and, altogether, it was a very pleasant evening.

In December we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Alfred Evans, Assistant Curator of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. His subject was "Dwarf Shrubs," which included scramblers as well as the taller kinds. Mr. Evans was, as always, a most interesting and knowledgeable speaker and his coloured slides were most delightful.

On 6th March Mr. Gordon Harrison of Ponteland gave a talk—"My Garden," illustrated with coloured slides taken by himself. Mr. Harrison has collected alpine plants in both the Alps and the Pyrenees and he showed us many of these plants growing in his own garden. This was the last lecture of the season and it was very well attended.

Seven gardens were visited and all were most interesting, but the meetings were not as well attended as they should have been. Unhappily, the weather was most unkind.

On 29th April we paid yet another visit to Kilbryde, Corbridge, the home of Mr. R. B. Cooke. The garden was full of interest, as always; there were many early primulas, rhododendrons and cassinias, plants with which Mr. Cooke excels. The plant of *Leucogenes grandiceps* on the wall, whose photograph had just appeared in the *Journal*, proved a great attraction, as did many fine forms of *pulsatillas*, and *Adonis brevistyla*.

On 8th and 9th May the members visited Cumberland and Westmorland. The two gardens arranged were Muncaster Castle, the home of Sir John Ramsden, and Colonel and Mrs. W. D. Crewdson's garden at Helme Lodge, Kendal, but the small party separated and visited several other gardens of their own choice. Muncaster Castle garden was seen in heavy rain, but even that could not mar the very great pleasure it gave. The quality and quantity of rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias was quite wonderful and the setting of mountain scenery so very fine that this must surely be the most beautiful garden in the country. The party was shown round by the enthusiastic and very knowledgeable head gardener and this greatly added to their pleasure. Among the rhododendrons were many fine crosses from the yellow *R. campylocarpum*. The next morning the party met at Helme Lodge, where they were shown the garden by Mrs. Crewdson and her guests, Miss Hilda and Miss Margaret Sharples. Here was seen a wealth of lovely and rare rock plants in a fine setting and, not least, many meconopsis. The members were very grateful to Mrs. Crewdson for her hospitality on a somewhat dismal, damp morning. At times on the

tour the party broke up and saw several other gardens, which included Miss Hough's at White Craggs, Clappersgate, a magnificent natural rock garden on the hillside above Windermere. Here azaleas are the most spectacular, but meconopsis, ramondas and many other fine plants were in abundance. In the garden by the house a large magnolia and a huge bush of *Osmanthus delavayi* in full bloom was scenting the air. Unhappily, during the visit to this garden the rain was so heavy that one member progressed under the shelter of an umbrella, while others wished they had one as the water was penetrating their rain-coats. Other gardens seen were the Misses Sharples' at Grange; a small garden containing a piece of rock-work laid out by Mr. Reginald Kaye and also table beds. These housed many interesting and well-grown plants, while a fine tree of *Prunus serrulata grandiflora* was in full bloom. Yet another garden was Mrs. Walmsley Carter's at Windermere. Here were eighty stone troughs and table rock beds and the members soon decided that Mrs. Carter was among the finest cultivators of alpiners. Many rare and difficult plants were seen making large clumps and in flourishing condition. The nurseries of Messrs. Hayes at Grasmere were also visited by some members. Everyone enjoyed this brief visit to the West, which was only marred by the unpleasant weather, but it was regrettable that so few attended.

On Friday, 16th May, the Group visited the gardens at Dawyck, by kind permission of Colonel and Mrs. A. N. Balfour. Colonel Balfour showed the party round the extensive grounds, where there were many rhododendron species and also fine old conifers. The curious upright-growing Dawyck beech was also seen and Colonel Balfour mentioned that cuttings from this unique tree have provided avenues in many gardens, including Windsor Park. Enormous quantities of naturalised daffodils were just at their best, but here again the weather proved unkind.

The final day of garden visits was on Tuesday, 3rd June, when three gardens in East Lothian were seen. First, the Group met at Sqdn./Ldr. and Mrs. Boyd-Harvey's garden at Dirleton. This was a very foggy morning and members were very glad of the hospitality dispensed by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey on arrival. The rock garden was a delight, as always, and fine plants were noticed of *Campanula allioni*, *Primula clarkei*, *Rhododendron camschaticum* and the difficult native, *Mertensia maritima*, as well as the fine pan of *Oxalis laciniata*, which won the Forrest Medal at Dunfermline the following week. In the afternoon the party was shown round Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baillie's attractive little garden at Longniddry. This was packed with interesting alpiners very well-grown, and an outstanding plant which was new to most of the members—*Euphorbia griffithii*—a tawny red-flowered plant suitable for the wild garden. Lastly, the Group visited the County Representative, Miss Christian Nisbet, at Stobshiel House, where they saw many meconopsis and Miss Nisbet's fine form of *Meconopsis integrifolia* was much admired. After seeing the rock garden, the members were shown the house and entertained to tea. With great good fortune the

mist dispersed and warm sun came out so that the charming old house in its fine setting of hills could be properly appreciated.

On Wednesday, 25th June, the local Annual General Meeting was held in the Blue Bell Hotel, Belford.

A Plant Exchange afternoon is to take place on Wednesday, 24th September. Four lectures will be arranged. The first is to be on Tuesday, 21st October, when Mr. Stewart Mitchell will show the slides he took on "A Holiday in Switzerland."

D. C. PAPE, C.R.

Book Review

"THE CREAM OF ALPINES," by Frank Barker. Published by Thomas Nelson & Sons, Ltd., price 15/-

How often do we read that "this is a book which ought to be read by everyone," as a rule, I'm afraid, with very little justification? Here, however, we do have a book of which we can confidently say that it should be read by all who are interested in rock plants and rock gardening. It is no compilation of second-hand information culled from other sources, but the personal and intimate knowledge of a craftsman and lover of the plants concerned. Mr. Barker has dealt with his chosen plants fully and in detail, both as to the plants themselves and their likes and dislikes under cultivation and also in their natural homes, his intimate knowledge of them in the wild helping him in his growing of them in the garden or alpine house. Perhaps, or probably, not all would make the same choice as his "first fifty" (though Mr. Barker has made, in addition, passing references to many other worthwhile species and varieties), but few would willingly drop any out of his list. In addition to the admirable notes on cultivation, the advice on methods of propagation best suited to each plant should prove invaluable.

The set-up is very pleasing, with a clear, distinct type and good broad margins. What a pity it is that the illustrations, of which there are many—both line and coloured—are not up to the same high standard. Many of the colour plates badly lack detail and are well off colour, and some of the line drawings are not in the least helpful. In spite of this "The Cream of the Alpines" is a book all members should read, and at 15/- it is not a dear book.

J. L. MOWAT

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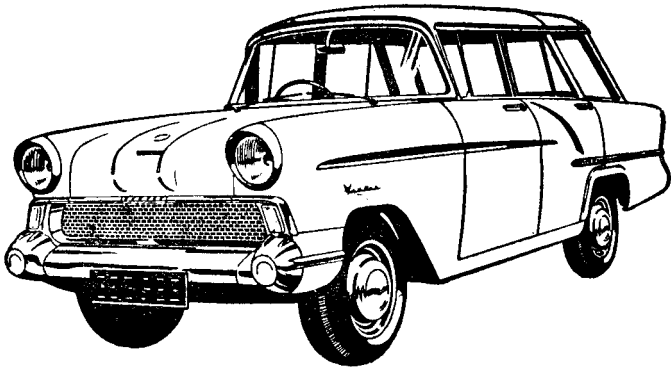
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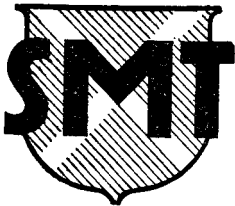
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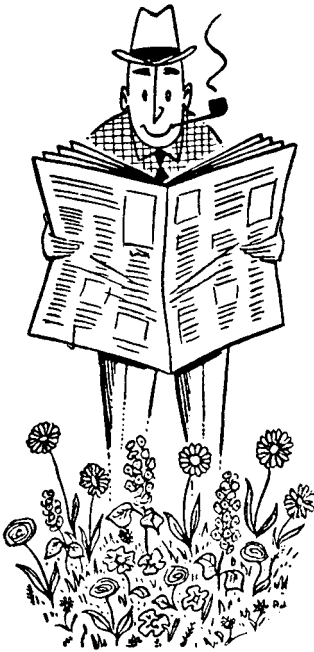
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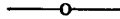
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