

The Journal OF The Scottish Rock Garden Club



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SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN DISCUSSION WEEK END — ABERDEEN

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, 24th and 25th OCTOBER 1959

in THE NORTHERN HOTEL, KITTYBREWSTER, ABERDEEN
Telephone No. 43342

1. The Discussion Week-end is to take place in Aberdeen this year, and members who wish to participate in the programme which has been arranged should get in touch with Lt.-Colonel W. Mitchell, 43 Hazledene Road, Aberdeen, without delay. All arrangements for accommodation, etc., are in his hands, and early application should be made as detailed below.

2. The charges to be made for the Week-end are as follows :—

A. For Residents with full board from the commencement of the lectures and discussions to the end 60/- per head
inc. gratuities

This includes Afternoon Tea and Dinner with Coffee on the 24th. Bed and Breakfast on the Saturday night and Sunday morning, followed by Luncheon with Coffee, and Afternoon Tea on the 25th.

B. For Non-Residents with the following Meals only : Afternoon Tea and Dinner with Coffee on the 24th and Luncheon with Coffee followed by Afternoon Tea on the 25th 32/- per head
inc. gratuities

C. Non-Residents with Afternoon Tea only on the 24th and on the 25th 15/6 per head
inc. gratuities

3. The Programme :—

Sat. 24th 2.30 p.m. Opening Address and Secretary's Announcements.
2.40 p.m. Lecture followed by Discussion.
4.00 p.m. Afternoon Tea.

- 5.15 p.m. Any Questions. Here a panel of experts will endeavour to answer questions submitted by members. See item 5.
- 7.00 p.m. Dinner.
- 8.15 p.m. Lecture and Discussion.
- Sun. 25th 10.30 a.m. Lecture followed by Discussion.
- 11.40 a.m. Break.
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch.
- 2.30 p.m. "Selected Topics." A variety of subjects dealt with by different speakers.
- 4.00 p.m. Vice-Chairman's remarks.
- 4.15 p.m. Afternoon Tea.
- 5.00 p.m. Close Down.

Lecturers : Among the lecturers we hope to present to you are Mr. Roy Elliott of Birmingham, Mr. Will Ingwersen of East Grinstead, and Mr. David Livingstone of Glasgow.

4. *Additional Outing*.—If sufficient members are interested in doing so, we shall visit the Crathes Castle Gardens on the morning of the 24th. Although well through October, Crathes should have quite a display of Autumn colour, quite apart from the fine collection of Shrubs, etc., which are always on view. The charge for this outing will be 5/- per head and members who wish to take advantage of this should make the necessary entry on the pro-forma below. Details of time of departure, etc., will be sent to you with the acknowledgement of your remittance.
5. With regard to the "Any Questions" Panel, I would be very glad if you would send me any suitable questions which you may have to ask. Send them please on Post Cards, one question to each Post Card, and I shall endeavour to have them raised and dealt with. Send your questions along with your remittance.
6. The arrangement of meetings of this kind always involves some expense and I need hardly say that in Aberdeen we are no different in this respect from any other centre. If any kind members have a plant or two which they could see their way to "give away," such plants will be most gratefully received and will be auctioned in an effort to raise a little money to cover outlying expenditure.

B N^o 21678

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

(Annual Subscription 10/-, Life Membership £10)

The Club's aims are to create an interest in Rock Garden Plants, and encourage their cultivation, especially amongst those who have only small gardens. Hundreds of such plants can be grown in a very small space, even in a few frames, and there is no more fascinating hobby.

By becoming a member of this Club you are entitled to :

1. Receive the Journals and other publications.
2. Attend all Shows free of charge and enter plants in any of the numerous classes, which include some for novices. Prizes are awarded and there is no entry fee for members.
3. Free advice on cultivation, etc., by experts through the Club's Information Bureau.
4. Participate in any organised visit to other members' gardens, and attend lectures and discussions.
5. Take part in the exchange and distribution of surplus seed.

County Representatives and District Sub-Committees, where the number of members justifies these, try to keep in touch with members' wants, and arrange local lectures, exhibitions, expeditions, etc.

B N^o 21678

TO ENROL OR RENEW

Fill up ONE of the Forms overleaf and send to

Subscription Secretary
Honorary Treasurer:

~~SECRETARY: MISS GERALDINE CURRIE,~~ Miss GERALDINE CURRIE,
~~10, Oxfang Road,~~ 39 Oxfang Road,
~~Edinburgh, 10.~~ Edinburgh, 10.

The Banker's Order Form saves both the Member and the ~~Treasurer~~ trouble. Please send it to the ~~Treasurer~~, NOT to the Bank.

Member's Club No.....
(Inserted by Treasurer)

BANKER'S ORDER FORM

To
(Name and Address of your Bank)

Please pay to The Clydesdale & North of Scotland Bank, Ltd.,
George Street, Edinburgh (quoting my Club No.), for credit of
The Scottish Rock Garden Club account, the sum of Ten Shillings
(10/-), being my subscription to the Club, now, and on 1st September
next, and in each succeeding year until otherwise ordered.

SIGNATURE

2d Stamp

DATE.....

Mr., Mrs., Miss.....
(Please write in block letters)

Address

County

This Form should be sent to Treasurer and **NOT** to Bank.

CASH PAYMENT FORM

This form may be sent with a remittance of 10/- as a subscription
for one year, or £10 for Life Membership.

I, Mr., Mrs., Miss.....
(Please write in block letters)

Address

County

enclose the sum of , being my membership subscription
for the year.....

(Note.—The S.R.G.C. year ends on 31st August)

Date..... Signature.....

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

:o:

Boonslie, Dirleton,
East Lothian.
28th September 1959.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Club will be held in the **GROSVENOR RESTAURANT, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW, C.I.,** on **WEDNESDAY the 21st OCTOBER 1959,** at **2.15 p.m.**

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules (pages 2 and 3 in the 1958/59 Year Book), the President having served four years as President, retires and is not eligible for re-election as President, but shall automatically become a Vice-President.

In accordance with the Constitution all Office-Bearers retire annually. The following are, however, eligible, and are willing to serve if re-elected:—

Hon. Editor—Mr J. L. Mowat.
Hon. Publicity Manager—Mr J. T. Aitken.
Hon. Seed Distribution Manager—Mrs C. E. Davidson.
Hon. Curator of Slide Library—Dr J. Davidson.
Hon. Treasurer—Mr D. Elder.
Hon. Secretary—Sqdn.-Ldr. J. J. Boyd-Harvey.

Hon. Show Secretaries:—

Aberdeen—Lt.-Col. W. Mitchell.
Dumfries—
Dundee—Miss J. A. Halley.
Dunfermline—Mrs E. D. Wilson.
Edinburgh—Mr G. Millar, M.C., F.R.C.S.
Glasgow—Mr R. J. C. Biggart.
North Berwick—Mr C. W. Sanderson.
Penicuik—Dr H. Tod, F.R.S.E.
Perth—Mr R. G. Dow.

Mr R. Forbes has intimated that he does not seek re-election as Dumfries Hon. Show Secretary.

Auditor—Mr S. Milne, C.A., has resigned from office, and Mrs A. G. Ponton, C.A., who has been acting, is willing to serve if elected.

FOUR Vice-Presidents to be elected to the Council from the list of Vice-Presidents, of whom the following are willing to serve if elected:—

Mr K. C. Corsar of Cairniehill.
Mr E. Darling.
Miss H. M. Logan Home.
Maj. Gen. D. M. Murray-Lyon, D.S.O., M.C.
Mr D. Wilkie, A.H.R.H.S.

Nominations are required for **SIX ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS** to take the place of the six retiring members, Miss M. E. Gibson, M.B., Ch.B., Mr D. Livingstone Mr N. C. Lyle, Dr D. M. Morison, F.R.C.S., Mrs E. D. Short, and Mrs D. Tweedie, who are not eligible for re-election until after the lapse of one year.

The Council recommends the creation of a new Office—the Hon. Subscription Secretary. Miss Geraldine Currie has been acting as Hon. Subscription Secretary, and is willing to serve if elected.

NOMINATIONS are therefore required for election to the Office of:—

- a. President.
- b. All Office-Bearers, including the Office of Hon. Subscription Secretary if the creation of this Office is approved.
- c. Four Vice-Presidents to serve on the Council.
- d. Six Ordinary members of the Council.

Will you please let me have any nominations you wish to make **NOT LATER THAN 6th OCTOBER 1959**. A short statement should be attached in support of any nominee who is not at present acting on the Council, together with the nominee's written statement of willingness to serve.

TEA will be served after the Meeting (3/6), and it is hoped that all attending will avail themselves of this opportunity to meet their fellow-members.

After tea at approximately 4.15 p.m., the **ANNUAL CLARK MEMORIAL LECTURE** will be given by the **HONORARY PRESIDENT** of the Club—**PROFESSOR J. R. MATTHEWS, C.B.E., M.A., F.L.S., F.R.S.E.** The lecture will be "**SCOTTISH PLANTS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN**" and it will be illustrated.

Yours faithfully,

J. J. BOYD-HARVEY,
Honorary Secretary.

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 15th October 1958.
2. Consider for adoption the Accounts for year ending 31/8/59.
3. Election of the President.
4. Creation of Office of Honorary Subscription Secretary.
5. Alteration of Rule 5 (d). At the end of sub para (d) and after the words "if elected," add the words "and attend Council meetings."
6. Election of Office-Bearers.
7. Election of Four Vice-Presidents to serve on the Council.
8. Election of Six Ordinary members of the Council.
9. Appointment of Auditor.
10. Decide on place of Annual General Meeting for 1960
11. Intimation of Show dates for 1960.

7. This is our first attempt to handle a "Discussion Week-end." We are trying very hard to make it a success, and we do hope that we may be able to welcome you to our midst. We feel sure you will have an enjoyable time, and we have gone out of our way to try to provide you with first-rate lecturers and an interesting programme.

Until we meet,

Yours sincerely,

W. MITCHELL, Lt.-Col.

43 Hazledene Road,
Aberdeen.

Detach and send to Lt.-Colonel W. MITCHELL, 43 Hazledene Road, Aberdeen, *with remittance.*

NO. OF MEMBERS FOR WHICH THIS APPLICATION IS MADE	ACCOMMODATION WHICH IS DESIRED	AMOUNT OF MONEY ENCLOSED		
		£	S.	D.
	Residents with Full Board at £3 per head (A)		
	Non-Residents with Four Meals at £1 12/- per head (B)		
	Non-Residents with Afternoon Tea only at 15/6 per head (C)		
	Bus Outing to Crathes Castle at 5/- per head		

Name or Names of Member(s)

Address of Same

Remember to enclose your questions (see item 5 above). Make your cheques payable to me and remember, too, to post it with this Form to :—

Lt.-Colonel W. MITCHELL,
43 Hazledene Road,
Aberdeen.

I will do all the rest for you !

The Journal OF The Scottish Rock Garden Club

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

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Office-Bearers for Year 1959-60

Honorary President :

Professor J. R. MATTHEWS, C.B.E., M.A., F.L.S., F.R.S.E., Department of Botany,
The University, Old Aberdeen.

Honorary Vice-Presidents :

Mr. R. E. COOPER, F.R.S.E., 40 Grosvenor Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
Mr. DAVID WILKIE, A.H.R.H.S., 11 Lammerview Terrace, Gullane, East Lothian.

President :

Major-General D. M. MURRAY-LYON, D.S.O., M.C., Ardcuil, Pitlochry, Perthshire.

Vice-Presidents :

Mrs. J. HALLY BROWN, Craignahullie, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire.
Mr. A. CAMPBELL, W.S., 18 Duke Street, Edinburgh, 1.
Mr. K. C. CORSAR, of Cairniehill, Mauricewood, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.
Mr. E. DARLING, Ravenswood, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire.
Lt.-Colonel J. C. DUNDAS, D.S.O., D.L., Ochertyre, Stirling.
Miss H. M. LOGAN HOME, Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire.
Mr. J. T. RENTON, C.B.E., Branklyn, Perth.
Major A. WALMSLEY, M.C., Culderry, Garlieston, Wigtownshire.
Mr. DAVID WILKIE, A.H.R.H.S., 11 Lammerview Terrace, Gullane, East Lothian.

COUNCIL

President :

Major-General D. M. MURRAY-LYON, D.S.O., M.C., Ardcuil, Pitlochry, Perthshire.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. E. DARLING, Ravenswood, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire.
Mr. K. C. CORSAR, of Cairniehill, Mauricewood, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.
Miss H. M. LOGAN HOME, Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire.
Mr. DAVID WILKIE, A.H.R.H.S., 11 Lammerview Terrace, Gullane, East Lothian.

Ordinary Members :

(To retire in October 1959)

Miss M. E. GIBSON, M.B., CH.B., Brackenhill, Colvend, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire.
Mr. D. LIVINGSTONE, 13 Cluny Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow.
Mr. N. C. LYLE, Maryfield Nurseries, Leslie, Fife.
Dr. D. M. MORISON, F.R.C.S., White Lodge, Barnton Avenue, Edinburgh, 4.
Mrs. E. D. SHORT, Old Graden, Kelso, Roxburghshire.
Mrs. DAVID TWEEDIE, Chapel Bank, Dirlerton, East Lothian.

(To retire in October 1960)

Mrs. E. CLARK, Coira, Kirkgunzeon, by Dumfries.
Dr. L. M. DEAN, 9 Ledcameroch Crescent, Bearsden, Dunbartonshire.
Miss JOYCE A. HALLEY, Roycroft, Yewbank Avenue, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Angus.
Mr. E. E. KEMP, 7A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, 3.
Dr. H. A. ROBERTSON, Fairlie Hope, Cults, Aberdeenshire.
Mr. A. TODD, 23 Thomson Drive, Bearsden, Dunbartonshire.

(To retire in October 1961)

Mr. W. R. M. ADAMS, 82 Pentland Terrace, Edinburgh, 10.
Mr. R. BAILLIE, Grainfoot, Longniddry, East Lothian.
Mr. A. B. DUGUID, Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire.
Dr. H. R. FLETCHER, D.Sc., V.M.H., F.R.S.E., Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 3.
Mr. G. F. LAURIE, Laurel Villa, Bishopbriggs, Lanarkshire.
Mr. W. URIE, Northcote, Turnberry, Girvan, Ayrshire.

Honorary Editor :

Mr. J. L. MOWAT, University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, Fife.

Honorary Publicity Manager :

Mr. JAMES T. AITKEN, 75 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh, 4.

Honorary Seed Distribution Manager :

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

Honorary Curator of Slide Library :

Dr. JAMES DAVIDSON, Linton Muir, West Linton, Peeblesshire.

Honorary Treasurer :

Mr. DAVID ELDER, Jessamine, Kirkhill, Penicuik, Midlothian.

Honorary Subscription Secretary :

Miss GERALDINE CURRIE, 39 Oxfangs Road, Edinburgh, 10.

Honorary Secretary :

Squadron-Leader J. J. BOYD-HARVEY, Boonslie, Dirlerton, East Lothian.

Honorary Show Secretaries :

Aberdeen : Lt.-Colonel W. MITCHELL, 43 Hazledene Road, Aberdeen.
Dumfries : Mr. R. FORBES, Gracefield Lodge, Lovers Walk, Dumfries.
Dundee : Mr. STEWART MITCHELL, 1 Muirfield Crescent, Dundee, Angus.
Dunfermline : Mrs. E. D. WILSON, 39 Townhill Road, Dunfermline, Fife.
Edinburgh : Joint Hon. Secretaries—Mr. G. MILLAR, M.C., F.R.C.S., 15 Frogston Road East, Edinburgh, 9; and Mrs. DOREEN MURPHY, 29 Clarebank Crescent, Edinburgh, 6.
Glasgow : Mr. R. J. C. BIGGART, Melvaig, Kilmacoll, Renfrewshire.
North Berwick : Mr. C. W. SANDERSON, Birnieknowes, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire.
Penicuik : Dr. H. TOD, F.R.S.E., Carnethy, Seafield, Roslin, Midlothian.
Perth : Mr. ROBERT G. DOW, 9 Myrtle Road, Scone, Perthshire.

Honorary Auditor :

Mrs. A. G. PONTON, The Gardens, Kirknewton, Midlothian.

Editor's Notes

NOT FOR many years has the country experienced such a summer of sunshine and warmth as we have been favoured with this year. In Scotland it is usually only after the longest day that the really warm weather sets in. Even though we get long spells of bright, dry weather in spring and early summer, it is generally hard with a chill wind behind the sun.

This year the warm weather came early (and suddenly) when in mid-February the temperature rose from maxima in the thirties to maxima in the fifties inside forty-eight hours, and on 1st March reached a maximum of 60°F. Though many shook their heads and asserted that this was too good to last, we are all able to say now that it did last more or less unbroken right into August.

The sudden change from five or six weeks unbroken frost, and the subsequent high temperatures without any counteracting night frosts, had a most upsetting influence on the entries at most of the Club Shows, and a common complaint was that many of the plants scheduled were over long before show time, so that there was an understandable falling-off in entries. The Shows which suffered least in this respect were the two earliest ones—Penicuik and Dumfries; in fact, we have heard from several members that the Show at Dumfries this year was its “best ever”—and Dumfries Show has always been good!

A striking feature of many of the Shows—notably that at Dunfermline—was the commendably high standard of cultivation and presentation attained by most newcomers to the ranks of the competitors. If this keenness and quality is maintained it would seem safe to say that the future of Club Shows will remain safe in the hands of members who have proved themselves well able to take the place of those exhibitors who from one reason or another are gradually easing up on the competitive side of their rock garden interests. At the same time we hope that the “old hands” will long continue to take an active part and so pass on to their fellows the benefit of their longer experience in growing and showing.

Talking of Shows brings to mind other recent or forthcoming activities of the Club. A Summer Week from 27th June to 4th July at St. Andrews was organised as an experiment, and Club officials were doubtful as to what the response might be, but after a slow start doubts were set at rest when an enrolment of sixty-five was finally attained. The Week itself is well reported in later pages, and for this our thanks are due in great measure to Mr. Barnes of Newcastle. Or should it now be “of Edinburgh”?

There is to be an ambitious Discussion Week-end in October in Aberdeen, as mentioned in a later page and in an accompanying leaflet. These Week-ends have proved themselves most enjoyable and instructive occasions and members having a mind to attend should waste no time in applying to Colonel Mitchell. Another Week-end,

to take place in Dunoon next spring, is something of an innovation in these matters and promises to be a most delightful affair. Members are to visit some of Argyll's wonderful rhododendron gardens at the height of their blooming. This should be a week-end of thrills, and here again members should read carefully the announcement on page 328 and make early application.

A note will be seen on page 328 concerning the Index recently compiled and published. It is only on looking through this index that one begins to realise how extensive and comprehensive a range of rock plants and similar plants of specialist interest have been described or mentioned in the pages of the Club's *Journals* in its comparatively short life. It is also impressed on us that the compilation of this index must have meant a most laborious effort by Mr. MacGregor.

All members will regret that ill health, which we confidently feel is only temporary, has made necessary the resignation of Mr. Stewart Mitchell from the office of Club Treasurer and his various other activities. An appreciation by Dr. Henry Tod of what Mr. Mitchell has done for the Club appears later, but we feel that we must add our own thanks for all the co-operation, help and encouragement we have had from him. By his duties as treasurer, county representative for Angus, and show secretary for Dundee, he must have been known to many members, and to many more by his correspondence and by his unflinching willingness when called on to lecture at group meetings in all parts of the country. He has been an able and popular lecturer, and we look to the time when we will again have the pleasure of listening to his informally chatty discourse which accompanied his fine colour transparencies.

From various parts of Scotland, particularly from some of the less accessible areas, we hear of the great difficulty experienced in persuading speakers to come and lecture at group meetings. Even though provision is made to cover travelling expenses, there is still the problem of time absorbed in travelling; not every member who might otherwise offer their services can readily spare the two days often necessary to speak at an evening meeting in some distant part of the country—or perhaps not so distant but awkward of access. We feel sure that county representatives responsible for the compiling of winter programmes would be grateful for any offers of help in this direction or for any advice on the subject. Any who are willing to give a talk on some aspect of rock-gardening and who feel able to spare the necessary time should offer their services to the Hon. Secretary or to a county representative.

We have also heard from several quarters expressions of concern at the loss of a number of members after a brief membership of the Club. Some county representatives have reason to think this is very often due to the creation of a feeling of hopeless inadequacy in the new member after attending a meeting or two and being overwhelmed in a flood of technical terms and botanical names. While we know

that some C.R.s are putting their minds to trying to find a remedy for this, we feel that the remedy is already available for those who really desire to acquire an elementary knowledge and then progress further in the enjoyment of rock-gardening. To bring all meetings or even a percentage of them to beginner's level would make things very boring for members of some years' standing and might mean losing *their* interest. If a new member really wishes to advance his or her knowledge of rock plants and their culture, numbers of good books on the subject are available at little cost—or may be had at any library. In addition, most Club groups have members' nights during the winter, when all sorts of questions are welcomed and discussed. Moreover, we have not yet met the member who was not eager and willing to help and advise a beginner and convert at any time.

By the Club's constitution the President, Major-General Murray-Lyon, is not eligible for re-election to office this year. During his four years of office he has been completely unsparing in his work for the Club's welfare—travelling the length and breadth of the country to meet the smallest and most distant groups, appearing at shows at great personal inconvenience, and—very helpful from the editor's viewpoint—always willing to contribute to the *Journal* anything which he thought could interest fellow members. We must all join in sincerely regretting that the last of four strenuous years has been marred for him by illness aggravated and prolonged by his determination to “pull his weight” to the end of his Presidential term.

Without new contributors this issue would have been a very thin *Journal*; many names which have usually appeared in these pages are conspicuously wanting—we hope only temporarily. The gratitude of all members must go to those who have come forward so ably. We earnestly hope that they will continue to contribute and that many more will put their ideas, their knowledge (or even the lack of it) on paper in good time for the next number.

St. Andrews, *September* 1959.

Annual Subscription 1959-60

ALL MEMBERS who have not already paid their annual subscription of 10/-, due on 1st September 1959, should do so as soon as possible. Please remit direct to the Hon. Subscription Secretary : Miss G. Currie, 39 Oxbgangs Road, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, 10. You are invited to renew your subscription by sending a Bankers' Order; it saves much trouble to yourself and to the Subscription Secretary. A form is enclosed with this *Journal*.

Note : the enclosure of these forms with *every* publication indicates that it is *not* their sole purpose to remind members of 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 ?

The Club's Treasurer

IT WAS with regret that we heard last winter that the Club's Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Stewart Mitchell, had decided to demit office, but the news of his very sudden and severe illness came as a stunning blow. I think we had all realised that the strain of his activities for the Club, in addition to his business, were taking a toll, and that he would have to give up the Treasurership, but I doubt if we realised that it would come so very near to killing him—for that was the plain fact.

Stewart Mitchell was County Representative for Angus, Show Secretary for the Dundee Show *and* Treasurer, an undertaking which would have daunted the most active man, but he did them all and very successfully at that. The measure of his work for the Club lies in the fact that three people at least will be required to take over from him—need more be said ?

We are very glad to hear that he is on the way to recovery, but it was a very near thing, and it will be many months before he will be allowed to take up the reins of his business again. Our sincerest thanks are due to him for the enormous amount he has so willingly done for the Club, and our sincerest apologies too, I feel, to him and to Mrs. Mitchell for so casually letting him drive himself so mercilessly for our interests.

HENRY TOD

The New Allocation of Duties

WILL ALL CLUB MEMBERS PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS AS FAR AS IS POSSIBLE.

The duties of the Treasurer have now been re-allocated by the division of the work between two office-bearers, the Subscription Secretary and the Treasurer. **ALL CORRESPONDENCE** relating to subscriptions, either new or renewals, and the remittance of such monies, should be sent to the Hon. Subscription Secretary and not to the Hon. Treasurer. The Hon. Subscription Secretary will also deal with the subjects listed below :—

Orders for back numbers of publications

Issue of publications

Changes of address or name or title

Any errors or inaccuracies in the List of Members

Notification of resignations (and, if possible, of deaths of members by relatives)

Sale and issue of Club lapel badges to County Representatives

General enquiries about subscriptions

The Hon. Treasurer will deal only with the following :—

County Representatives' accounts

Office-Bearers' accounts

Show accounts

Accounts pertaining to other Club functions, e.g. Discussion
Week-ends, etc.

IN SUMMARY (a) Only actual accounts should be sent to the Treasurer.

(b) All new memberships and renewals of membership should be sent to the Subscription Secretary with the subscription enclosed.

(c) All correspondence dealing with subscriptions should be sent to the Subscriptions Secretary.

ADDRESSES—Hon. Subscription Secretary: Miss G. Currie, 39 Oxfangs Road, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, 10.

Hon. Treasurer: David Elder, Esq., Jessamine, Kirkhill, Penicuik, Midlothian.

S.R.G.C. Christmas Cards

THE CLUB CHRISTMAS CARDS 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 desired. It will be sufficient to give figure numbers when ordering.

The price is 9/6 per dozen, post paid, including envelopes. Orders should be sent as soon as possible to the Hon. Treasurer: David Elder, Esq., Jessamine, Kirkhill, Penicuik, Midlothian, enclosing necessary remittance.

The steadily rising costs of production and postage of the *Journal* can be offset to some extent by your active support of this Christmas Card Scheme. Please place your orders **EARLY**.

American Primrose Society

The QUARTERLY contains interesting and constructive articles on Primulas by well-known growers in U.S.A. and in Europe.

Annual Subscription £1

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Mr. NORMAN LAWFIELD

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Index to Journals 1 to 19

THIS INDEX for *Journals* 1 to 19 inclusive (price 2/6, post free 3/-) is now in print and available to all who apply with the necessary remittance to the Hon. Editor : J. L. Mowat, University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, Scotland.

Seed Distribution

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IF PRINTING conditions are back to normal by November, Seed Lists should, as usual, be ready early in December. ALL Overseas members, also Home members who have donated seed this year, will automatically receive a copy. Other Home members may obtain one simply by sending a stamped (2d) self-addressed envelope, marked "Seed List," to Mrs. B. B. Cormack, The Cedars, 199 St. John's Road, Edinburgh, 12. These should, if possible, reach her by 1st December 1959.

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 alpine and dwarf shrubs. Seeds of trees, large shrubs and border plants of the rarer kinds are also in demand. It would be appreciated if members who send "wild" seed would, when possible, give the locality where collected.

It is particularly requested that donations are received **not later than 7th November**. Seed, or lists of seed arriving after this date, hold up the printing operations.

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

Discussion Week-end, Aberdeen, 24th-25th October, 1959

A DISCUSSION WEEK-END is to take place in Aberdeen on 24th-25th October and members who wish to participate should get in touch with Lt.-Colonel W. Mitchell, 43 Hasledene Road, Aberdeen, without delay. All arrangements for accommodation, etc., are in his hands and early application should be made to him.

Charges are as follows:—Full board and accommodation from afternoon of 24th to evening of 25th—60/- ; for non-residents, with tea and dinner on 24th and luncheon and tea on 25th—32/- ; for non-residents with afternoon tea only on 24th and 25th—15/6.

Speakers include Mr. William Ingwersen of East Grinstead, Mr. Roy Elliott of Birmingham, and Mr. David Livingstone of Glasgow. It is hoped to arrange a visit to Crathes Castle gardens on the morning of the 24th, if sufficient members are interested.

A Proposed Gardens Week-end in Spring 1960

THE EDINBURGH, Midlothian, and Argyll County Representatives of the Club propose to hold a "Gardens Week-end" open to all Members of the Club early in May 1960. The object is to visit several famous gardens in Argyll at such a time as the Rhododendrons will be at their best. Obviously this date cannot be fixed definitely until nearer the time, but Mr. H. H. Davidian, B.Sc., of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, will visit the gardens in question some time in March and give a firm date.

The programme proposed is roughly that on the Friday evening talks will be given on the gardens to be visited on the Saturday, and on the Saturday evening for the Sunday visits. The gardens to be visited are the Younger Botanic Garden, by courtesy of the Curator; Eckford, Lady Vivien Younger; Dunchreggan, Mrs. Turberville; and Tigh-a-Chruain, George Loam, Esq. Hotel accommodation will be booked in Dunoon for the party and the week-end will terminate at tea-time on Sunday.

Members proposing to go should send *tentative* bookings to J. F. McGarva, Esq., Heathbank, Kilmun, Dunoon, Argyll, or to W. R. M. Adams, Esq., 82 Pentland Terrace, Edinburgh, 10, by mid-January, or preferably earlier. They will then be notified of the exact date as soon as it is known, and their final confirmation of bookings should be sent to the C.R. previously written to before the end of March.

The probable date is 6th to 8th May 1960, but if the flourish will not be at its best on that week-end, a date will be chosen to avoid clashing with any of the Club's Shows.

J. F. McG., W. R. M. A., H. T., C.Rs.

A. O. Curle Memorial Trophy

(presented by Dr. and Mrs. Simson Hall)

THIS TROPHY has been presented by Dr. and Mrs. Simson Hall in memory of the late A. O. Curle, O.B.E., a Past President of the Club and for many years a most enthusiastic and energetic member and office-bearer.

It will be awarded annually at the Edinburgh Show of the S.R.G.C. for three pans of rock plants of distinct species and/or hybrids of stated parentage grown from seed by the exhibitor.

Plants to be labelled stating source of seed and date of sowing.

Where plants are not in flower the judges will take into consideration the condition of the plants.

Obituary

TO OLDER members of the S.R.G.C., and more particularly to those who have taken an active part in its administration or competed at its various Shows, the recent news of Mr. Henry Archibald's death must have brought a feeling of sorrow and personal loss. His gentle, kindly manner and his unfailing keenness in connection with all matters concerning the Club's welfare endeared him to all who had the privilege of working with him in guiding the Club's affairs.

Henry Archibald was first elected a member of committee (before the days of the Council) in 1936, and continued on committee without a break—other than when activities were suspended during the war years—until 1949. When the Club's administration was re-organised in 1950, and the committee was replaced by the Council, he was elected a Vice-President and as such continued to serve on the Council until 1955, thus giving nineteen years unbroken service.

In 1949 he presented the Henry Archibald Challenge Rose Bowl for competition at Glasgow Show and in 1951 presented a similar trophy to Edinburgh Show. To see the pleasure he obtained out of exhibiting at Shows, and his unconcealed delight when successful, must have been a spur and encouragement to fellow competitors. Even when failing health in recent years curtailed his activities he still saw to it that he was represented on the show bench whenever possible.

Other "Plant Associations" for the President

(A Few Purple Patches from a Canadian Rock Garden)

By S. H. STEELE

THREE ARTICLES in last April's number of the *Journal* dovetail very neatly, it seems to me, in their helpfulness to members like myself who have reached the point where we are faced with the need or the desire to do a certain amount of re-arranging in our rock gardens. They are "Taste and Colour in the Rock Garden" (by J. Archibald), "If only I had Known . . ." (by J. G. Collee) and the President's "Plant Associations." Under the stimulus of the pleasure I had in reading these—and encouraged by the invitation contained in the President's closing paragraph—I have made a little survey of my own activities along this line, and hope it may be of interest to other members.

In the main part of my rock garden there is little question of making major alterations in the existing rock-work, such as Mr. Collee was encouraged to do by the washing away of a large part of his banking. It would take something in the nature of an earthquake to break down

my rocky structure, for the site is a "natural"—a miniature mountain thrust up by Nature some millenniums ago and nicely prepared for me by long and gentle erosion. On its ledges and in its fissures and pockets, most Alpines seem to make themselves at home, but the difficulty of moving plants which have once got their roots firmly embedded is much greater than it would be on a man-made site and when a planting gets out of hand it is generally a question of "take it out?" or "leave it in?," with seldom any other alternative, and unless something precious is being overgrown or a pretty bad colour discord has developed, I usually "leave it in." As a result there are bound to be cases of mingled growth and unplanned associations—some regrettable, while others, by happy chance, are quite charming, even to be encouraged. In the scree section, on the other hand, which was added artificially at the foot of the south-western slope of the rocky hump, there is no great difficulty attached to shifting plants about if the usual precautions are taken. Here I move freely with my little pointed trowel, and I find that the time to act, in most cases, is when colour is still showing, for even if you make notes it is easy to forget to do the right thing after your subjects have relapsed into a green neutrality. The time to separate your quarrelsome neighbours is while the fight is on. By the same token when you are gazing at some lovely but lonely patch of colour and, out of the corner of your eye, you catch a glimpse of its perfect complement in another lonely patch a yard or so away, act promptly. By the rapprochement of these two congenial souls you will probably have promoted an alliance which will give happiness to all three of you. Last April I had a handful of *Muscari botryoides* whose dark bells were rather lost in a corner of the scree where there was little other colour at the time, and at some distance away was the perfect companion for them—a clump of the pale yellow *Viola gracilis* "Moonlight" in full bloom. After looking over the neighbouring plants (with an eye to the future of all concerned) I made ready a place beside the Muscaris and gently but firmly moved the *Viola* into it—an example of easy moving, for although *Viola gracilis* has a very long flowering season (May-September) it is a good mixer as far as colour goes and so not apt to offend in later associations, nor will it take advantage by ramping.

In April, but in another part of the rock garden, the Muscaris figure again, in a spectacle that covers a generous area on the rocky slope which faces to the north-west. *Muscari conicum*, *M. azureum*, and *M. botryoides* are all in evidence here, partnered—in numbers about equal to their own—by the wide-open, golden stars of *Tulipa tarda*. Both the Tulips and the Muscaris are more than willing to spread, but if you have a place where this is permissible they make an extremely handsome early show. Because of their earliness and lavish bloom they provide a particularly joyous note after a long Canadian winter, and so are heartily welcome where they appear in my own garden—especially as the area they cover has, by midsummer, become rather too shady for most sun-loving Alpines, and the growth and effectiveness

of those which, content with light shade, are willing to grow there, seem in no way hindered by the earlier tenancy of the Spring bulbs.

Houstonia caerulea, whose tiny flowers appear in May and June, makes a tidy and becoming ground-cover for *Gentiana acaulis* or *G. verna*—two plants which particularly appreciate having their feet well tucked in—and provides a month of coinciding bloom for either one. The white form is also attractive in this association, or a mixture of the blue and white together.

In May and early June the pale pink cushions of *Armeria caespitosa* in the sunny scree are enhanced by the bright blue of the exquisite, small *Myosotis rupicola*, and a variant of this Watteauish colour scheme may be carried out later by a different pair of partners, viz. *Lithospermum graminifolium* plus one of the smaller Pinks. I find it very pretty with *Dianthus neglectus* (which, by the way, in spite of its reputation for disliking lime grows nicely in my scree).

May and June also see the flowering of one of my favourite combinations—*Phlox divaricata* with its graceful heads of pale lavender, set off by the creamy yellow of *Alyssum saxatile* “Dudley Nevill.” To my mind there is a rare affinity between these two, in scale, in grace of growth, and in their distinguished colour harmony, the greater opacity of “Dudley Nevill’s” soft, pastel flower-heads giving just the right contrast to the almost luminous delicacy of the lavender Phlox.

While *Alyssum* “Dudley Nevill” has won a cherished place in my permanent scheme, the more pungent yellow flowers of the type had become something of a nuisance, appearing as scattered seedlings in all sorts of unlikely places and looking altogether too mustardy for my taste. In one spot this cheerful gate-crasher had spread into a fairly solid mass right up against a magenta-red *Aubrietia*—a strident note hardly to be tolerated in such quantity. Finally this year I decided it would have to come out and I went rather ruthlessly about uprooting it here, there and everywhere—until I came upon it growing in such a charming and well-suited partnership that I was compelled to hold my hand. It had chosen a ledge in front of an almost vertical rock-face covered with *Sempervivum tectorum triste*. This made a wonderfully rich and sombre background. Against its sculptured bronze solidity the waving heads of bright gold fairly sparkled. No planned association could have been more successful than this happy accident.

An old and comfortable friendship exists between two well-established shrubs on the north-west slope—*Chamaecyparis obtusa* var. *nana aurea*, and the lower-growing *Berberis darwinii nana*. Located one above the other on recessed ledges, they complement each other pleasantly through the varying phases of the seasons, the *Chamaecyparis* remaining constant in its dull gold—the *Berberis* offering in turn the bronze-and-bright-green of its shiny new foliage in April, the rich yellow of flower clusters in May, and the deepening blue of its fruit as the season advances until it reaches its climax of colour in

Autumn, when the holly-like leaves are splashed with crimson and scarlet. The lowest key of the colour harmony is struck in midsummer and I have found the addition of a stronger note of pure blue at that time puts liveliness back into the scheme. This gives me a splendid opportunity to use *Delphinium sinense*, and I try to keep this lovely flower growing here, not only for its own sake but for its telling effect upon its neighbours during the midsummer months.

What Mr. Collee would call the "rampageousness" of *Phlox subulata* I can readily condone in at least one sizeable area in my garden, since I have found that the same space may be occupied simultaneously by another, later-blooming free-grower of great beauty—*Veronica teucrium dubia*. This lovely thing, which comes into bloom after only a short interval following the disappearance of colour on the Phlox it replaces, forms one member of my best-loved "association." Its partner is *Dianthus caesius*, and when both are at the height of their bloom the effect—of two or three square yards of soft blue cloud, with the fringed, pastel-pink of the Dianthus rising above it—is positively breath-taking. For not only is the Veronica content to share the territory of the Phlox (it spread its filmy blue sprays of bloom almost completely over it), but the Pink grows bravely up through both, on silvery-foliaged, slender stems which add their own bit of loveliness to the composition. This is an example of mingled growth of the most arrant variety but the result is delightful and since it has been going on in my garden for several years now, I have almost ceased to fear that any one of the combination will kill out another. However, if at any time I do see signs of either the Dianthus or the Veronica being in retreat, I shall put in reinforcements at once, for this is an area of pure loveliness that I cannot afford to be without.

Those who get pleasure from a combination of rather subtle colours within a narrow range will enjoy the demure effect achieved by placing *Campanula miranda*, with its pearly Quaker bells, against the rosy-stemmed, grey-blue foliage of *Sedum cauticum*. While the flowers of the Sedum appear late for its partner's performance, its attractive foliage colour is enough in itself to complete a quite charming arrangement. A patch of this can make a welcome resting-place for the eye after the excitement of livelier colour round about. In fact the use of greys—and there is a fine range of them in Alpines—can give great value to the surrounding colours, enhancing the more delicate hues and providing a perfect foil for richness. And here I should like to second Mr. Archibald's recommendation of the use of silver leaves and white flowers as tempering agents. Even a quite harsh colour will often look well with a buffer of soft silver between it and its neighbours, and others not naturally compatible may be made to get along together very respectably with a gentle neutral as a go-between. White flowers, besides being beautiful in themselves, provide a sharper contrast than grey and give the crisp effect which is wanted on occasion to brighten the overall scheme. I have used a silvery "buffer" successfully with two *Helianthemums* which, although individually very

attractive, refused to "play ball" with their neighbours—or even with each other. One is a yellow which, because of its sharp purity of colour, had an unfortunately diminishing effect on all other yellows within sight, and looked crude with the pinks which seem to predominate, in my garden at least, at the same season. The other is a pretty apricot which also had a depressing effect on the rosy colours, and looked quite horrid with its yellow sister. Between this pretty but intractable pair, I put a good-sized planting of *Veronica incana*, and harmony was established. On one hand the silver and blue of the Veronica made the pale, pure yellow look clean and delicate—on the other the deep, fleshy pink of the apricot was equally pleasing with its cool mediator.

Mr. Archibald's mention of dark greens as background for vivid colour immediately recalled a memorable sight in a friend's garden a couple of summers ago. We were going along a shady path on our way to her rock garden when, rounding a bend, we came without warning upon a little, sunny alcove set in the green, and in it, as in a wayside shrine, a stand of *Lilium canadense* in full bloom. There must have been thirty or more of the graceful elves' lanterns poised in their perfectly placed tiers, glowing against the dark, cool green of foliage walls. I cannot think of a lovelier setting for this graceful flower, and while it has no legitimate place in the rock garden proper there may be those who could admit it to the approaches at least (as it was used here) and get the same pleasure as I did out of seeing it in such perfection.

The last number on my programme of "associations" is an ensemble in which greys, whites and silvery greens play an important part, the more colourful members of the cast running to mauves, purples, rosy hues and pinks. My rock garden is "around the corner" from my lawns and perennial beds and is approached by a flag-stone path which leads in from the south-west. The importance of this direction lies in the fact that, in the transitional planting along the path I have a number and variety of *Violas* and these, since they are constantly turned towards the sun, present a regular congregation of welcoming faces to the visitor. The effect is both charming and amusing and especial interest is aroused by one very odd hybrid at whose parentage I can only guess. I have now several plants of it providing a large, orderly company of neat little blooms. It is geminiflorous, like *V. biflora*, but has not its yellow colour. Its flowers are bi-coloured, and the twins are not identical, but while all have the two upper petals of dark purple, *one of each pair* has a white lower face, the other a mauve. In spite of this irregularity the plant has a very clean-cut appearance and besides being something of an oddity is quite delightful to look at, especially where its flowers peep out from the cool, silvery green of *Artemisia schmidtiana nana*. This low-growing, aromatic plant borders the irregular edges of the path on either side and forms the background and chief blending medium for all the other members of this pathway planting. The flag-stones are seamed and framed by

a variety of Thymes which provide in turn white, pink, rose and lilac bloom, besides the foliage-grey of *T. lanuginosus*. Mauve, rosy-pink and silver are introduced (in clumps of taller growth at intervals on either side) by *Veronica incana* and *V. incana rosea*; and purple, mauve and white occur again in my collection of Violas (which is made up chiefly of forms of *V. cornuta* and hybrids from it) and the occasional patch of *Campanula pusilla*. This assembly is one of non-precious but serviceable plants, valuable for giving in the aggregate a long season of bloom, so that the pathway is seldom lacking in colour and has become a feature of some individuality in the general scheme.

As I have said, my ventures in re-arrangement do not include much structural alteration. I have once or twice enlarged the scree or altered its contours, and little else; but every season now I find myself making little changes in the planting—usually with an eye to colour, often for the good of the plants themselves—and I thoroughly enjoy my experiments. It is fun playing around with the colours and shapes of plants, and in this part of the world where the rock garden lies so long buried in unbroken whiteness, it is exciting to attend its resurrection and watch for the results of last year's work. After so long a period of waiting, with Spring begins the time of fruition—and then, all over again, the budding of new ideas. For, praise be, it is all just part of that good old system which, while the earth remains, shall not cease.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

Gardens Cruise 1960

The Norwegian cruise ship *Meteor* has been chartered again by the National Trust for Scotland for a series of spring cruises next year, and will visit notable gardens between 10th and 17th May. Brodick Castle on Arran, and Inverewe on the coast of Wester Ross will be the first calls on this Gardens Cruise, which includes an evening sail through the Sound of Islay and a cruise up Loch Torridon. Major Iain Campbell's garden, Arduaine, on Loch Melfort, is to be visited and also two island gardens: Kiloran (The Earl of Strathcona and Mount Royal) on Colonsay, and Achamore (Sir James Horlick, Bart.) on Gigha.

Rowallane, the handsomely landscaped Irish garden near Belfast, and Muncaster Castle in Cumberland are included in the itinerary. Returning from these there will be a chance to see Crarae (Sir George Campbell of Succoth, Bart.) in Argyll, and also the garden of Stonefield Castle Hotel.

The *Meteor's* programme also includes a Castles Cruise from 2nd to 9th May, and an Islands Cruise from 17th to 25th May. Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Organising Secretary, The National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square Edinburgh.

Edraianthus

By DAVID WILKIE

Edraianthus, *Hedraeanthus*, *Wahlenbergia* or *Campanula* ; the plants mentioned in these notes may be found in books under any of the above generic names as various authorities have juggled with them and placed them according to their views. Fortunately in most cases while the generic names have been altered the specific names have not, so that *Edraianthus tenuifolius* is the same plant whether it is called by any of the other three generic names. That, I may say, is an enormous help when attempting to remember the name of a plant and causes less confusion. Nowadays the names *Hedraeanthus* and *Campanula* may be left out of consideration in dealing with these plants, and *Wahlenbergia* and *Edraianthus* left to settle matters. The first name can be left out, as it is sunk under *Edraianthus*, and *Campanula* separated by the way the capsule opens when ripe. The others are also separated on the characters of the capsule and generally the plants from the Tropics and New Zealand fit under *Wahlenbergia*—such as *W. saxicola* and *W. tasmanica*—while those from the Balkan countries with needle-like leaves in tufts can be placed under *Edraianthus*. All the plants mentioned in these notes, with perhaps the exception of *E. serpyllifolia*, are better kept as species of *Edraianthus*.

Occasionally they are offered either as seeds or plants in catalogues and it is because of this and the fact that I am often asked what they are like and whether they are worthy growing, that I decided to write these notes.

As in many other European genera there is a host of specific names and admittedly there are only slight botanical differences between many of them. I am quite sure that if the genus was monographed now, a great number of the so-called species would be sunk as synonyms or at the most, varieties of such as *E. graminifolius* or *E. tenuifolius*.

In these notes I do not intend to mention all the species that have been described, but rather to deal with those that are occasionally offered by the Trade and those that I have seen grown. I have already stated that they all belong to the Balkan countries where they inhabit screes or, in some cases, clefts in the rocks. Good drainage and full sun are necessary when in their permanent quarters and especial care should be taken with seedlings and cuttings that they are not overwatered, otherwise they just "damp off." Germination of the seed of some of the species is fairly quick and the seedlings grow away very quickly ; in the case of the 'graminifolius' group, seedlings would be better if pricked off into small pots as they usually form a tap-like root and it saves root disturbance when planting out. In this country they are inclined to be monocarpic, but a few of the species can be increased from cuttings if they are taken in the spring of the year.



Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 18—*Soldanella pusilla* (see p. 122 *Journal* 23)



Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 19—*Androsace sarmentosa* v. *watkinsii*
(see page 157 *Journal* 23)

Before I start describing these plants I would like to answer the other question first ; that is, "are they worth growing ?" Yes, they are worth growing, especially two that are favourites of mine, namely *E. serpyllifolius* var. *major* (Fig. 47) and *E. dinaricus*.

Edraianthus serpyllifolius and its varieties are quite different from all the others and cannot be confused with any other species as the habit of growth and the shape of the leaf is entirely its own. It has a mat-forming habit with leaves of from half an inch to over an inch in length, narrowly spoon-shaped, and of a deep lustrous or greyish-green but not silvery : the stems are prostrate or ascending, short, up to six inches in length and often tinged with brownish-violet. At the ends of the stems are borne solitary bell-shaped flowers which are similar in shape and size to *Campanula portenschlagiana*, they are reddish in bud and open to a deep purple-violet. In the type species the flower measures about three quarters of an inch in length, but they are much larger in the variety called *major*. Two other varieties have appeared in the past, var. *albo-violacea* with striped white and lilac flowers, and var. *albus* with white flowers. This last plant I have not seen or heard of since the beginning of the last war and it is to be feared that it has died out. From the photograph appearing with these notes it can be seen that this species is free-flowering and one great advantage that it has is that it can be rooted from cuttings if taken in the spring of the year.

My other favourite, *E. pumilio*, is quite distinct from the foregoing species. In *E. pumilio* the leaves are needle-like and stiff, just over half an inch in length, grey or silvery in colour due to the coating of adpressed hairs on the surface of the leaves and owing to the shortness of the stems ; these leaves form tufts, the whole lot forming a close silvery mat or cushion. Sitting upright and almost close to this cushion without apparent stalks are the solitary violet-blue flowers which measure nearly an inch in length and are narrowly bell-shaped. When these silvery mats are covered with these upright bells they make a lovely picture. This species can be propagated in the spring by taking some of the smaller tufts, but attention must be given to the watering, otherwise, like seedlings, the cuttings will damp off. (Fig. 48)

A species closely allied to *E. pumilio* is *E. dinaricus* and in general appearance they are so much alike that they are very often confused in gardens. If, however, they are seen growing together and examined, the differences are more apparent and once seen they are not difficult to remember. First of all, *E. dinaricus* does not form the close silvery mat as in *E. pumilio*, but is laxer in growth and slightly taller : the leaves of *E. dinaricus* will measure upwards to one and a half inches in length, are not so stiff but awl-shaped, and while greyish in colour have not the strong silvery hue. There are also differences in the shape and size of the flower ; in *E. pumilio* it is shorter and more widely bell-shaped with the corolla segments cut about half way down, while in *E. dinaricus* the petals are only about one-third of the corolla and

the corolla narrower in proportion to its length. The comparison of the flowers in the photographs will make this clearer than words. A further character which may help to separate them is that in *E. pumilio* the calyx-lobes are hairy on both sides, while in *E. dinaricus* the calyx-lobes are hairy only on the outside. (Fig. 49)

Another species closely allied to *E. dinaricus* is *E. wettsteinii*. The main differences between them are that in *E. dinaricus* the bracts are narrowed into long points and the ovaries are glabrous, while in *E. wettsteinii* the bracts are not narrowed into long points and the ovaries are hairy. Although appearing similar at a glance, when seen together they are quite distinct. Often *E. wettsteinii* has flowers borne two or three together as well as solitary ones. Usually the flower stems are upwards from two to four inches in height, with short leaves less than half an inch long and the basal rosette leaves up to an inch and a quarter long; the corolla is narrowly bell-shaped and of a pale violet-blue.

In the species described above, the flowers are solitary or in a few cases perhaps two together, but in the species following the flowers are in stalked terminal heads with long leafy bracts. Apart from this character, the following group do not form mats or cushions but form a crown rising from a tap-like root, the crowns producing many leaves which measure up to as much as four inches or more.

There is a great similarity throughout the species of this 'graminifolius' group with very few definite characters to separate them. It is more than possible that many of the so-called species are little more than varieties of other species.

The two species most commonly met with in this group are *E. tenuifolius* and *E. graminifolius*. (Figs. 50 and 51)

Edraianthus tenuifolius has narrow linear leaves up to over two inches in length, rigidly ciliate on the margins right up to the points and are said to be warty. The flowers are borne on six-inch stems in terminal heads of from six to ten flowers and each flower measures about three quarters of an inch in length and is of a violet-blue with whitish or paler base. Two characters which are always apparent in this species when in flower are the long calyx-lobes and the long leaf-like bracts which are much longer than the flower heads. These separate *E. tenuifolius* from the following species *E. graminifolius* and can be seen in the accompanying photographs.

In *E. graminifolius* the bracts are shorter or at least not much longer than the flower heads and are narrow and not leaf-like as in the foregoing species. The leaves are also longer, sometimes as much as four inches in length: the flowers, too, are longer. About four inches in height, the flower stems are downy with from five to six flowers to a head; these flowers are narrowly bell-shaped and of a violet-purple.

There is no doubt that these two species when in the typical form can be easily distinguished, but when seen in one of the many variations it is nigh impossible.

The species *E. tenuifolius* does not have so many forms sheltering under its name as does *E. graminifolius*. There are low elevation forms with tall flowering stems of six inches or more in height with many flowers to a head, and dwarf alpine forms with shorter stems and shorter leaves and only one or two flowers to a head. In such cases the flower colour is similar except for variations from pale to deep violet, but a pure white flowered form was recorded a few years before the last war. I haven't heard if this is still in existence, and it is not to be confused with some of the near to white flowered forms that have arisen.

A species that has been sent in quite often is *E. dalmaticus*. Resembling at a casual glance *E. tenuifolius*, it has some distinctive characters. The leaves are about four inches in length and they are broader than those of *E. tenuifolius*, being widest in the upper third. The calyx-lobes are shorter than the calyx-tube and are broadly triangular in shape, and the long leafy bracts are much longer than the flower heads. Measuring from half an inch to three quarters of an inch in length, the flowers, which are borne from six to ten to a head, are more funnel-shaped than bell-shaped and are a deep violet-blue. Comparing this species with *E. tenuifolius*, from what I have seen of them growing together I would not say that it was as free flowering as *E. tenuifolius*.

The last species that I wish to mention is *E. serbicus*—at least that was the name under which I grew it, but now according to the R.H.S. dictionary should be called *E. caudatus*, somewhat similar to *E. graminifolius* but more erect in growth. It has long flower-stems of up to eight or nine inches, with six to twelve purple flowers to a head. Up to four inches in length, the leaves broaden up to the points, the calyx-lobes are shorter than the calyx-tube, and the bracts equal the flower heads in length or are shorter; in shape the bracts are very broad.

There are still a number of species that sometimes are offered, but I have given a brief survey of those that make their appearance more often and it may help members to make up their minds about growing them.

A Japanese Garden in Eire

By GERALDINE CURRIE

IN THE small county town of Kildare there is a signpost pointing to A Gáirdín Seapanach. About one mile along the road lies a little Japanese Garden, adjoining and connected with the National Stud on the edge of the Curragh. It is extraordinary to find this Garden in a centre for the breeding, training and selling of racehorses.

Placed in the grounds of the late Lord Wavertree's old house, it was devised by him and made by Japanese landscape artists. With forty-five assistants it took Eida and his son Minoru four years to create, and cost in the region of £40,000. During the First World

War the Stud and the Garden were handed over to the British Government, but in 1944 they were returned to the Government of the Irish Free State. For many years the Garden was unknown, but now about 20,000 visitors come to see it between Easter and October.

The entrance—through a wicket gate, the Gateway of Oblivion—leads into this astonishing little Paradise, with a stream running through it and ancient trees casting their shadows. It is, of course, symbolic, giving the Life of Man in trees, flowers and stones. Cherry trees, symbolising Birth and the Temptations of Life, lead up to golden and orange tinted maples, glorifying Old Age.

From darkness into light by staggering steps through a tunnelled pathway, Childhood passes into early Manhood, Ignorance turns into Knowledge. Enticing Youth to the very top of the Hill of Learning is an ancient Fir tree, but this is too high and an unguarded hole warns Youth that he must descend and follow the path to the Hill of Ambition.

Here the way parts, symbolising the complexities of Life. On the left is the straight path to Austere Living : on the right the path leads to Temptation. The centre path leads Youth on to Manhood, climbing forever upwards and lit in dark places by an occasional stone lantern to show him the way.

Crossing the stream by a bridge of two stones joined together, marked in the centre by a wedding ring, man enters into Wedded Life and follows the stepping stones which lead him to the small Island of Wonder and Joy. But the way is uphill and marriage is not easy. The path divides as man and woman go separate ways to be re-united once again on reaching the top of the Hill of Ambition.

A path, twisting and turning, leads to further Temptation across the water by a bamboo bridge to the Geisha House, completing the design of the Willow pattern. Here the Japanese landscape artists built a House of many kinds of wood and furnished it with tables and chairs. The wooden panelling on the cupboard doors is hand carved and backed by a material which is still in wonderful condition although nearly fifty years old. Around this Geisha House was a perfect miniature reproduction of a Japanese landscape with little houses, mountains, valleys, and streams carved from volcanic rock brought over from Fuji-yama. There are still remaining some small pieces of this rock which contain miniature trees growing in scarcely an egg-cup full of soil. Nearby are dwarfed trees of over 200 years of age with their branches shaped by Japanese artistry. Below the Geisha House, by the beautiful deep water, is the Well of Wisdom. Here Man may drink and wish and refresh himself on his way through Life.

But always in the background is the Hill of Ambition. Descending this, Man is once again alone as he goes across the bridge to the stepping stones which lead him through the peaceful level garden of Old Age to the Hill of Mourning and his soul goes out through the Gate of Eternity.

The Culture of Rock Plants — Some Basic Concepts

By HENRY TOD, Ph.D.

WHEN I WAS asked to speak on the culture of Rock Plants at the St. Andrews Summer School I decided to discuss some basic points on the technical side rather than tackle purely practical details. This note gives the printed version of my talk which was asked for.

The health and successful growth of a plant depends on a number of different factors. Among the most important are nutrition, water supply, light, exposure, and, of course, freedom from pests, diseases and weed competition.

To a great extent the problem of plant nutrition is closely tied up with the soil or the compost in which the plant is to grow, and the conditions in which the plant grows in nature may give some indication of its probable requirements. A plant must have a "balanced diet" just as much as a human being, and, again like man, the food supply should be adequate and not excessive.

The great quartet of major nutrients is nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium, and they have fairly distinct functions in the plant. Nitrogen basically controls quantity of leaf growth; phosphorus, root development and ripening of tissues (it is also involved in the activity of the cell nucleus and cell-division, so that it has a profound effect on the rate of growth); potassium has a great effect on the efficiency of the leaf, controlling most probably the processes of assimilation and absorption from the root, and also has an effect on disease resistance; while magnesium is required for the formation of chlorophyll. This latter is the green pigment of the leaf in virtue of which the plant can utilize light energy to combine carbon dioxide and water to form the materials of which the tissues of the plant are made up. Magnesium also seems to have a very profound effect on the general health and well-being of the plant. Now all of these four are derived from the soil, and they must be present in balanced amounts if the plant is to remain in good health and condition.

The quantity is, of course, important, and for our purposes the levels which are desirable would seem extremely low compared with those used for the growing of, say, prize-winning vegetables or herbaceous plants. In this connection I once saw, and later had to deal with, a rock garden which had been made up with a compost or soil-mixture recommended by Farrer. This consisted of soil, peat, leaf-mould and sand, and the soil used had been ordinary very rich garden soil and the leaf-mould old, fat, well-rotted stuff. The results were very striking, for this very rich mixture had been used in a rather damp, enclosed garden. Perfectly normal, well-grown rock plants obtained from two well-known alpine nurseries went wildly out of

character. Campanulas which should have been about six inches high were running up to a foot or eighteen inches, saxifrages were soft floppy green mounds instead of compact tufts, everything was just running riot and the amount of flower had decreased to a most remarkable extent. The plants had, in fact, run to vegetative increase rather than to flower and seed production. Fungus diseases tended to be very troublesome, which was accentuated by the damp, rather airless surroundings, and generally the results were most disappointing for the owner.

There was nothing much which could be done, barring demolition and complete reconstruction, and it was interesting to see later on how things changed as the plants increased in size and spread out and gradually depleted the store of nutrients in the soil. Little by little the plants became more typical of what they should have been—that is, those which had managed to survive—and after some ten or twelve years they were nearly normal in their growth and habit. The same effect, but from another set of causes, can be seen in those plants which earn a loss of marks in the Shows for having been “drawn” by too long a sojourn under glass, without quite enough light, and perhaps a little too much warmth. Here again the true habit of the plant has been lost by abnormal conditions, and this is just what we must try to avoid.

This means, then, that we must avoid the use of too rich composts, must have the required water supply and, as far as possible, have conditions of light and air such as the plant would have in its natural habitat. If one sees a plant growing in a scree slope, and starts to dig down beside it, one finds that it is apparently growing in pure stone and nothing else. The roots, however, of such a plant may go down to great depth and range far and wide in search of food and moisture; it has been calculated that a small cushion plant an inch or so high and perhaps a few inches across may have roots which put end to end would stretch for several miles. At depth in the scree, however, there are pockets of newly formed soil, rich in nutrients, and the roots penetrate these and so feed. A long time ago I made up a scree to Farrer’s recipe, and after the first winter and spring was very alarmed to find that when I came to plant some new acquisition, stone chips alone seemed to be left. In a considerable state of worry I scabbled down into the scree and there, some six or nine inches down, I found the soil, peat, etc., with the roots of the other plants growing happily through it. Not all plants, however, have the ability of the true saxatile plant to develop quite such extensive root systems, and for them, the so-called “Rich Scree” advocated and introduced by Stuart Boothman is more satisfactory. For most plants, however, any decent garden soil will suffice—but not vegetable garden soil—provided it is not too rich and has good moisture characteristics. What I usually try to aim at is something on the lines of the John Innes Composts—about two parts of soil, one of peat and one of sand, but without the addition of any extra fertilizers or lime.

With an average garden soil this gives a mixture with a reasonable mechanical analysis, i.e. proportions of silt, sand and clay, but if the soil is very sandy, the sand can be reduced, if very rich in clay, the sand can be increased. If the mixture tends to be too claggy, gritty material such as very coarse sand or well-washed ashes can be added to open it up, and if it drains too fast, so that the plants tend to suffer from drought, more peat can be worked in to increase the water-holding capacity. For a number of really saxatile plants, such as many of the Saxifrages, even this ordinary mixture may prove too rich, but this particular difficulty can be met by the addition to the soil mixture of about equal parts of very coarse sand or fine gravel of about 1/8 in. to 1/12 in. particle size, which acts as a diluent. This applies, of course, even more strongly in the case of plants in pots.

TABLE I—GROWING MEDIA

	<i>Chips</i>	<i>Loam</i>	<i>Peat or Leafmould</i>	<i>Sand</i>	<i>Fine Gravel</i>
Farrer's Scree	16	1	2	1	
Boothman's Rich Scree	2	1	2	1	
Ordinary soil mixture		2	1	1	
"Diluted" do.		2	1	1	4

Many people, I fancy, think of the stone used in building rock gardens as a part of the décor, so to speak, and I have seen it advocated that one should—or at any rate, could—build up small stones practically on the surface to simulate big ones largely buried in the soil. Now this concept is basically erroneous, for stone in relation to rock plants has a very real function, namely that of controlling water-supply. If you lift a stone from its bed in the soil, you will always find that the soil below and around it is much darker than the surrounding soil, and this is because it is much damper. A film of moisture lies on the stone, and if you look closely you will see that there is almost always a very fine, but dense mat of hair-like roots in this damp, dark layer. This shows that the plants are drawing their moisture supply from this area of soil, and this constitutes the "cool-root-run" so beloved of the writers of gardening books and of nurserymen's catalogues.

All of this adds up to the rather heterodox view, for which I have got into trouble before this, that it is more important to have stone *in* the soil to benefit the plants than to have it as an adornment on the surface. In this I am being heterodox in good company, for the late Frank Kingdon-Ward expressed much the same views at about the same time in his book "Commonsense Rock Gardening" as I wrote an article on building a rock garden with a brick core to the mounds. This was for the double end of stability and moisture conservation, and the soil mixture was worked very thoroughly into the interstices between the bricks (Fig. 1), a final surface dressing being put on to cover the whole construction. The surface stone was then worked into this soil for a more natural effect. This really brought a

hornet's nest about my head for many readers omitted to note that all the brick was buried deep in the mound, and insisted that I was going back to Victorian days and advocating bricks as a finish !

However that may be, one Forrest Medal plant was grown on the top of the biggest mound many years ago. In 1957 I had to demolish that particular rock garden, and, so successful had it been, that I had to pull each brick, one at a time, out of the enmeshing mats of roots of the plants growing above on the surface. The result was that a job which I had thought to complete in a couple of evenings took me several weeks to finish. The surface stone, no matter what the core of the bank may be, should, of course, slope backwards down into the mound so as to throw rain-water back into the soil, rather than to promote its running off over the surface (Fig. 2). This will help to conserve moisture and prevent drought as well as tending to stabilize the soil surface by checking erosion.



Figure 1

For plants that like more dampness than the real rock plants, the rich scree (Table I) represents an excellent medium for growth. Here the association of stone chips with moisture-retentive material like peat and leaf-mould gives the ideal conditions for the smaller ericaceous plants and other tricky or capricious subjects. The drainage is good, but not quite so drastic as in pure scree, and the water-holding capacity is probably considerably higher than in any average soil mixture. For the real moisture-lovers, but not the bog-plants, there is the peat-wall,

where beds of soil, heavily enriched with peat and leaf-mould, are fronted by walls built up of peat blocks (Fig. 3). This is the home for the dwarf rhododendrons, primulas, cassiopes—a whole range of choice and often troublesome beauties which would fail quite miserably in the open rock garden and perhaps even in the rich scree.

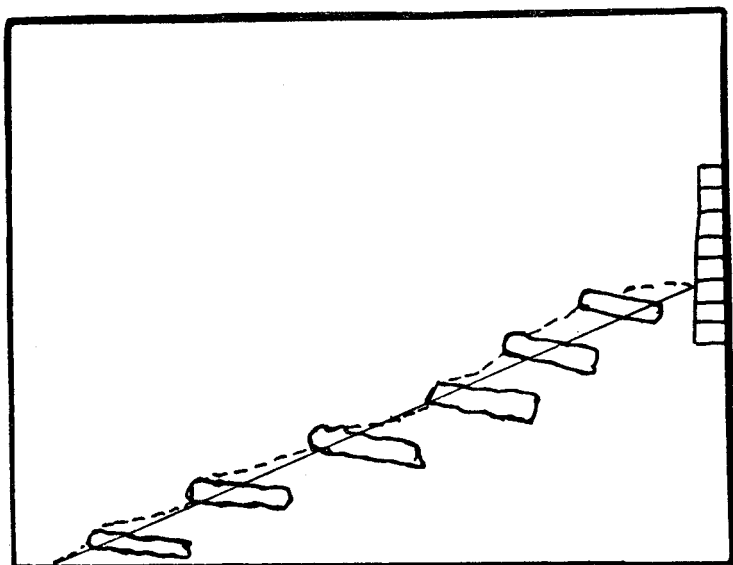


Figure 2

This now leads us to the question of exposure and weather generally. All plants need light, but some need far more than others do. A most striking example of this is *Ramonda*, which, exposed to the south, will go brown, curl up, and eventually die. If, however, it is exposed to the north, it will grow slowly and steadily and flower freely—and live for a long time too. It is rather strange that many plants which in their native heights will tolerate full sun will be far from happy if given full sun in a lowland rock garden. The *Kabschia Saxifrages* will burn quite severely in a hot, sunny summer, but if given even the lightest moving shade for the midsummer months, such as that afforded by a piece of “lazy-tongs” wooden trellis supported four feet or so above them, will come through very happily. In this connection it should be remembered that the time of the day when the sun’s radiation and heat are at the maximum is from about one to three p.m. G.M.T. (two to four p.m. B.S.T.) and the direction SSW to SW approximately (Fig. 4). Any plant which requires a baking should be planted on a slope so oriented and those liable to sunburn should avoid such an exposure.

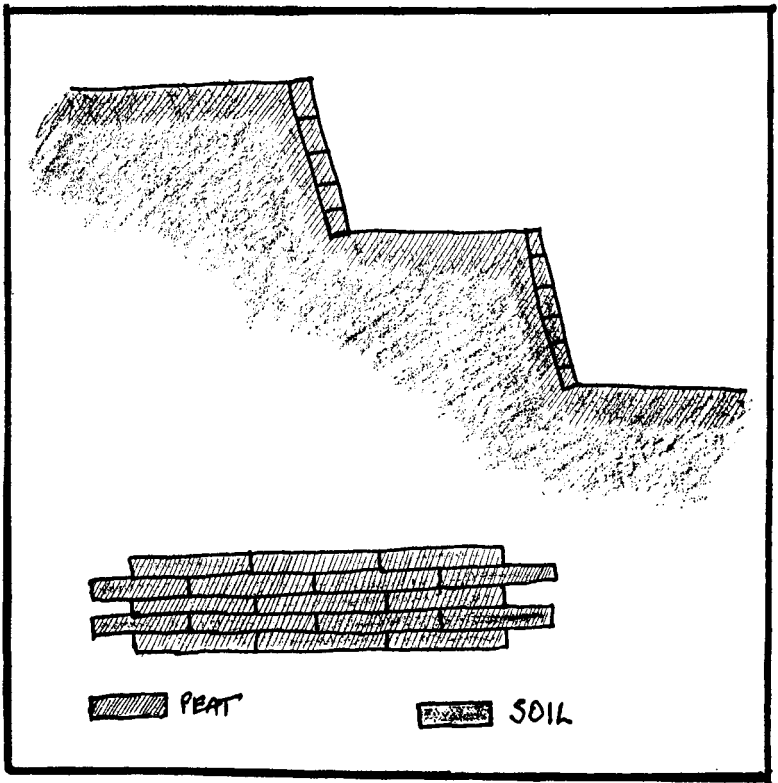
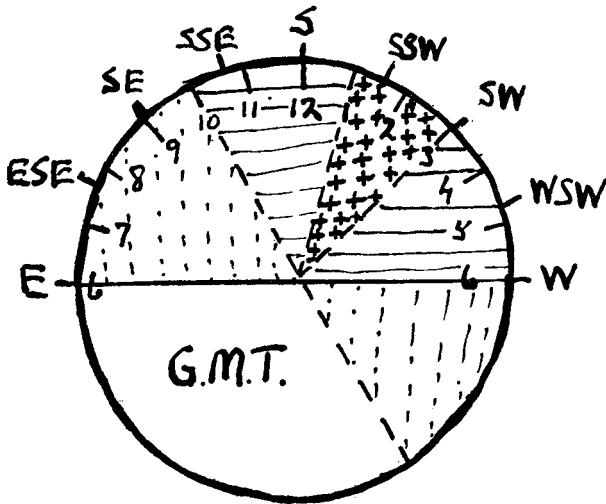


Figure 3

The radiation in itself most probably has a quite profound effect on the growth and development of the plants, for it has been shown that the sun's radiation has a very real effect in dwarfing growth at great altitude, and quite probably this is a factor which, to a much lesser extent, comes into play in our gardens as well. The effects of the changes induced in mountain plants on moving from high altitudes to low have been studied by Aymon Correvon, and he has shown that if some of the high alpine gentians are grown in a low altitude in the garden and are watered overhead with a watering-can every day for a few weeks they will rot away completely. He has been able to show that the cuticle of the leaf becomes much more thin and fragile under the less rigorous conditions and thus moisture which would be a normal occurrence in its native habitat becomes fatal at low altitude. Probably such alterations in the actual structure of the plant are the explanation of the extreme difficulty of growing some of the high alpiners in the garden.



Danger of damage + + Slight danger ≡ ≡ ≡ Safe ||||

Figure 4

However that may be, the effect of exposure is shown very clearly by some rock plants and, in my own experience, one of the most sensitive is *Phlox subulata*. I once had a number of varieties of this which were on a north-facing bank, and which were rather floppy mats with little flower. They were so disappointing that when I made up a new bank which faced into the sun and wind, south-west, I lifted them and put them in as stop-gaps to be removed when the better plants grew bigger. To my astonishment the rather sappy growth was torn off by the wind and the Phloxes grew afresh, much more compactly, and started to flower freely. The change was one of only a few yards, the soil was the same, and the only real difference was the exposure.

One further point in the control of the plant's environment is the use of stone chippings as a top-dressing for rock gardens. This practice has a number of useful points because it tends to cut down loss of moisture from the soil surface; it gives rapid drainage around the neck of the plant, that very vulnerable point; and it can also play a useful role in reflecting the sun's heat back on to the plant itself, thus helping growth and ripening. Further, while it may not really keep the more active slugs from damaging the plants, it does discourage them to some extent. Finally, it cuts down soil-splash on to the flowers and leaves and is also useful in checking the wash of soil down the slopes which leads to the shrinkage of so many rock garden banks.

To summarise, then, one should attempt to have a rock garden with several types of soil-mixture, e.g. ordinary soil, plain scree, rich scree;

and with several different exposures, away from and into the sun, away from and into the wind. Light broken shade from dwarf shrubs can also be very useful, and the shade of a big stone is not to be despised at the sun's hottest.

One suggestion for such a construction is a bank or series of banks, curving through about ninety degrees (Fig. 5), which will have a continuous series of exposures practically right round the compass. If two or more banks are arranged in this construction, the enclosed valleys can be partially filled with the differing scree mixtures. In this way the scree surface will be given varying degrees of exposure to the prevailing wind, full wind, partially sheltered, and so on. Shade for the scree can best be supplied by dwarf shrubs growing either in or beside the scree or even by large stones worked into the design, though they may not look too happy in their context, so to speak.

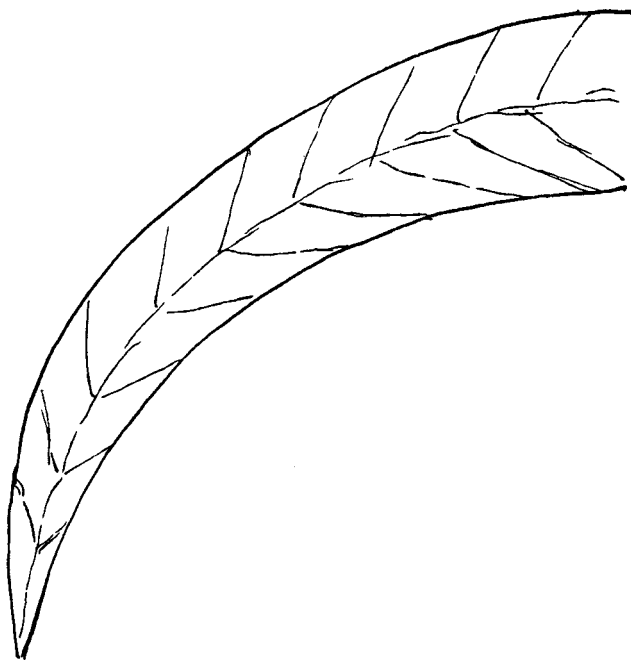


Figure 5

If it is wanted, an area at the lowest point of the rock garden can be made up with a limey mixture, but it should be remembered that though there are very many plants which will not tolerate lime, there are *very* few that absolutely demand it. Certain areas of the banks can be made up with a greater dilution of the soil mixture by fine gravel or coarse sand for those plants which do not perhaps like growing on

the flat in the scree but still demand really poor fare. Some rocks should be worked into this area in such a way that they provide nearly vertical crevices between them for plants which prefer to lie with their crowns vertical and their roots nearly horizontal in sharp drainage and low nutrient levels.

In my view, the key to successful cultivation is to provide conditions of as wide a variety as possible for the plants as regards nutrients, water-supply, drainage, exposure to sun, exposure to wind, shelter and lack of shelter, horizontal and vertical planting. Have as many of these as is possible and if a plant is not succeeding try to work out which factor is most probably wrong and then move the plant to a place where this factor is altered or eliminated.

There are the inevitable plants which do not seem to like *any* of the conditions with which they may be provided and the taming of these and learning how to control and grow them is one of the greatest challenges which rock gardening has to offer.

Early May at Ferny Creek, Victoria, Australia — 1959

By BERYL WATSON

IT IS AUTUMN in Southern Australia, and here at Ferny Creek we are experiencing a wonderful season—day after day of cloudless blue skies and warm sunshine. All around the Dandenong Ranges the maple, oak, ash, rhus, cherries, etc., have turned vivid colours. As one tree loses its leaves another seems to reach its peak of brilliance.

In the rock garden, several flowers of *Gentiana acaulis* have not waited till spring to bloom but are displaying their charm early. In my garden *sino-ornata* did not survive the intense heat wave earlier in the year. *G. septemfida* is thriving well and increasing rapidly. *Cyclamen europaeum* and *neapolitanum* are loth to depart while there is still warmth in the air, but their leaves are so lovely that when the last flower goes they come into their own, receiving many admiring comments.

The Crocuses have been a source of pleasure ever since February, varieties such as Oxonian, *medius*, *speciosus*, *niveus*, *tournefortii* and *salzmanni* looking dainty and fragile. The leaves are over one inch high on *imperati*, grown from seed received from the Scottish Rock Garden Club ; several varieties have bloomed this autumn from Scottish seed. On pushing aside some fallen leaves a few days ago I noticed that the clumps of E. A. Bowles' yellow are already through, so far just the tips, but with promise of good things to come.

Leaves on the *Bulbocodiums* are at least two inches high and *B. foliosa* is in bloom. It is one of the day's pleasures to visit this one

small flower, forgetting for the moment all the surrounding abundance of reds and golds.

Hyacinthus azureus is well advanced also, and the native violet—*Viola hederacea*—has been blooming for some weeks, as also has the attractive rock pomegranate—*Punica granatum nana*.

Most other rock plants in my garden are looking their most secretive as growth continues unseen below ground level.

Two or three members of our Group who received seed from the latest distribution have had some success already with germination. It remains now to nurse the young seedlings through the winter months ahead.

Ignorance or Monocotyledon

By "LOCUM TENENS"

I SAID : "Good morning, George. How is your monocotyledon?"

He said : "Not quite so good this morning. How is yours?"

I must tell you about George. He is a neighbour. He is retired from serving his country with distinction for many years. He is a most keen but not very knowledgeable gardener (rather like me). He is reasonably intelligent and altogether a good chap to have as a neighbour.

In the days that followed we pursued the subject seriously. George announced that he had asked his doctor, who had stated that he had never heard of monocotyledon and that it certainly was not any form of disease. Thereupon we began to do research. I studied the Concise Oxford Dictionary and the Encyclopaedia Britannica, but drew blank. George attacked the Dictionary of the Scottish Language (several formidable tomes), but was equally unsuccessful. He even consulted a cookery book and a funny old volume called "Common Objects on the Sea Shore."

Having got as far as this I feel that I ought to explain what it is all about. If you look in the 1958-59 *Year Book* of the S.R.G.C. you will find that very peculiar word, in its adjectival form, mentioned on nine different pages. Apparently it completely governs whether or not you can enter certain plants at Shows.

But to return to my story. Gradually George and I began to realise that we were a couple of silly old men. We had not tackled the problem properly. We had omitted to consult the most likely reference book of all. This is called "The R.H.S. Dictionary of Gardening." Here, of course, everything was made abundantly clear. I quote :—

"Monocotyledon. It is characterized by the embryo having typically one cotyledon, and the vascular bundles of the stem being closed, that is, possessing no cambium."

I said, with great restraint, that on the whole I still felt ignorant and not very much the wiser.

What George said might, I fear, sully the pages of this most entertaining and instructive journal.

I agreed with him.

Plant Collecting

By J. M. WALDIE

I HAVE been reading quite a lot lately about the various ways people treat plants when collecting them in the mountains. Some say wash all the soil from the roots ; others that the plant should be lifted with a lump of mountain attached. Some advise the bags (grease-proof) containing the plants should be hermetically sealed ; yet others say definitely not, wrap the roots and leave the tops uncovered. Then there is the bit of advice about making sure the roots are all one way when packing, but whoever would pack the poor plants heads to tails in moss and several sheets of newspaper ? Of course, people with cars and space for boxes, ice-cream cartons, and what you will, in which to place plants, have the advantage over those with only a sponge-bag. I never really fancied a sponge-bag myself ; the occupants seem to resent plant life.

What a wonderful answer to the question polythene bags make ! Take a supply of both polythene bags of different sizes, and rubber bands, and a good strong fern trowel, and there you are. Something too to put the filled bags in. I find a haversack convenient. The bags packed in this make the "one parcel" permitted in the plant import licence.

This year I was lucky in that plant collecting came at the end of the holiday, which meant that the first plants lifted were only in the bags a week—the rest, less. This was a tremendous help to the well-being of the plants, but it is certainly not always possible. As I collected I usually put all into a larger bag until I was able to sort out. Then I made smallish bundles, wrapped slightly damp moss round the roots, put on several rubber bands, and put one or two bundles into a polythene bag, closing it with a rubber band. Wherever possible I left the roots in a little wad of their mother earth. If a lifted plant has a number of fine roots firmly fixed in soil, surely it is a shock to the plant to have all that soil removed and the roots as likely as not broken. Far better, I think, to leave the soil or turf for protection. Soil does add to the weight, of course, but as I always try to get small young plants, there is not so much soil. Also there is always the possibility that the soil holds seed which may germinate at home and give a pleasant surprise.

As soon as I can after reaching the hotel, or after moving on, I open the bags and put them on the balcony, if there is one, and it is shady, or in the coolest part of the room. Opening up is important,

to give air to the plants, otherwise they will get mouldy. I have kept plants several weeks this way. Sometimes it has been necessary to dampen the moss very slightly.

I had no time this year before going away to prepare a place for the plants I hoped to bring back. When I returned a few of the plants were potted up separately, but most were put into large pans of gritty leaf-mould (riddled), planted rather closely. After top-dressing with pebbles they were well watered in. I did not shade either heavily or lightly, as some people advise, nor put in a closed frame. The pots and pans were placed in the shade (except for a little evening sun) and up-ended cloches put round them. They are sprayed daily, sometimes twice on very hot days, with rain water. To date (end of July) they are looking very well under this treatment, only one plant has died, and some are ready for potting on. I am pleasantly surprised that they are looking so well, as the winds are very drying and the sun very hot. It rather shows one is apt to coddle mountain plants too much when bringing them home. I think I did.

It was a very late season on Passo Pordoi this year. The snow still lay thick and deep, and had only gone in places on the sunny side of the road, so I did not find as much as I had hoped. It was the same on Monté Faloria, above Cortina. I lifted plants from the very edge of the snow, some of them so winter-dead I did not know what they were, but they looked interesting. I am still trying to identify.

To a Wood Louse

SEEN ON THE ROCK GARDEN

(with apologies to Robert Burns)

By C. E. D.

Ha ! whaur ye gaun, ye ugly ferlie ?
 I catch ye here baith late an' early,
 Sae agitatedly an' sairlic
 Rinnin' up an' doon,
 An' weel I ken ye've dined right squarely
 On *Draba aizoon*.

Och ! blast ye now, ye're out o' sight,
 Skulkin' beneath the Pink, x "Delight,"
 But by my sooth, I'll no' be right
 Till, clod on ye,
 An' wi' a heel that's far frae light,
 I've trod on ye.

Faith ! what's the guid ? Your population
 Far exceeds the Chinese nation—
 Ye fourteen-leggit, base Crustacean !
 But this I swear—
 I'd see ye a' to hot d—
 Wi'out a tear.



Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 20—*Phlox subulata* cv *Temiskaming*
(see page 160 *Journal* 23)



Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 21—*Phyllodoce coerulea* (see page 161 *Journal* 23)

A Plea for More Auriculas in Scotland

—PART 2

By R. B. PIKE

IN MY PREVIOUS article I defined the various classes of auricula and in this I will give some hints on cultivation. Show auriculas are expensive to buy, and more difficult to cultivate than Alpine varieties. It is therefore preferable to learn on alpiners, and apply the knowledge so gained to the Show varieties. The "Alpiners" can be grown in the rockery quite satisfactorily, but the flowers are tarnished by bad weather and to see them at their best they should be given the protection of cloches, cold frames, or a cold greenhouse. The plants can be obtained from a few nurseries in Great Britain* and are usually despatched in early summer after flowering. They are placed into four-inch pots, using John Innes No. 3 compost with good drainage. During the summer it is usual to sink the pots in a shady position in the open and to keep them well watered. During the winter it is better to give them cold frame protection in an ash bed, or to keep them in a cold greenhouse. On no account should they be given heat and they must be kept on the dry side. More water can be given as the days lengthen and the plants emerge from their winter resting period. By the end of March the plants will be in full growth and showing flower buds. A weak liquid feed can then be given and they should be in full flower by mid-April to May. After flowering the plants again have a partial rest before renewed autumn activity. It is in this rest period from June to July that re-potting is carried out and the rooted offsets are detached from the parent root stock, or 'carrot.' If you are anxious to increase the number of your plants, rather than grow prize winners, then you should leave all the new shoots on the parent plants and bed them out into a shady situation and cover with cloches. In a dry locality trickle feed should also be used. In the open bed offsets make good growth, and these can be removed in September, although many of them will still be unrooted. The removal scars on the parent plant should be dusted with flowers of sulphur before the plant is re-potted. In the sheltered west of Scotland the unrooted offsets can be set under the cloches and most of them will have rooted by the spring. By this method I have obtained as many as twenty offsets from a single plant in a year, although half this number is above average. This method is unorthodox and may well be unsuitable in areas with colder winters. If the parent plant is required for show purposes then one or two offsets only can be allowed to develop each year, all other shoots being removed. If you have a cold greenhouse which stands empty all winter because of heating costs, why not fill it with Polyanthus and Auriculas until the tomato plants demand space in the summer? The colour and beauty of these flowers will reward you a hundredfold and the plants will be in the shady border by mid-May.

To learn the requirements of Show auriculas, seedlings should be raised from the best obtainable seed, and if you are to be a judge of your own seedlings then you must learn some of their finer points. It takes experience to recognise a good show variety according to the standards by which these flowers are judged. The proportions and features of the flower, considered as being ethically the most pleasing, were drawn up some hundred and fifty years ago and remain unchanged to this day. (For the parts of the flower refer previous article *S.R.G.C. Journal*, Vol. 4, Part 3, p. 250).

The characters to be looked for in the Edged varieties are :—

1. The stem, bearing a truss of not less than five pips, should be straight and sufficiently strong to hold the truss erect.
2. The peduncle of the flower, or pip, should be sufficiently long to avoid overlapping of the individual flowers.
3. The pip must be thrum-eyed with the anthers filling the throat. A pin-eyed flower has a vacant and unsightly appearance.
4. The pip should open flat and be quite circular ; if not flat, then saucer-shaped is better than having the petals reflexed. The number of petals should be six or more.
5. The centre of the pip should be circular and of a deep yellow colour, with a diameter approximately equal to one-sixth of the diameter of the flower.
6. The paste should be smooth, pure white and circular in outline. The width of this should be equal to that of the body colour and edge-colour together.
7. The body colour, or ground colour, should be dark, with the inner edge circular while the outer edge has small tongues of body colour penetrating the edge-colour.
8. The edge-colour should be the same width as the body colour.

In the Self varieties the petal-colour should be uniform throughout and without shading. The paste should be as in the Edged varieties, and about equal to that of the petal-colour.

No simple Mendelian inheritance can help the breeder in such a complex set of characters and luck, combined with the best seed, is the way most amateurs raise new varieties. The seed, if sown in the autumn, as soon as ripe will probably give a better germination than spring-sown seed. It also has the advantage of that much start and should be kept growing steadily in gentle heat over winter. In spring the seedlings are pricked out an inch apart in boxes and in May I plant them out in the shady border under cloches at four-inch spacing. If you live in a cold district it would be better to prick the seedlings straight into boxes at three-inch spacing, returning the boxes to the greenhouse in the winter and keeping them in the same boxes until after flowering. By the autumn the foliage of some of the young plants will begin to show different characters. The green-edged varieties are without farina on the foliage, but the majority of the others show some

dusting of farina and their leaf-edges may become serrated and margined with heavy meal. In the late autumn the older leaves die back and should be removed. In the milder district flowers will be formed in the spring following bedding out in about 70% of the seedlings, but in harder districts another year will have to be allowed before they reach flowering stage. As each truss opens the flower will be judged by the standards given. Most of them will have outstanding faults but quite a number will be of good quality ; but it is unlikely that any will be outstanding. If you have reached this stage it is probable that you will be studying Sir Rowland Biffen's book and will join the National Auricula Society where you will receive much help from members. You may decide that life is too short and grow something else, and thereby miss one of the most exciting plants in cultivation.

*Addresses where good 'show' and 'alpine' seed can be obtained :—

Mr. C. G. Haysom, 70 Stannington Crescent, Totton, Southampton.
Douglas Carnation Nursery, Great Bookham, Surrey.

Ferny Creek, Victoria, Australia

By BERYL WATSON

WINTER-TIME, and all that it implies ! By the end of June all the colour has departed from the trees and shrubs, but in their bareness they hold a certain fascination, especially at sundown when the delicate branches are etched against the pink and russet hues the clouds pick up from the setting sun.

Ferny Creek usually has a fall or two of snow, and its share of South-Westerlies which bring driving rain and mists. When the temperature decides to drop sufficiently, a frost forms solid enough to lie in the hollows all day. On the other hand, sunshine filters through even in unlikely weather, and to see some particular farmhouse, hill or either of the two Bays spotlighted, as it were, while the surrounding countryside is still bathed in a blue mist, is picturesque.

One of the compensations of Winter is the blooming of the Ericas ; *wilmoreana*, *darleyensis*, *melanthera*, Springwood White and 'Winter Gem' are in full bloom, as also is the native heath which abounds in the Dandenongs. *Galanthus elwesii* is also acknowledging a nodding acquaintance with anyone who cares to wander down the garden path to pay homage at its shrine. How clean and white it looks ! And yes, *Galanthus nivalis* is just about to open its buds too.

Violets, primroses, boronia and crocuses are all mustering their numbers of buds and blooms in anticipation of their Spring display. In fact, at present crocuses varieties 'E. A. Bowles' (yellow), *chrysanthus*, 'Snow Bunting,' *imperati*, *aureus* and *thomasinianus* are fully out,

From seed received from the Scottish Rock Garden Club since 1954 the following are flowering : *Narcissus cyclamineus* (15 blooms in all !), *Hyacinthus amethystinus*, *Crocus imperati*, *C. chrysanthus*, *C. aureus* ; which, to my mind, is an achievement as prior to this I had felt that endeavouring to raise seed is problematical, and it was only when inspired by another member of our Group that I thought it could be worth while. Also, here in Australia it is very difficult indeed to acquire the vast majority of rock plants and bulbs, so it can be understood there is a certain thrill in having some success from one's own efforts.

Bulbocodium 'Nylon' has put forth one jaunty flower ; leaves of "The Little Gentleman" Daffodil, *Bulbocodium citrinum*, *Narcissus triandrus albus*, 'February Gold' and several other varieties are thrusting upwards ; and the Hellebores are displaying their modest best. It is only when one looks into their flowers that their beauty is really seen in shades of green-white through the pinks to deep polished plum.

On one clump of *Gentian acaulis* there are still five flowers of compelling blue to catch the eye, which means that it has not ceased to flower during the winter months !

One point of interest at the moment is a particularly pleasing early Iris, about 6 ins. high and deep bright blue in colour. It is called "Harmony" and is presumed to be a cross between *I. histrioides major* and *reticulata*.

Omphalodes cappadocica and *Pulmonaria angustifolia* are also adding their dainty blues to the other shades in the garden.

Plants and Problems

ANDROSACE IMBRICATA (See Fig. 52)

I WAS first attracted to this androsace by a well-flowered plant at one of our Club shows. I ordered one and promptly lost it the first winter. It was evident that this plant required a little extra attention and a second purchase was potted up more carefully with tufa tucked round its neck. A too generous use of the watering can during the winter caused a brown patch, but the removal of a rosette saved the situation and the plant entered a second season.

In its third year it was potted on in a gritty mixture ($\frac{1}{4}$ grit) over a really good drainage of crocks. A platform of tufa was carefully constructed under and around the cushion and level with the top of the pan. The pan (a $\frac{3}{4}$ pot) was plunged in a box of sand kept damp in summer and dry in winter. Bottom watering was done weekly, or as required, in summer, and the plant was kept very dry in winter. Cracks appearing on the cushion are a sign that the plant requires water. During the winter months dipping the pan in three inches of water for a couple of minutes will return the cushion to normal.

Greenfly are a potential enemy and an attack inside the cushion is serious. The remedy is simple. Immerse the pan to half its depth in a solution of Tritox. It works !

The plant referred to is now in its eighth year and, if the above procedure is observed, there appears to be no reason why your androsaces should not live to a ripe old age. *Androsace cylindrica*, a rather easier plant, will respond to the same treatment.

Don't forget to remove the seed heads after flowering and when your plant is four or five years old it may be a wise precaution to start a successor. Accidents can happen !

Aberdeen.

H. ESSLEMONT

RHODODENDRON DIDYUM

IT DOES not seem to be generally known that there is a scarlet-flowered form of *Rhododendron didymum* which flowers in June-July like the usual black-crimson one. It is also dwarfer and therefore more suitable for the average rock garden. Twelve years ago I received a plant of this under the K.W. No. 13225. At first it was planted in a raised bed, where it got no sun except in the early morning. Here it grew well but had the bad habit of losing its flower buds if there was an early autumn frost. On this account five years ago it was moved to a much sunnier bed. Here it has grown even better and the bud dropping habit seems to have been cured. It is now approximately one and a half feet tall by two and a half feet across, and is covered with flower buds (May 1959) despite last year's poor summer.

To confirm that it really was a scarlet *didymum* a specimen was sent to Mr. Davidian of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and in his reply he said : "You need not change the name of your plant, which is scarlet *R. didymum*." So far with me it has been a poor seeder, probably because it does not get enough time to ripen its seed before the cold weather sets in, but in a warmer garden this should not happen. There are a number of dwarf Rhododendrons of a similar colour which flower earlier in the year, but unfortunately in many gardens they are liable to be spoiled by our April-May frosts. For this reason, one which is very unlikely to be damaged in this way, and which provides colour when the spring show of blossom is over, is worth trying by those lucky enough to have a lime-free soil.

Northumberland.

R. B. COOKE

RHODODENDRON LOWNDESII (See Fig. 53)

SOME particulars of the plant which received a certificate of merit on the 5th May 1958 at the Edinburgh Show may be worth recording. It was raised from S.S. & W. 8239 seed, which I received from Colonel

D. Lowndes in 1955. From this seed I kept, or got, three plants. One was planted out and the other two have remained in pots in a cold frame and cold house. The one planted out was badly damaged by a spring frost in 1957 and from this it has not yet recovered. The two others which escaped this damage have grown well. The plant shown at Edinburgh is now two and a half inches tall and has a spread of about eight inches. This year it has produced about forty flowers in succession over a period of a little over a month. Its rotate-campanulate pale yellow flowers were about one and an eighth inches across and were single or in twos and threes. The two, or three upper lobes were spotted and streaked with darker yellow : the ten stamens were reddish-brown : the style bent down and the stigma greenish. As regards the spotting of the flowers, it is interesting to see that in the *Rhododendron Handbook* for 1956 in the description of the species it says that the flowers are spotted with carmine and in the key to the species that they are spotted with greenish-yellow. This seems to indicate that the flowers can vary in this respect.

Northumberland.

R. B. COOKE

SAXIFRAGA SHERRIFFII

A NEW saxifrage, L. & S. 18972, has been raised from seed and successfully brought to flowering stage by a Club member whose skill in plantsmanship is held in high esteem by all who know him, just as we all have a warm affection for him because of his kindly, unassuming nature and his constant readiness to help fellow members. This saxifrage has been named *Saxifraga sherriffii*, and so far as is known those which have been brought to flowering by Mr. W. C. Buchanan are probably the only plants in cultivation. Extracts from a letter from the British Museum, Natural History Section, confirming the identity of this and other plants from seed of recent introduction read as follows : "I congratulate you on having raised these choice plants from seed. The Saxifrage is a new species from Bhutan which has only recently been described by Dr. Harry Smith of Uppsala University. He will be very interested to hear that this plant has been brought to the flowering stage, and I shall write and tell him about it. In his paper describing *S. sherriffii* he writes : 'The discovery of this plant in Bhutan is surprising. It is clearly related to the Mediterranean group Aretioides which extends as far as the Perim Dagh Mountains of S.W. Bulgaria. Perhaps this group originated in the Himalayas and not in the Mediterranean region. Only one yellow flowered Kabschia was previously known from the Himalayan area.' "—Signed, F. Ludlow.

Club members will wish to congratulate Mr. Buchanan and look forward hopefully to the day when he may be able to exhibit this new Saxifrage at one of our Club Shows.

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I think I may be able to help your contributor Mr. J. Rogers to make a success of two of his disappointments, *Ramonda pyrenaica* and *Primula marginata*. My first rock garden was a natural outcrop of the oolitic limestone in north-west Oxfordshire, and the soil, when analysed, was pronounced to be 33% lime. In this fantastic stuff (as the analyst called it) ramonda flourished, making large rosettes and increasing by offsets. In one season my best rosette had over thirty flower scapes and made four offsets. As our rainfall is light—very seldom more than twenty-five inches a year—and the soil dried out very quickly, I tried to supply humus in the form of peat, but ramonda seemed to dislike it.

The soil in my present rock garden is much more nearly neutral. *Ramonda* does quite well, but does not grow so large or increase in the same way. *Primula marginata*, I think, also appreciates lime. It has always done quite well here, but I think there are a good many forms, and Mr. Rogers might do well to see it in flower. I would suggest leaf-mould, but not peat for humus, and some bone meal for the primula; and if his rainfall is as light as ours he should water ramonda in a hot summer. It has a wonderful capacity for recovery even when it looks quite brown and dead, as mine does just now after three dry months. *Ramonda* seed germinates well in this soil and I have not found that it minds growing in moss or is fussy about aspect. The plant I have described faced west, but was well tucked in between rocks.

Charlbury.

J. M. HOLLINGS

Review of the Year

By THE PRESIDENT

THE MEMBERSHIP of the Club continues to rise, and has during the last four years increased by approximately a thousand, being now about 3700. This steady increase is largely attributable to the work of County Representatives. It has been very noticeable that in a number of counties where Club affairs were more or less moribund, a new, keen and active C.R. has made all the difference.

There are, however, still a few counties for which I have not yet been able to find C.R.s. It is very difficult for the President to find a C.R., when he does not know people in the county requiring one. If any members in such counties can suggest a likely candidate, I am sure my successor would be glad to hear from them.

I think that we can fairly claim that we have had another satisfactory year. The Shows have all been successful, thanks to the work of our

Show Secretaries and their committees. The number and quality of plants brought before the Joint Awards Committee has also been very satisfactory. County Activities have increased, and our thanks are due to the lecturers and to those garden owners who made this possible.

The Slide Library has proved itself of great value to lecturers, and the number of slides has been greatly increased. We must thank Dr. Davidson for all the work he has put in, and also the members who have contributed slides.

The Seed Distribution continues to be one of the most popular and important services provided by the Club. It is much appreciated, particularly by overseas members, many of whom are amongst the most generous contributors to it. Mrs. Davidson and her helpers are to be congratulated on a big job very well done, and we thank donors of seed who make the Distribution possible.

We had our stand as usual at the Royal Highland and Agricultural Show. This year it was at Aberdeen, and we are grateful to the members there who provided the plants for what was a very attractive stall, and to those who manned the stall and acted as recruiters and enrolled 18 new members.

What seems to have become an annual event, and a popular one too, is the Discussion Week-end. This last year it was held in Perth, and it was run by Mr. Dow, C.R. for Perthshire. It was a great success, details being published in the April *Journal*.

A new departure this year was the holding of a Summer Week at St. Andrews, which was attended by about sixty people. As we had numerous requests that it should be repeated next year, we may, I think, claim that it was a success. I know I personally enjoyed it very much. Professor Burnett and his helpers are to be congratulated on a very interesting and instructive programme, and on the way in which it was run. The accommodation and service in the hostel were excellent. A full report will be found elsewhere in this *Journal*.

To a great majority of our members the *Journal* is probably the thing most appreciated. We are, I think, rather inclined to take the *Journal* for granted, without thinking of the work and worry involved. I say worry because I know our Editor does suffer from that, and it could be very much reduced if all office-bearers and others would get their contributions in on time. It is not possible to please all members all the time; beginners and old hands have both got to be catered for. I think Mr. Mowat is very successful in holding the balance, and in keeping up a high standard. We have had a few new contributors during the year, but we could do with more. As a beginning, a Plant Note is not beyond the capacity of most of our members, and I hope we shall have more contributors of these and of longer articles.

The Index to the *Journal* was published some months ago, and quite a number has been sold, but not as many as might be expected. Of course, this is the gardeners' "non-reading" season. The Index is

really a great help when one wants to refer to something in a back number, and we are very much indebted to Mr. MacGregor for all the work he put into it.

Finance is an important item, and in these days of rising cost a troublesome one. Printing and postage costs have both gone up, and the former will, I suppose, be going up still further. So far we have been able to balance our budget without cutting the services provided or raising our subscription, If costs continue to rise, however, we have to keep our membership rising too, or else we shall have to raise our subscription, which we do not wish to do. Members will, I am sure, realize that in view of the financial situation local activities must be self-supporting. After all, many members in outlying districts and those living abroad enjoy no local activities, and it would be quite unfair to expect them to subsidise the local activities of others. Another item in our finances which has also been rising steadily, in this case a very welcome rise, is our income from advertisements in our publications. The total from this source has now reached a very appreciable sum each year, thanks to the work and pertinacity of Mr. James Aitken, our Honorary Publicity Manager. He also seems to manage to get a surprising amount of unpaid publicity for the Club.

Mention of finance brings us to our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Stewart Mitchell. Most members will have heard of his serious illness, from which he is now making a good recovery, I am glad to say. Mr. Mitchell has, for a number of years, been not only our Honorary Treasurer, but also County Representative for Angus and Hon. Show Secretary, Dundee. In addition, of course, he had his private business to run, and in this he was shorthanded after his brother's death. In fact, he was obviously overworking, which probably had a good deal to do with his illness. He has had to resign from two of the appointments—Hon. Treasurer and Show Secretary. I am sure all members appreciate all the work he has done for our Club and wish him a complete and speedy recovery. The work of Honorary Treasurer has now been divided between two people, Mr. David Elder taking over as Hon. Treasurer and Miss Geraldine Currie as Subscription Secretary. Details of who is responsible for what will be appearing elsewhere.

At this point I would like to appeal to members to pay their subscriptions without having to be reminded ; that would save our Subscription Secretary a lot of unnecessary extra work.

It will, I think, surprise members to know that those who have to have one or more reminders sent to them are numbered not in dozens but in hundreds !

I think I have mentioned all our office-bearers except the Honorary Secretary. I haven't forgotten him ; perhaps I just take him for granted. He is now our oldest office-bearer in length of service, and he just carries on keeping things running smoothly without any fuss and bother. He also acts as a most useful "Presidents' Remembrancer."

I am now completing my fourth and last year as President. I have enjoyed my period of office very much, and I thank all office-bearers, members of Council and others for their help, encouragement and co-operation. Owing to my having been rather a lot on the sick list since the beginning of this year, I have unfortunately missed some of the Shows. A number of projected visits to county groups had to be given up too, for which I am very sorry. I hope my successor as President will enjoy his period of office as much as I have done. I cannot wish him better. I also wish the Club continued success in the future.

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 1st April 1959, when the following awards were made :—

AWARD OF MERIT :

To *Pleione formosanum*, as a flowering plant for the alpine house. Exhibited by Dr. H. Tod, Carnethy, Seafield, Roslin, Midlothian.

To *Pleione formosanum*, as a flowering plant for the alpine house. Exhibited by Messrs. Longmuir & Adamson, Holywood, Dumfries.

To *Bergenia stracheyi* (subject to verification of name), as a flowering plant for the rock garden or alpine house. Exhibited by Miss A. M. Dickson, Woodhouse, Dunscore, Dumfriesshire.

CERTIFICATE OF PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION :

To *Saxifraga strolitziae* (subject to verification of name), as a flowering and foliage plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by Mrs. G. M. Crewdson, Helme Lodge, Kendal, Westmorland.

CULTURAL COMMENDATION :

To H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for a fine plant of *Kelseya uniflora*.

To Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay, Keillour Castle, Methven, Perthshire, for a well-flowered pan of *Primula griffithii*.

To Messrs. Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire, for a fine plant of *Primula sonchifolia*.

Show Reports

PENICUIK

THE SIXTH Penicuik Show was held on 21st March 1959, in St. Mungo's Hall, jointly with the Penicuik Horticultural Society's Bulb Show, and for once the weather was dry and clear, even if cold. The entries were up by nearly a half on last year, and the best feature was the number of new competitors who entered plants, four in the restricted classes and one in the open section.

The Forrest Medal was awarded to *Saxifraga x jenkinsae*, shown by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey (not, incidentally, the same plant which won the Medal last year), and the Midlothian Vase for the best plant in the restricted classes to *Saxifraga burseriana* 'Gloria,' shown by Dr. James Davidson. Both of these were notable plants, superbly flowered and in excellent condition. The competition for the Forrest Medal was very close, and a Certificate of Merit was awarded to the runner-up, *Soldanella alpina*, shown by Miss Bowe, a really beautiful pan in full flower. Others "in the running" were *Primula aureata* (form) (Mr. and Mrs. Baillie), *Primula clarkei* (Mrs. Boyd-Harvey), and *Anemone vernalis* (Mr. Adams). The Midlothian Bowl was retained by Dr. and Mrs. Tod by the narrowest of margins, the runners-up being Mr. James Archibald in the restricted classes and Dr. and Mrs. A. F. McInnes in the open, both exhibiting for the first time. They came out level, each with two points behind the winners. The Judges were Miss Logan-Home, Mr. A. Evans and Mr. J. Wilson.

A Large Gold Medal was awarded to the Edrom Nurseries and a Gold Medal to Ponton's Nurseries for built-up rock gardens; both these stands showed very fine selections of good early plants for the rock garden.

The increased number of entries meant that the Show had to expand into a double row of tables for the first time, and as the entries for the Bulb Show were also increased, the Hall showed a really colourful display.

The season had been rather odd, a very warm spell having brought on plants very rapidly after one of the hardest winters for some years, and this was followed by a further cold spell with hard frost which checked them again sharply. The damage from birds to the bulbous flowers had also been serious for those who had forgotten (as the writer had) to protect their blooms. As a result the Crocus entries were down appreciably, as were Irises, though there were several good 'Junos' both on the Trade Stands and in the competitive classes.

Most of the tulips were not yet ready, though those which were staged were in excellent condition. There were several good pans of Cyclamen exhibited and there were a number of good pans of Primulas both Asiatic and European. Mrs. Boyd-Harvey had a good plant of *Rhododendron leucaspis* and Mrs. Neilson of *Rhododendron mucronatum*, both in full flower.

The outstanding plants, however, were the Kabschia Saxifrages. These seem to have been particularly good this year, and the plants on show were all in full flourish—and even *Saxifraga x haagii* had condescended to flower! We were delighted to have a magnificent plant of *Draba mollissima* sent from Mr. Esslemont in Aberdeen and to welcome him and Mr. Benken later at the Show. Unfortunately the *Draba* flatly refused to open its flowers and stayed in a profusion of tight buds.

There was a very good attendance of members of the Club and of the public as well and, as usual, the Show Secretary is vastly indebted to the Ladies of the Industrial Section of the Penicuik Society for all their help which makes everything go so smoothly and efficiently—and for the excellent teas they supply!

HENRY TOD,

Show Secretary and C.R., Midlothian.

DUMFRIES

THE Show was opened by Mrs. McGeorge of Dumfries, who, in the absence of the President, was introduced by Major Walmsley.

There were some remarkably fine exhibits in Section I, and it was most gratifying to have such a fine number of entries in Section II. The judges and members of the Joint Awards Committee who were present at the Show had the opportunity of seeing some very nice plants on view.

The Forrest Medal this year was awarded to *Primula sonchifolia*, exhibited by Edrom Nurseries. The Walmsley Trophy, for three pans of rock plants, went to R. B. Cooke, Esq., of Corbridge, while the Bronze Medal in Section II was won by Mrs. Henderson, Dumfries, the same member also winning the Lewis Trophy, confined to members in the South-West in Section II.

The Trade patronized the Show very well and gave the hall a most colourful display. A Large Gold Medal was awarded to Messrs. Harper of Stranraer, who surpassed themselves with cut narcissi of all types, and a Large Gold Medal was awarded to Colonel Stitt of Blairgowrie for a display in pots and pans. Some of these plants, huge specimens, were greatly admired, especially *P. sonchifolia*, *P. gracilipes*, *P. bhutanica*, *Rhodo*. "Jaipur," *Thlaspi rotundifolium*, *Eunomia oppositifolia*, and others. Edrom Nurseries gained a Gold Medal for a display of pots and pans of alpines, and had their usual display of hardy primulas, azaleas, rhododendrons, meconopses, saxifrages, Reinelt polyanthus, and double primroses.

The local firm of Messrs. Longmuir & Adamson gained a Gold Medal for a built-up Rock Garden and had many fine double primroses, primulas, saxifrages, *Anemone pulsatilla* in variety, lovely hepaticas, and a large display of shrubs in bloom. Messrs. King & Paton, of Dalbeattie, showed many dwarf shrubs, anemones, primulas, and a var. of *Pinus cembra*, not seen very often. Messrs. Ponton of Edinburgh also offered a fine array of alpines in pots, and crazy-pavement plants ready for planting. Two local members, Messrs. A. Thomson and Wm. Wilson, again staged a good display of cacti and succulent plants, and received a Cultural Certificate, while our C.R. treated us to a stand of sempervivums, many pans of which would have surely

obtained premier awards if put up for competition. The Crichton Royal Institute, Dumfries, as always, provided floral decorations for the platform.

Members and Trade put up quite a number of pans for the Joint Awards Committee and several awards were made. I wish to thank all members for their support—Trade, committee and, most of all our C.R., whose help contributed to a very good Show.

R. FORBES,
Show Secretary.

GLASGOW

THE GLASGOW SHOW, held in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th and 15th April, filled two large galleries, and many rare and interesting plants were shown. Before a larger audience than is usual, the Lady Provost of Glasgow, Mrs. Galpern, gracefully opened the Show. Many fine plants were on view in Section I, and in several of the classes competition was keen.

In Class I, for six Rock Plants, Mr. Wm. Urie, Turnberry, repeated his last year's success in winning the Dr. W. Buchanan Memorial Rose Bowl, staging six good plants, including a nice *Schizocodon soldanelloides*, and a fine specimen of *Cassiope selaginoides*, which was awarded the George Forrest Memorial Medal for the most meritorious plant in the Show. Mr. H. Archibald, Carnwath, who was placed second, had a fine specimen of *Jeffersonia dubia* and a very good pan of *Saxifraga lilacina*, which very deservedly gained a Certificate of Merit. In third place was Miss D. Pape, Berwick-on-Tweed, who staged a nice plant of *Pygmaea thomsonii*. The remaining competitor in this class, Mr. J. Crosland, Torphine, had a small plant of the new *Helichrysum coralloides*, which was much admired.

In Class II, for three Rock Plants, Mrs. C. B. Jamieson, Newton Mearns, was awarded the Henry Archibald Challenge Rose Bowl for three well grown plants of *Primula marginata* cv. "Linda Pope," *Saxifraga grisebachii* "Wisley Form" and *Rhododendron pemakoense*. Mr. Urie, who was second, had a good plant of *Daphne collina*, and Mrs. E. Darling, Port Glasgow, placed third, a good *Daphne petraea* v. *grandiflora*, unfortunately just coming into flower. The Crawford Silver Challenge Cup, awarded for the most first prizes in the remaining classes in Section I, was worthily won by Mr. and Mrs. R. Baillie, Longniddry, who showed many good plants, their *Sanguinaria canadensis* being particularly fine. This is now a comparatively rare plant, compared with the double form. Other good plants that helped to win the trophy were *Saxifraga media* and *S. x paulinae*, *Androsace imbricata* and *A. pyrenaica*, and *Sempervivum arachnoideum*, *S. ciliosum* v. *borisii* and *S. octopodes* v. *typica*. Mr. H. Archibald had good plants such as *Primula aureata* and *Vaccinium nummularia*. A

plant that attracted much attention was *Adonis amuriensis* v. *florepleno*, exhibited by Mrs. Darling and not previously seen at the Glasgow Show. In Class VII a notable plant was *Draba mollissima*, a perfectly flowered cushion, sent by Mr. Esslemont, Aberdeen. Dr. Gibson, Clovend, Dalbeattie, was successful in several classes, showing good plants of *Primula m.* cv. "Linda Pope," *Lewisia brachycalyx* and *L. tweedyi*, and a lovely pan of *Haberlea rhodopensis* v. *virginalis*, just coming into flower. Other plants noted were *Narcissus juncifolius* (Mrs. Allan, Strathblane), *Anacyclus depressus*, *Pleione formosana* and *Rhododendron keiski* (Mr. W. Urie), *Primula edgeworthii* (Mrs. Darling), *Sedum dasyphyllum* v. *macrophyllum* (Mr. Lamont, Kilmacolm), *Rhododendron leucaspis*, and the upright form of *R. pemaekense* (Dr. Booth, Edinburgh).

It was pleasing to see such a good turn-out in Section II, where the Challenge Cup, so kindly presented by Mr. James Wilson, was awarded to Mr. Duncan MacFarlane, Dumfries, for most points in the section. It was Mr. MacFarlane's first appearance at our Show, and no doubt more will be heard of him when he steps up into Section I next year. Amongst Mr. MacFarlane's prize-winning exhibits were noted *Primulas* "Mrs. Wilson" and "The General" and *Armeria caespitosa*. Mr. McGregor, Milngavie, who was first for three Rock Plants, staged *Phylodoce empetriformis*, *Dondia epipactis*, and *Primula frondosa*. From Mrs. Stead, Clarkston, came *Lithospermum oleifolium* in Class 61, and in Class 62 Mrs. McEwan won with *Draba rupestris*. Mr. and Mrs. Wagstaff, Eaglesham, were successful in Classes 65, 70 and 83, with the mossy *Saxifraga* "Carnival," one of the red forms of *Pulsatilla* and the white *Polygonum tenuicaule*, respectively. Other successful exhibitors in the section were Mr. W. Crichton, Torrance, with *Douglasia laevigata* in Class 69, Mrs. A. Todd, Bearsden, in Class 77 with *Sempervivum* "Jubilee," and Miss M. Thomson in Class 85 for a daintily arranged container of rock plants.

In Section III the limelight was stolen by an exhibit of orchids from Malaya, exhibited by Mrs. Slack, Bearsden, whose husband Dr. Slack had sent them specially by air for the Show. A Certificate of Merit was awarded to this exhibit.

Entries in Section IV were not so numerous as in former years, but very good plants of Polyanthus gained premier honours for Miss M. Thomson, Milngavie, in Classes 98 and 99. An outstanding exhibit was Mr. R. Biggart's Azalea "J. Haerems" in Class 91. In the decorative classes Miss D. McFadzean, Troon, was first in Classes 88 and 89 with nice arrangements. The Narcissi classes were poorly supported and were dominated by Mr. Lamont, Kilmacolm.

GEORGE LAURIE

Some six years ago, at the instigation of the late Duchess of Montrose, a Rhododendron Section was introduced into the Glasgow Show schedule. It proved most popular and each year since the rhododendron growers in the West have vied with each other in staging a

display the like of which is not to be seen on this side of the border. Competition this year was keen and close, and resulted in the Earl of Stair winning the William Urie Challenge Cup with 36 points. Major I. A. Campbell of Arduaine, by Oban, came next with 35 points. Sir George Campbell and his son, Crarae Lodge, followed with 30 points, and Brodick Castle for the National Trust for Scotland with 24 points. A welcome newcomer in this section was Mrs. N. M. Mitchison of Carradale, Campbeltown, who was successful in one or two classes. The rhododendron section was a prominent feature of the Show, occupying as it did fully half of one of the large galleries, and it gave the ordinary garden lover an opportunity of admiring some of the choicest of this large family. Apart from the section suitable for the small rock garden, more use could be made of the medium-sized rhododendrons and would prove most effective, especially as a background. Mr. H. H. Davidian and Mr. W. Buchanan were the judges in this section.

The following Trade awards were made :—LARGE GOLD MEDALS to William B. Boyd of Barrhead, for built-up rock garden ; and to Jack Drake of Aviemore for rock plants in pots, who also gained a Certificate of Merit for his pan of *Celmisia argentea*. GOLD MEDALS were awarded to James A. Wilson of Kennishead for rock garden built on the ground, and to Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire, for built-up rock garden. Others who had stands at the Show were Ponton of Colinton, Edinburgh, who made a special display of tulips suitable for the rock garden and in great variety ; Knockdolian Gardens and Nurseries, Colmonell, by Girvan, specialising in Rhodohypoxis and with outstanding plants of Pleione and Anemone in variety. Grant of West Calder displayed his "Sesame Compounds," etc. ; John Smith & Son, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, in their bookstand had a comprehensive selection of gardening books embracing all branches of the subject, including the "Cream of Alpines" by Barker, "Azaleas" by Fred Street, and "All the Plants of the Bible" by Winifred Walker. Miss Daisy Anderson of Cove, with her collection of coloured drawings of alpines and other plants attracted much attention, and finally "Floral Handicrafts" of London seemed to do well with their jewellery stand, all articles being made by home-bound disabled people.

As usual, an enthusiastic band of helpers made the running of the Show a pleasurable task for the committee. Close on forty new members were enrolled, including one life member.

E. D.

PERTH

AT THIS two-day Show which opened on 23rd April entries were much lighter than usual, but lack of quantity did not rob the Show of variety. Of roughly two hundred plants shown in the competitive classes very few were duplicated ; quality and grooming were generally good and so the cognoscenti found much of great interest, whilst the casual visitor was rather bewildered by the range of good rock garden material.

The Forrest Medal went to Mr. Esslemont's *Androsace imbricata**—a perfect hemisphere five inches in diameter smothered in bloom. Other outstanding exhibits included a magnificent pan of *Pleione formosana* shown by Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Stuart, the President's *Eritrichium nanum*, a fine pan of *Primula reidii* v *williamsii* shown by Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay, and a very good *Cassiope* 'Muirhead' on Jack Drake's stand.

The Caird Trophy for six pans went to Keillour for a truly splendid collection: *Meconopsis punicea*, *Corydalis cashmeriana*, *Paraquilegia grandiflora* v. *alba*, *Primula calderiana*, *Rhododendron* x *prostigiatum* and *Trillium rivale*. Major and Mrs. Finlay also won the L. C. Middleton Trophy for the most points in Section I, many of which were earned by their widely representative primula exhibits, which included *P. tsariensis*, *P. griffithii*, *P. griffithii* x *tsariensis*, *P. petiolaris* Brough 1957 (lilac with yellow eye), *P. calderiana*, *P. frondosa*, *P. rotundifolia*, *P. obtusifolia*, *P. strumosa*, *P. elatior*, *P. chionantha*, *P. bellidifolia* and *P. nepalensis*. Dr. Tod showed a fine *P. forrestii*, and other good primulas included *P. clarkei* and *P. scotica*.

Competition was very strong for the Dundas Quaich, which returned with Mr. and Mrs. Stuart to Pitlochry. Apart from *Pleione formosana* already mentioned they showed *Claytonia nivalis* and *Saxifraga grisebachii* 'Wisley var.'. Other fine plants in this class included *Paraquilegia anemonoides*, *Soldanella montana*, *Rhododendron canadense*, *Adonis brevistyla*, *Hylomecon japonicum*, and *Ranunculus amplexicaulis*.

Miss M. D. Scott Murray won the Bronze Medal in Section II with 42 points out of a possible 77—a remarkable performance considering that no competitor succeeded in entering in six classes where the possible points totalled 20 of the above-mentioned 77. Her plants included good specimens of *Omphalodes cappadocica*, *Primula farinosa* and *P. rosea*. Other splendid pans in this section included *Scilla italica*, *Narcissus juncifolius*, *N. bulbocodium*, *N. cyclamineus*, *Tulipa dasystemon*, *Andromeda polifolia* v. *compacta* and *Chamaecyparis obtusa* v. *nana kosteri*.

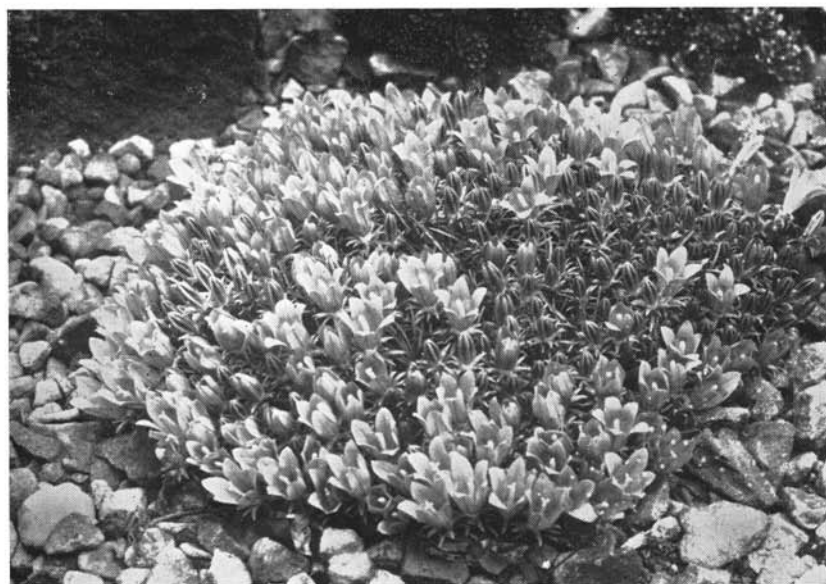
To return to Section I, other plants to delight the connoisseur included *Rhododendron pumilum* (Kingdon Ward's 'Pink Baby') and *Cryptomeria spiralis* shown by the President, *Meconopsis* x *cookei*, *Rhododendron euchaites* (dwarf form), *R. microleucis* and *Gentiana clusii* shown by Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay, a very robust specimen of *Anemone obtusiloba* v. *patula*, *Ramonda nathaliae*, *Lithospermum oleifolium*, *Helichrysum virginianum* and *Epigaea asiatica* shown by Major Walmsley, *Schizocodon soldanelloides* v. *alpinus*, *Cassiope wardii*, *Pleione limprichtii*, *Draba imbricata*, and *D. dedeana* shown by Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Stuart. Mr. Crosland, Torphins, showed three fine plants of *Lewisia tweedyi* (pink form) and *Sisyrinchium douglasii*. Mr. Dorward, Monikie, showed *Sanguinaria canadensis* fl. pl. and *Rhodohypoxis baurii*, and Mrs. Pattullo *Clematis alpina* and *Tiarella cordifolia*.

*See Fig. 52



Photo—D. Wilkie

Fig. 47—*Edraianthus serpyllifolius major* (see page 337)



Photo—D. Wilkie

Fig. 48—*Edraianthus pumilio* (see page 337)



Photo—D. Wilkie

Fig. 49—*Edraianthus dinaricus* (see page 338)



Photo—D. Wilkie

Fig. 50—*Edraianthus tenuifolius* (see page 338)



Photo—D. Wilkie

Fig. 51—*Edraianthus graminifolius* (see page 338)

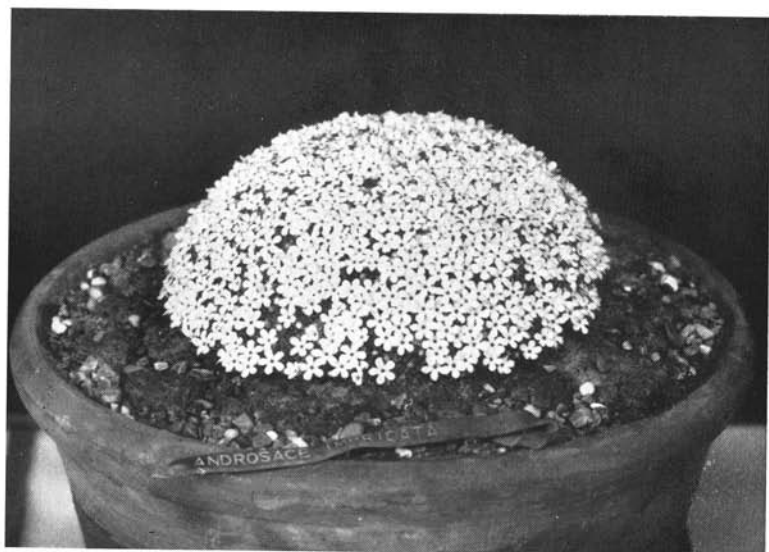


Fig. 52—*Androsace imbricata*,
shown at Perth by H. Esslemont (see page 356)
Winner of Forrest Medal



Fig. 53—*Rhododendron lowndesii*,
shown at Edinburgh by R. B. Cooke (see page 357)

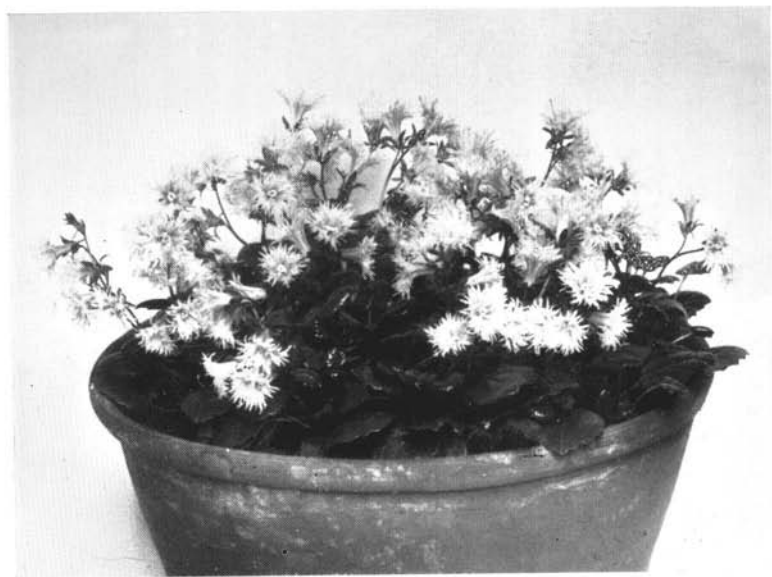


Fig. 54—*Schizocodon soldanelloides*,
shown at Edinburgh by H. Esslemont (see page 370)
Winner of Forrest Medal

Other interesting plants included *Celmisia argentea* and *Euryops evansii* in the silver foliage class, *Arnebia echioides*, *Tulipa dasystemon*, and double primroses—which I try hard to please with only moderate success. These were really happy specimens and made me resolve to try harder as these delightful old plants should be kept in cultivation. Lastly, an unfortunate omission from an apparently comprehensive schedule was spot-lighted by Miss Joyce Halley's splendid *Lewisia brachycalyx*. There was no class for Lewisias and so it had to appear in that class so difficult for judges but so essential for keeping Show Secretaries out of hot water—"Any plant not eligible . . ."

In Section III Mr. Euan Cox, Glendoick, showed a very fine collection of *Rhododendron* trusses from the species *racemosum*, *vernicosum* v. *euanthemum*, *thomsoni*, *augustinii*, *irroratum*, *charitopes*, and the hybrids "Rex," "Blue Diamond" and "Exminster" form. He also showed *Camellia* "Donation." Mrs. McMurtrie showed a very excellent collection of botanical water colour illustrations of the plants of Kenya, including Thunbergias, Commelinas, Calodendron, Carissa and Dodonea.

Jack Drake's display of plants in pans won a large gold medal. Included was his twenty-one years old *Cassiope lycopodioides*, still going strong. *Phyllodoce tsugifolia* and *P. nipponica*, *Pleione limprichtii* and *Gentiana verna* v. *alba*. Colonel Stitt's stand of plants in pans included *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, x *Phyllothamnus erectus* and a precocious *Pinus parviflora* v. *glauca* only eight inches high but bearing a cone. He received a Gold Medal. For their built-up rock garden Maryfield Nurseries received a Large Gold Medal. A feature of their stand was a comprehensive selection of dwarf conifers and they also showed *Lewisia tweedyi*, *Rhododendron myrtilloides*, *Salix lanata*, and the double primrose "Bon Accord Gem." James Aitken received a double award for his built-up rock garden—a Gold Medal and a Certificate of Merit for excellence of design and construction. His plants included *Rhododendrons* "Blue Diamond," *racemosum*, *impeditum*, and "Pink Drift," and *Cassiope tetragona*. Mrs. McMurtrie showed several fine double primroses, the double blue *Hepatica triloba*, *Muscari* x *tubergenianum* and *Primula juliae* v. "Lady Greer."

The County Library showed a wide range of excellent gardening books from their shelves, including as always a selection of the most recent publications. Mr. David Lumsden showed heaters, thermostats, a plant propagator and a plastic garden pool. Although orchids may appear rather out of place at a Rock Garden Club Show, members showed keen interest in a delightful display of *Odontodas*, *Dendrobiums*, *Cymbidium* hybrids and *Cypripediums* arranged by the Scottish Amateur Orchid Growers Society for which they received a well-merited Large Gold Medal.

EDINBURGH

THE EDINBURGH SHOW was held on 5th-7th May 1959 in the Music Hall, George Street, and the erratic nature of the season made the exhibitors' job something of a problem. The alternation of cold and warmth had produced rather confusing conditions, for plants which should have been in bloom were not "on" while some which should have been just coming into flower were long past; in spite of this the entries were about the same as usual. The standard was good, though perhaps there were less major highlights than usual. The Forrest Medal was awarded to *Schizocodon soldanelloides alpina*, a Japanese woodlander shown by Mr. Esslemont of Aberdeen. The schizocodons used to appear fairly often on the show bench before the War, but have been seldom seen since; this was a most outstanding plant in superb condition and beautifully flowered, about the best I have ever seen. (See Fig. 54)

The Corsar Trophy was won by Mr. Cooke of Corbridge with a very fine set of plants which included *Omphalogramma elegans* and *Pleione limprichtii* and, perhaps the most interesting, *Rhododendron lowndesii*.* This was, as far as the writer is aware, the first time this very new rhododendron has appeared on the show bench in full flower. It is a small, almost prostrate plant with pale yellow flowers (rather deeper colour forms also exist) and it suggests a herbaceous plant more than a shrub. How it will fare in cultivation remains to be seen, for it is as yet very scarce. Mr. Esslemont won the Carnethy Medal with the *Schizocodon* which gained the Forrest Medal, a fine plant of *Androsace imbricata* and an excellent pan of *Daphne petraea grandiflora*. Miss Pape was a close second with *Phlox bryoides*, *Omphalodes luciliae* and *Daphne arbuscula*, while Mrs. Boyd-Harvey's entry included a good pan of the new *Oxalis laciniata* which also appeared in another class shown by its introducer, Mrs. Tweedie of Dirleton. This plant is a newcomer with, I think, a good future once it settles down. It is extremely variable, ranging in colour from the palest smoke-grey through lilacs and blues to a full royal purple, and the leaf-size and form seem variable as well. Coming as it does from Patagonia south of the Equator it is, or appears to be, working its way backwards through the seasons, for it was first shown by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey in September at a North Berwick Show, worked through a Dunfermline Show in June a year or so ago, and now has got back to early May this year.

An odd plant in the New, Rare or Difficult class was shown by Dr. and Mrs. Simson Hall. This was one of the new red *Meconopsis species* (SSW 8637) where some physiological change had caused the plant, which normally towers up to six or seven feet, to assume a short, bushy habit with, as far as could be seen, a greater number of flowers out simultaneously than would occur on the normal plant; this change has also been noted in other gardens in this plant this

*(See Fig. 53)

year. In the Scottish Native class Mrs. Cormack had a good pan of that very attractive woodland plant *Trientalis europaea*, which had assumed the bronze leaf colour which seems to develop when it is grown in full light ; under woodland conditions the leaves are green. Mr. Corsar of Cairniehill had a fine plant of *Draba mollissima* in beautiful condition, and Mr. and Mrs. Baillie showed *Saxifraga cebenensis*, which is seldom seen nowadays. In the three pans Asiatic Primulas the first prize went to Mr. Cooke for an excellent trio of *Pp. calderiana*, the very rare *deuteronoma*, and the dwarf, compact form of *gracilipes*. In this latter the flower is of a darker, richer tint than usual. The Cooper Bhutan Cup for the best species Primula was awarded to Mr. Henry Archibald's very fine plant of *Primula aureata*, and the Elsie Harvey Trophy for three pans of new, rare or difficult rock plants was won by Mr. and Mrs. David Tweedie of Dirleton with three of their introductions from Patagonia—*Oxalis laciniata*, *Ephedra frustillata* and *Oxalis patagonica*. These were three plants from their earlier collections, not the more recent one, and were strong, well-grown plants in fine condition.

One striking feature of the Show, indeed of several of the Club's Shows this year, was the number of exhibits of *Pleione*, which a few years ago were almost unknown, and now have proved themselves such good plants that more and more members are growing them successfully. It is good to see, too, that several exhibitors are managing to grow the Aretian androsaces well ; these are always a test of good cultivation, and our Shows have been rather weak in this group, but several really good pans were on the bench this year, notably *Aa. imbricata* and *cylindrica*, and it was interesting to see on the Club's Information Stand the new SSW *Androsace* which had been raised by Mr. Duguid of Edrom Nurseries. This has much of the fine habit of the Aretians, but without their extreme difficulty, and seems a promising newcomer ; it has white flowers with a deep red "eye."

In that connection, incidentally, it is a great pity that so few members bring their difficulties and problems to the so-called "experts" manning the Information Stand. Only too often they say, if cornered and coaxed, that they feel that their queries are too simple and too obvious to put them forward. This attitude is just what we do not want ; the stand is there just for those people who do *not* know, and want to find out. Please remember this—no query is too simple to be answered, the advisers are there to be questioned and, if they can, to provide the answers, and we would one and all rather answer any query, however simple, obvious or elementary, than sit doing nothing and helping no one for hours on end. Please make use of our services much more freely than you have in the past.

Two most cheering features of the Show were that the Bronze Medal in Section II was won by our youngest member, Mr. James Archibald of Musselburgh, who was exhibiting at only his second Show, and that the Reid Rose Bowl for the highest aggregate of points in Section I was won by two other new competitors, Dr. and Mrs.

McInnes of Liberton. This is what we want, for without new exhibitors any Show must ultimately fail, and these two wins were the best news for a long time.

The Archibald Rose Bowl for three plants of easy cultivation was won by the Show Secretary—a win which pleased everyone.

The Trade as usual supported us nobly with extremely good stands. Jack Drake, who was awarded a Large Gold Medal, had a good selection of plants, with a very fine pan of *Glaucidium palmatum*, beautifully flowered, good primulas and meconopsis. Lt.-Colonel Stitt (Gold Medal) had primulas, some striking rhododendrons and berberis, and Messrs. Laurie of Dundee showed some very good dwarf shrubs as a backing to their display of rock plants. Messrs. Delaney & Lyle had their usual excellent conifers—it is good that our own nurseries are taking up these tricky and fascinating subjects—and some very colourful azaleas, while Ponton's Nurseries had a good range of rock plants and dwarf bulbs in which he is rapidly developing a speciality. The Edrom Nurseries showed some very good primulas, notably *chionantha* and *leucophylla* as well as polyanthus and azaleas (Gold Medal), while Mrs. Laing had a very colourful stand (Large Gold Medal) in her usual corner with some extremely good forms of *Gentiana acaulis* and the charming little double wood anemone, *A. nemorosa flore pleno*.

We were glad to see Messrs. Steele back again after a number of years with a stand of gardening equipment which was of interest to all of us, and to welcome a newcomer in Messrs. Grant, who showed a wide range of garden sundries. Our regular supporters, Messrs. Grant of West Calder, had a display of their made-up composts as well as the separate components. With the range of materials they can supply there is no excuse for members using "just anything which comes to hand" for their plants. Another steady upholder of our Show is Messrs. Brown, the booksellers, who had their usual range of most desirable books on all aspects of gardening.

Our heartiest congratulations are due to our hard-working Joint Show Secretaries, Mr. George Millar and Mrs. Murphy, on the success of the Show, and our thanks are due to both these officials for their efforts and for the happy atmosphere of the Show. This account was to have been prepared by Mr. Adams, but illness in the house and pressure on his time prevented this, so this report has been compiled from his notes by the writer.

HENRY TOD

DUNFERMLINE

THIS SHOW on Friday and Saturday, 29th and 30th May, held as usual in the Music Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, was unfortunate in following on a spell of weather which sent the plants and hopes of many com-

petitors haywire and resulted in a general thinness in many of the classes on the show benches. In spite of this it was a most attractive Show, with many of the exhibits present of quite a high standard.

In a very kindly and encouraging address Mrs. Frederick, wife of the Provost of Dunfermline, opened the Show and most graciously presented the trophies to the leading prizewinners.

The premier award—The George Forrest Medal for the most meritorious plant in the Show—went to a most magnificent plant of *Ramonda pyrenaica* shown by Maryfield Nurseries, Leslie, while the Bronze Medal for most points in Section II was awarded to Mr. James Christie of Guardbridge.

The Mrs. W. B. Robertson Challenge Cup, for three pans of rock plants of distinct genera, was won from three other competitors by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey with pans of *Oxalis laciniata*, *Heuchera racemosa* and *Saponaria ocymoides rubra compacta*. Second in this class was Mr. J. D. Crossland, with *Asperula suberosa*, *Fritillaria camschatcensis* and *Primula cawdoriana*; the *Fritillaria* in particular was a most outstanding pan.

For the most points in Section I The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy was awarded to Mr. G. S. Burrows of Dirleton, while for most points in Section IV The Institute of Quarrying Quaich went to Mr. Gordon Hill of Dunfermline. In the Trade stands a Large Gold Medal was awarded to Maryfield Nurseries, Leslie, and a Gold Medal to Messrs. Delaney & Lyle, Alloa.

As has already been said, the difficult season had an adverse effect on many of the classes, but for some of the *dianthi* the time of the Show happened just right and in class 4 the three prize-winners all showed the same species—*Dianthus subacaulis*. Among the saxifrages in class 7 Mr. G. S. Burrows' *S. aizoon rex* was a good first, closely followed by *S. cebenensis* (not quite at its best) of Mr. J. Y. Carstairs. Among the lewisias in class 8 Mr. Crossland's *L. pygmaea* was first, followed by *L. hybrida magenta* and *L. heckneri*. Campanulaceae (Class 13) produced a fine pan of *Wahlenbergia serpyllifolia major*, followed by *Campanula allionii*. In Class 16 a large, magnificent pan of *Oxalis adenophylla*, smothered in closed flowers, shown by Mr. Gordon Hill, unfortunately did not find the weather to its liking and kept its blooms tight closed all day. An exceedingly fine pan of *Aquilegia bertolonii* in class 18 only managed to get second, even though a most outstanding and well balanced specimen.

Dwarf Conifers were not so well represented as is usual, but *Pseudotsuga taxifolia glauca fletcheri*, which was awarded first, was a most attractive plant. Class 24, with four entries, was outstanding in the high merit of the plants entered and both *Cleistocactus strausii* (1st) and *Rebutia minuscula* (2nd) were superb plants. In the next class,

also of four entries, Mr. Rae's *Aporocactus flagelliformis* was even more noteworthy ; it is difficult to imagine a more perfect plant.

In Section II class 32 contained six entries which were all good, first prize being awarded to a *Primula sikkimensis* shown by Mrs. Joan Burrows, second to a saxifrage shown by Mrs. A. Niven, and third to an armeria shown by Mrs. E. S. Brown. Surely these are exactly the type of plant envisaged by—"of easy cultivation and grown in the open ground." In class 33 (one pan Cushion Plant) a dwarf conifer, *Chamaecyparis obtusa minima*, was most worthily adjudged first—the first conifer I remember seeing shown in the "cushion plant" class.

The entries in class 34 were all good, with little to choose in the first three, first and third being fine specimens of *Sempervivum arachnoideum*, and second *Sedum spathulifolium*. In class 35 Mrs. A. Niven was first with *Dianthus arvernensis*, an exceptionally fine specimen, while the second was a good plant of the same species by Mr. James Christie. Among silver-foliaged plants an *Antennaria* was first, with *Sedum spathulifolium* Capablanca second and third, and of the six entries in class 41 *Erodium chamaedrioides fl. pl.* was first with azaleas second and third. The five entries in class 42 showed how much miniature gardens have improved in recent years.

In Section IV it was a great pity to see such a fine plant as Mr. Moir's *Saxifraga* "Aigrette" all alone in its glory : such a handsome specimen merited competition. Class 50 produced a host of fine plants, first place going to three perfect sempervivums, closely followed by three more, and third place to two very fine sedums and an equally fine sempervivum. Class 51 brought out six entries of good specimens, again in which the prizes went to two *Sempervivum arachnoideum* and a *S.* "Jubilee." The *Dianthus arvernensis* shown by Mrs. Buchanan in class 54 was a truly amazing specimen and, like Mr. Moir's *Sax.* "Aigrette" already mentioned, worthy of some competition. In class 59 a very fine plant of *Potentilla eriocarpa* was in evidence, and in class 61 a fine plant of *Gentiana angulosa* was first of five entries. Among other noteworthy entries were *Chamaecyparis obtusa pygmaea* in class 64, *Mammillaria bombycina* (a magnificent specimen) and *Cephalocereus senilis* in class 65, and two very fine groups in class 67. The miniature gardens in class 68 were all good—Mrs. Buchanan first, being closely followed by Mr. Moir and Miss Simpson.

In the School Children's Section the three winners from High School were all good, the entry gaining third prize being of particular interest in that all the plants used were native, collected from Creagh Gharbhgh by the entrant—Ian Stephen, and most attractively planted. Among entries from King's Road School, Rosyth, were two which were very obviously well established gardens of more than one season's standing and had successfully stood the test of time. Belonging to Harry Waters and R. Porter, they might well have competed among those of Club members.

ABERDEEN

THE 1959 Aberdeen Show was held in the Music Hall on the 14th and 15th May. It was opened by Mrs. Matthews, wife of our Hon. President, who, after a delightful speech, declared the Show to be open and handed over the principal prizes. The Show Committee wish to thank all those members who helped to make the Show a success, and this opportunity is also taken to thank those members who kindly loaned plants for the Highland Show Stall last month. The season has not been an easy one, but once again members came along with many very worth while exhibits and made our efforts well worth while.

The Forrest Medal this year was awarded to a fine plant of *Cypripedium calceolus* entered by Miss Pape from Berwick-on-Tweed. The Walker of Portlethen Trophy, kindly gifted by Dr. Tod, was won for the first time by Mr. Harold Esslemont, who as usual had some fine entries and who, having earned most points in Section I, was awarded this prize. Among winning plants were *Androsace imbricata*, *Lewisia x trevosiana*, *Phlox mesoleuca*, *Pleione pricei*, *Verbascum dumulosum*, and *Asperula suberosa*.

For the first time we embarked on 3 pan classes in our schedule, and although the entry was not all that we might have hoped for, we can say that we have made a start to the "several pan" classes, and this is, we feel, a step in the right direction. For the best entry in this class the Aberdeen Bronze Medal was won by Mr. J. N. Aitken, whose entry consisted of *Incarvillea grandiflora* v. *brevipes*, *Edraianthus serpyllifolius* v. *major*, *Lewisia brachycalyx* hybrid.

The Club's Bronze Medal was awarded to Mr. J. A. Ross, who had the highest aggregate of points in Section II.

Again we were indebted to the Trade Exhibitors whose colourful displays are always a great adjunct to our Show. They were :— Messrs. Isobel Chalmers, Jack Drake, Edrom Nurseries, Ponton, and Mrs. McMurtrie.

A word of thanks, too, to the Cruickshank Botanical Garden for the very fine exhibit of plants put up by Mr. Sutherland by the courtesy of Professor Matthews of Aberdeen University.

W. MITCHELL

S.R.G.C. Week, St. Andrews

"IN FULL SUN" say the gardeners' catalogues—but not so St. Andrews when members of the S.R.G.C. arrived there on 27th June. But on no occasion did the uncertain weather interfere with a very full programme, and on Friday the sun really did shine at Keillour. The only slight hitch in the programme, necessitating a change of a morning's lecture to the evening, was due—so rumour had it—to a secretary's misconception that St. Andrews was a suburb of Aberdeen !

“Oh Mr. Porter man, whatever shall I do ?
 Here I am in Aberdeen—it’s getting on for two,
 I should be in St. Andrews to meet the R.G.C.,
 Please Mr. Porter man, do solve this problem for me.”

Accounts of lectures follow and it will be seen that they covered a wide range of topics. Mr. F. Wood (of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh) literally got down to earth when he demonstrated the making of a Rock Garden. It seemed as though a protest was being registered about getting on with the job, when a voice from the back of the room exclaimed “How can you turn off the gas ?” (A member had accidentally sat on one of the pipes with disastrous consequences).

The proximity of the Botanic Gardens was a great asset. Visits were paid at various times throughout the week and Mr. Mowat was indefatigable in his responses to the endless enquiries.

The help given by local members of the Club was much appreciated. On Sunday afternoon Mrs. Grace of Grange, Mrs. Tatton of Priory Acres, and Mr. and Mrs. Weir, Balgove, kindly showed their gardens. These visits culminated in a magnificent tea provided by Mrs. Weir.

Later in the week Mr. Halley brought along some of his dwarf conifers and there was a spirited discussion between him and Mr. Kibble on the relative values of his specimens.

Thanks to the kindness of Mrs. Purves, an addition to the programme was a visit to the attractive house and garden at Earlshall.

Members greatly appreciated the opportunity of seeing the wonderful gardens at Branklyn and Keillour Castle. They were very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Renton and to Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay not only for affording this opportunity but also for giving up their time to show members round the gardens and answering their many questions. While the visit to Branklyn was slightly marred by the rain, it was a brilliant day at Keillour and all appreciated the cool drinks provided by Mrs. Knox Finlay.

The visits to Mr. Lyle’s and Mr. Jack Drake’s nurseries at Maryfield and Inschriach provided members with an excellent opportunity of seeing what is being done in the propagation of rock plants. Though the journey to Inschriach was a long one, it was agreed that it was well worth it.

Those members who were resident in St. Regulus Hall were loud in their praises of Miss Day and her staff who provided such excellent meals and looked after their comfort in every way.

The sixty-five members who attended the course represented not only the counties of Scotland from Aberdeen to the Borders, but also England and Eire. All appreciated the tremendous amount of time and thought that had been expended by the President, by Professor Burnett, and by Mr. Mowat in organising the course. If the organisers had been in any doubt about the success of this new venture, the unanimous verdict of those present at the course must have reassured them that it had been well worth while.

The Construction of the New Rock Garden at the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge

By R. E. YOUNGER

MR. YOUNGER opened his talk by making a brief reference to the history of the Cambridge Botanic Garden. Though forty acres had been acquired so long ago as 1841, lack of funds had precluded the development of more than half of this area. However, in due course, this Cinderella of Botanic Gardens enacted her metamorphosis from rags to riches by virtue of a bequest made by the late Reginald Cory. By the time it was possible to take advantage of the funds in 1943 the capital had increased to no less than £500,000. However, as Mr. Younger pointed out, only the interest could be touched and this at the rate of £11,000 to £12,000 per annum was not such a large figure as to encourage extravagance.

The Cambridge Botanic Garden was fortunate in having a fairly large lake within its precincts and it was on the borders of this that it was decided to construct the rock garden. Both sandstone and Westmorland limestone were used in the construction—about 500 tons of each. The work was spread over four seasons, spending about three months in each year on the task, and the cost inclusive of labour worked out at a figure between £6000 and £7000. The area covered is approximately one acre. Cambridge has a colourless soil and a calcareous water supply, with the result that it is impossible to grow ericaceous and other calciphale plants, but Mr. Younger is hoping to construct peat beds in association with the rock garden in the not too distant future.

An original feature of this rock garden is that it is divided into various sections in which the plants are grouped geographically according to the continents of their provenance: there is even a tiny corner devoted to the alpinists of the United Kingdom. The opportunity has been taken to run the rock work down into the lake, indeed in the case of the sandstone portion the stones have been continued over a narrow neck of the lake to form a causeway, thus blending the rocks with their surroundings in a very satisfying way. An original if not unique feature of the limestone portion of the rock garden is a "doline." During the construction of this part of the garden a seam of gravel was discovered and a fairly deep pit of this was excavated. On the instigation of Mr. Walter Ingwersen it was decided to imitate this phenomenon of the Rarst district of Yugoslavia where the wearing away of underlying layers of rock by the action of water has led to the subsidence of the surface in much the same manner as in drift mining. Though the Cambridge example is minute compared with its natural prototype, it non-the-less provides a suitable house for such things as Ramondas, which enjoy the shade provided, and its future success is a source of much interest.

The Culture of Rock Plants

By H. TOD, Ph.D.

DR. TOD OPENED his lecture by stating his intention of discussing general principles involved in the problem rather than individual requirements of a particular plant or plants. He therefore proposed to discuss a number of factors which bore upon the subject.

The first to be treated was that of nutrition. For good health a plant, like a human being, requires a balanced diet, enough but not excess, for, as he illustrated from an experience of his, a surfeit could prove as disastrous as starvation. After reviewing briefly the three basic elements for plant growth—nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium—he proposed to add to these a fourth, magnesium. This had been shown to be essential to the production of chlorophyll and its lack was becoming a serious agricultural problem; evidence had recently reached him of magnesium deficiency in *Rhododendrons* also. Adequate water was the next requirement.

Light and air were necessary for plants growing naturally in exposed conditions and the rock garden should not, therefore, be overshadowed by trees. On the other hand, certain plants, of which the *Kabschia saxifrages* were taken as typical, tended to suffer from the midsummer sun. Dr. Tod asserted that in the use of stone in the rock garden he was unrepentantly unorthodox: he believed that the prime value of the stone was to give a cool root-run and in his view the stone was far more valuable below the surface than above.

Plants vary in their requirements regarding exposure: some need all the sun available: others like *ramondas* prefer shade. A simple method of providing various aspects is to construct a rock bank in the shape of a crescent: between the two sides of the bank there would be available aspects right round the compass. An elaboration of this would be to construct two such crescents in parallel, the space between being occupied by a scree. Dr. Tod commended consideration of the above factor in the belief that a proper understanding of the problems involved would of necessity lead to more successful results.

Demonstration on Rock Garden Construction

By F. WOOD

AS THE WEATHER was none too clement this demonstration was held in the Department of Botany Laboratory, where members perched themselves on the benches in order the better to see what was going on. Mr. Wood was provided with a collection of stone, half water-

worn limestone and half weathered local sandstone, together with a large quantity of granulated peat which served to represent the soil in which the rocks were to be embedded, and partly, one suspects, to protect the laboratory floor from Mr. Wood's strenuous labours. As implements he had a shovel, a pole and a handbrush.

Commencing with the limestone Mr. Wood inspected the stones available until he arrived at one which took his interest : this he turned over and studied from all angles, deciding which face would be the most interesting to leave exposed. This decided, the stone was embedded in the peat, care being taken to slope the upper face into the soil behind, and to ram the peat well into the crevices with the pole. Another stone was then chosen to extend the work and provide a return frontage : it was important to observe the continuation of the rock face in the line and texture of the stone. A third stone was added in like fashion and with a light application of the brush the picture was completed. Mr. Wood suggested that another outcrop a little distance away could be used to extend the rockwork, but the same pattern should not be repeated or the effect would be artificial.

Observing the same principles, Mr. Wood then proceeded to construct an outcrop in the weathered limestone. Having placed three stones in a satisfying pattern, he then endeavoured to add a fourth, but the result was unanimously agreed to be inferior, which adequately proved Mr. Wood's point that only sufficient stone to create the effect should be used.

The discussion which followed was both spirited and prolonged and it is only possible to refer to one or two of the points made. Much interest was shown in proposing plants to be grown in this small limestone outcrop, which probably did not exceed one square yard in extent. Mr. Wood refused to be drawn until one member mischievously suggested a *Helianthemum*, whereupon he retorted with the remark that it was too big and would cover the rock work : it was, however, done : he had seen it done : he had done it himself ! Mr. Wood also delivered the opinion that only limestone and sandstone were of any use in rock work, a view which caused alarm and despondency amongst those members who can acquire granite and whinstone for the carting. On the question of peat Mr. Wood was equally forthright : only "Sorbex" was fit for plants : ordinary peat was fit only for the roughest of work and for demonstrations of rock-garden construction.

By this time the proceedings far exceeded their allotted span and the meeting would no doubt be in progress yet had not a member in his excitement inadvertently knocked on a gas-tap. The double entendre of his anguished cry—"Will Mr. Mowat please tell us how to turn off the gas?"—brought the proceedings to a hilarious and abrupt conclusion.

Dwarf Conifers

By W. KIBBLE

MR. KIBBLE confessed himself an enthusiast for dwarf conifers and he believed that much pleasure could be derived from planting these small trees either in, or in association with the rock garden, where they were eminently suitable. They were not difficult to grow and were not particular as to soil. He did not regard them as mere fillers of space but as essential elements of the rock garden landscape to which they added another dimension. They offered a wide variety of form—columnar, pyramidal, prostrate, bun-shaped—of texture, for the form and setting of the leaves varied greatly ; and colour—green of all hues, blues, gold, silver, and white. Moreover, they were evergreen and a source of pleasure to the eye at all seasons of the year, even in the dark days when little else showed signs of life in the garden.

Mr. Kibble's talk was illustrated by some excellent slides taken by his partner, Mr. T. Clare, a number of them portraying trees in the famous garden of Mr. Nesbit. The names which he used were as far as possible correct in accordance with Hornibrook, the chief authority on the subject, but as the question of naming was an involved one Mr. Kibble could not vouch for complete accuracy.

The following is Mr. Kibble's choice of a representative selection.

Abies lasiocarpa compacta
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana minima aurea rogersii
 „ „ *pygmaea argentea*
 „ *obtusa nana gracilis*
 „ *obtusa caespitosa*
 „ *pisifera plumosa cyanea viridis*
 „ „ „ *aurea rogersii*
Juniperus communis compressa
Picea abies albertiana conica
Thuja orientalis aurea
 „ „ *meldensis*

Dwarf Rhododendrons

By E. H. M. COX

MR. COX opened by remarking that though he had no rock garden he had peat walls on which he had grown dwarf rhododendrons for the past forty years. These were ubiquitous plants and not exacting in their requirements, with the one exception that they would not tolerate free lime in the soil. He had seen rhododendrons growing on limestone in Yunnan, but this was a relatively insoluble limestone and no doubt what little lime was produced was immediately leached out by the

monsoons. In this country, and Mr. Cox made it clear that he was normally referring to east coast conditions, rhododendrons received far less precipitation than they were accustomed to in their native haunts. The drying east winds in spring can cause a lot of damage and shelter from this direction is advisable. The peat wall is a great help towards keeping a sufficiency of moisture available. Of itself cold is not a disadvantage, for dwarf rhododendrons are for the most part indomitably hardy, but early flowerers may have their bloom destroyed by frosts. Some shade from baking heat is desirable, but this should not be overdone.

Mr. Cox recommended peat in three grades for use with Rhododendrons : fine, for seed-raising ; medium, for potting-on ; and coarse for the peat beds outside.

His lecture was illustrated by some forty colour slides which well illustrated the variety of form and colour available in the genus. The species were grouped in accordance with the series of the botanists and the following are a selection from those represented.

Rh. lapponicum : shape is as important as colour, therefore the planting should not be crowded.

Rh. sargentianum—with yellow to cream tubular flowers : a number of forms are available and it is important to get a good one.

Rh. campylogynum : this is a very variable species ranging from three inches to three feet in height and from salmon pink to mahogany and purple in the colour of the flowers. Eleven distinct forms are grown at Glendoick.

Rh. camschaticum : is deciduous, will stand extremes of heat and cold and as it will not hybridise is probably not a rhododendron !

Rh. hirsutum fl. pl. : Mr. Cox regarded as the only attractive double rhododendron with the exception of *Rh. fastuosum fl. pl.* In the Glaucophyllum series *Rh. glaucophyllum* and *charitopes*, the former a later flowerer and the latter with flowers reminiscent of apple blossom were singled out for commendation. The Lapponicum series, in Mr. Cox's view, provided too many names and too few good plants. Apart from *Rh. impeditum* which, if true, should be completely round in shape, unlike *Rh. fastigiatum* which was frequently sent out in its place, Mr. Cox mentioned less familiar species such as *microleucum*, white, *flavidum*, pale yellow, *chryseum*, a good yellow, and *hippophaeoides*, lavender.

Of the Lepidotum series, in addition to the eponym, reference was made to one of the newest arrivals, *Rh. lowndesii*, with yellow flowers though of varying shades. *Rh. ciliatum*, though hardy and with pretty pink flowers in April, was unaccountably neglected.

Rh. forrestii had a reputation for not flowering well. There were in fact various forms and it was essential to obtain the free-flowering one.

Of the Saluenense group Mr. Cox gave it as his opinion that *Rh. calostrotum* with fairly large purplish-pink flowers was the best.

Rh. ludlowii, the slowest growing, taking nine years to reach three inches, and *Rh. pemakoense*, notable for its propensity for layering like a pernettya, were also described.

Mr. Cox closed with a reference to hybrids. 'Blue Tit' and 'Blue Diamond' were in his view too big for the rock garden, but 'Pink Drift' was excellent. As a background he recommended *Rh. x praecox* and *wilsonii*, as these were hardy enough to grow in the open.

The Habitats of Scottish Mountain Plants

By Dr. D. H. N. SPENCE

DR. SPENCE announced that he proposed to treat his subject under three headings—climate, soil and history ; but before doing so he proposed the question of what is a mountain plant. Clearly, insofar as Scotland was concerned, a definition could not be related to altitude, for many plants which grew on the summits of the Cairngorms were to be found on the North coast of Scotland at near sea level. He therefore proposed to adapt the types defined and classified by Professor Matthews of Aberdeen. The various types, together with the total number of species found in Scotland and one or two species representative of each are as follows.

Northern montane (30 species) *Goodyera repens*, *Rubus saxatilis* (B) *Trollius europaeus*, *Trientalis europaea*.

Oceanic-northern (23 species) *Silene maritima*, *Armeria maritima* (B)

Arctic Subarctic (27 species) *Arenaria norvegica* (B) *Cornus suecica*, *Mertensia maritima*, *Rubus chamaemorus* (A)

Arctic Alpine (75 species) (These grow either north of the tree limit or above the tree line). *Polygonum viviparum*, *Saxifraga stellaris*, *Alchemilla alpina*, *Silene acaulis* (B), *Loiseleuria procumbens*, *Dryas octopetala* (B), *Saxifraga oppositifolia* (B).

Alpine (10 species) *Cherleria sedoides*.

The montane climate which is experienced in Scotland is one in which generally speaking the higher one goes the wetter it is : it is also much wetter on the west than on the east of the country, but generally rainfall exceeds evaporation. Temperature is a more complex story, being dependent upon more factors, but it may be said that the tree line approximates to the line of 50°F. mean temperature for two months in the year. In the central Highlands this is at about 2500 ft., but unfortunately there is no proof as the trees have long since disappeared due to other than climatic causes.

Owing to latitude and other factors the mean temperature at sea level in Shetland is the same as that at 1100 ft. at Dalwhinnie : moreover, temperature falls more rapidly per unit of height in Shetland than at Dalwhinnie.

Similarly the average wind speed at 1000 ft. in Shetland is the same as that at the summit of Ben Nevis at 4400 ft. Calculations show that the mean temperatures of the warmest month in Shetland, Rhum, and the Cairngorms at the altitudes at which is found *Loiseleuria procumbens* are virtually identical at 51°F. This is highly suggestive that *Loiseleuria* is intolerant of warmth.

Dr. Spence then proceeded to illustrate the various soil formations to be found in these habitats ; the flushed soils on Haribol ; solifluction or soil creep producing its terrace of gravel supported by walls of vegetation : wind shadow, that is a colony of vegetation growing in the lee of a boulder. A Norwegian term, now taken into English as Fellfield, describes those mountain slopes which are the result of rapid weathering and which as a consequence always display open patches. This may occur on litter basic or acid rock, but it is the calcareous rock which is most prolific in the production of ledges and crevices ; this is an important factor, because such situations provide protection from the depredations of grazing animals. Dr. Terreria of Aberdeen has recently conducted research which has shown that only two compounds, calcite (CaCO_3) and dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot \text{MgCO}_3$), produce calcium rich soil, all other weathering too slowly to overcome leaching. A number of plants like base-rich soil and are indicated above with a letter (B). Others show a preference for acid conditions and are therefore indicated with a letter (A).

Unfortunately time and the full schedule of the Summer Week did not allow Dr. Spence to complete his lecture : it is, however, hoped that a complete and fuller version will appear in a forthcoming *Journal*.

Italian and Yugoslavian Alps

Dr. F. H. WHITEHEAD

AS A GARDENER Dr. Whitehead had observed that his fellows frequently did the right thing to provide the correct conditions for their plants without knowing exactly why : as a scientist he was interested in finding out why these gardeners' intuitions were correct.

The conditions to which he proposed to refer were those which existed in the Alps surrounding the Mediterranean. He had made a particular study of the Apennines and the Yugoslavian mountains : similar conditions probably obtained in the Atlas Mountains, but not in the Alps proper. In these areas the winter is short but severe : the spring is very brief for, depending upon the season, the snows melt and disappear within one to three weeks. There is little, if any, wet snow and any water drains off quickly. In autumn the reverse is true, for the snows come suddenly and irrevocably, covering the ground completely until the following spring.

Conditions in this country are very different, for the springs and autumns are long and wet, encouraging plants to make soft and sappy

growth which is an invitation to fungi and disease. Accordingly gardeners have learned to protect their plants with a pane of glass, thus providing drier conditions. It is, however, important not to make the protection too complete, for aeration must be good. In nature snow provides good aeration because of its loosely crystalline formation, and as it is quite dry no deposition of water on the plant's tissues occurs. In the Alps the temperature may range between 0°C. and 25° or even 30°C. in the course of twenty-four hours : this provides the plants with a good baking such as they are not likely to receive in this country, and without the aid of glass shrubby and semi-shrubby plants will not mature properly.

The Alps of which Dr. Whitehead spoke are largely chunks of Tertiary limestone ; acid rocks are comparatively rare. His experiments were carried out on Monte Majella in Italy and Durmitor, near Can Gora in Yugoslavia, both of which lie on approximately the same latitude as Rome. Whilst the general appearance of the two mountains was very similar, there were very few species of plants common to both, and the flora of the Italian mountains was relatively impoverished due to the severance of Italy from the Balkans in the Ice Age. The mountains were covered with small rock fragments and a sparse vegetation not unlike that on the Cairngorm summits.

The two experiments which Dr. Whitehead described were directed at obtaining information on the effect of wind upon plant life. In the first he selected a number of situations between which the average size of the rock fragments varied fairly considerably. Where the fragments were small the exposure was clearly considerable and conversely where the fragments were large a measure of shelter was afforded. By sampling and measuring the plants in the various habitats it was possible to obtain a quantitative estimate of the difference in numbers of species present, the height of plants, the height of inflorescence and the dry weight per unit area : in all these categories the sheltered habitat showed the higher figure, in the last category by as much as a fifteenfold increase.

The other experiment was a natural corollary to the first, for having taken an accurate census and measurement of all plants within a quadrated area, Dr. Whitehead instructed his students to construct a low wall around the whole square selected. After twelve months the plants were remeasured and it was found that they were taller in the lee of the wall, becoming shorter as the centre of the square was reached.

Dr. Whitehead is now carrying out experiments in which plants grown in a wind tunnel are continuously exposed to a 30 m.p.h. gale. This has shown conclusively that exposure to wind causes dwarfing of growth and the internal structure of the plant becomes more woody, precisely the same effects as are achieved by a lack of water and an increase in the light intensity ; and so, therefore, back to the gardener's pane of glass.

Auriculas

By R. B. PIKE

THE HISTORIC background of the auricula was used to show the development of this florists' flower. As early as 1629 Parkinson in *Paradisi in sole Paradisus terrestris* described the two main groups then in wide cultivation. The border auricula with farina on its leaves and sometimes also on the flower, and the alpine auricula without farina on the leaves or flowers. The two main groups of 'alpine' flowers were also grown, one with gold centres and the other with white centres. The alpine varieties then grown were not nearly so vivid in colour or perfect in form as those present today. The third group, the show auricula, did not make its appearance for another hundred years. This flower, which was a distinct break, differed markedly from the other two groups in possessing a thick circle of "paste" (dense farina) surrounding the eye. This paste is spoilt by rain so that the show auricula is useless as a garden plant, but nevertheless it became so popular that by 1800 the other two were neglected. By now the cult of the show auricula was in full swing and was grown by both the rich and poor. Spring shows were held throughout the Midlands and London areas and the standards of perfection drawn up. These unattainable standards are still adhered to and relate mainly to the proportions of the various zones in the flower (eye, paste, body colour and petal). These proportions although artificial are nevertheless the most pleasing to the majority. The popularity of the auricula began to fall off with the growth of the greenhouse and stove plants, although the quality of the flower was maintained and improved by a smaller band of enthusiasts. The two world wars dealt almost crippling blows to the flower, but its popularity is again rising and America has taken up its cultivation. It is therefore unlikely that this flower, taking 400 years to reach its present standard of perfection, will now disappear from cultivation.

A number of colour slides of modern varieties were shown to demonstrate the perfect symmetry and brilliance of colouring in this flower, and others showing flowers with faults which were to be avoided.

Crocus

By B. L. BURTT

THE GENUS *Crocus* contains a very large number of species of which many are in cultivation, and Mr. Burt opened his lecture by illustrating a number of these. *Crocus sieberi*, a plant from Crete, shows its white flowers with purple markings in March: it has a great potential for breeding: the form known as "Hubert Edelsten" has a broken pattern on the outside. *Crocus tomasinianus*, which is related to *vernus*, is more delicate in form: it seeds freely and there are many colour varieties available. The forms of *C. chrysanthus* singled out for mention were "Moonlight," "Jester," "Canary Bird" with tiny black specks

at the base of the anthers, "E. A. Bowles," and *fusco-tinctus*, a possibly wild form in which purple pigment gives a brown effect to the flower. *C. balansae* is a broad-leaved form from Syria, and *korolkowii*, with narrow petals and tough fine numerous leaves, is the eastermost of all species, hailing from beyond the Caspian. Of the autumn flowerers *C. medius*, from the Pyrenees, *pulchellus*, with white anthers, *nudiflorus*, a plant now naturalised in England, and *kotschyanus* were illustrated.

Mr. Burtt then drew attention to the long history of *Crocus sativus*, the Saffron: the first indubitable mention of the plant is in Theophrastus (about 200 B.C.), where the use for colouring, as an aromatic and as a drug is described. Once a universal panacea, saffron is now no longer in the British Pharmacopoeia, but curiously enough recent research has shown that its content of riboflavin is three times as great as in any other known source. Though formerly grown at Saffron Walden in large quantities, saffron is not now common: it requires a continental climate with dry conditions and plenty of sun. As a garden plant it is outshone by its relations, *thomasii*, *pallasii*, and *cartwrightianus*, which grow at low altitudes on the margin of arable land: they require a good baking in summer.

The genus is divided into groups by certain diagnostic characters which Mr. Burtt outlined. The primary distinction into the divisions of involucrati and nudiflori is dependent upon the presence or absence of a basal spathe: the next feature to be taken into account is the nature of the corm, which may be one of four types: membraneous, reticulate, plaited or annulate. Finally, spring and autumn flowerers were distinguished. Of the sixteen possible groups only eleven were known to science.

Of a number of other species described by Mr. Burtt the following is a selection: *vernus*, a group of some variety: *coeruleus*—the form from the Alps is not very good, but *purpureus* from Italy is better: many garden forms are infertile and the purple forms, which are commoner, are better than the yellow. Similarly *sieberi*, which is wide ranging, has many forms: the form selected by the Dutch growers has a large corm and flower but is not the best colour. *Flavus*, the parent of the Dutch yellow, is more orange than its offspring: it seeds freely, but having a longer tube suffers somewhat from rain. *Speciosus*, again of many forms, is excellent in the garden, flowering from August onwards: it seeds freely and will stand very rough treatment when not in leaf.

Mr. Burtt concluded by remarking that the *Crocus* was a somewhat neglected genus from both the botanical and the horticultural point of view: the botanical classification was somewhat artificial and did not always reveal true affinities: little was known of the amount of variation in plants grown from seed and there was considerable scope for gardeners in raising new hybrids. With the co-operation of botanist and gardener much could be added to our knowledge of the genus *Crocus*.

Garden Visits

ON THE afternoon of Sunday, 28th June, visits were made to three St. Andrews gardens, transport from place to place being by the cars of visiting and local members.

The first garden to be visited was that of Mrs. Nancy Grace, Grange, where the visitors were charmed by the blaze of colour created by masses of Candelabra and other primulas round the pond. A great show in the herbaceous border was dominated by many of the fine new varieties of delphinium, while in the rock garden—itself a most attractive bit of craftsmanship—were a host of interesting plants growing very happily.

It was fortunate that the Sunday programme did not have to run to a tight schedule because members were loth to leave Mrs. Grace's garden to go on to that of Mrs. Tatton, Priory Acres. Here we saw an equally delightful garden of quite a different style of layout. In making the very best of a medium sized garden Mrs. Tatton has done all the planning and work herself and has achieved a wonderful result. Paved garden, rock garden, with pool, herbaceous plants and shrubs, all blend into one another most effectively, with here and there little retreats containing many interesting little plants and treasures. There was a wide range of plants to be seen—from old-fashioned favourites, now too scarce, to some of the most attractive of recent introductions.

It was getting late in the afternoon by the time the party went on to the third garden—that of Mrs. Roger and Mr. and Mrs. Weir at Balgove. Here in this old farm garden was evident a love of gardening extending over a long life-time and still developing. To the original collection of trees, shrubs, and fine old herbaceous plants had been added most pleasingly over the years areas of rock garden and peat walls where many plants which are usually regarded as difficult seemed to grow almost like weeds. There was such a wide range of widely differing plants that to start naming any would inevitably lead to problems. Mrs. Roger and her household very kindly provided abundant hospitality to the visitors in relays, so that we were able to prowl round the garden till it was time to return to St. Regulus for the evening meal.

On Monday afternoon (29th) members went by coach to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. John Renton, at Branklyn, Perth. Though it was a day of showers the weather cleared up sufficiently in the afternoon to let us enjoy this well-known and wonderful garden to the full. Much has been written about Branklyn, but to see it (at almost any time) is a never failing delight. Here again, more than one would have believed possible, has been achieved in a comparatively restricted area of probably not much more than two acres. Specimen shrubs of all kinds—*Rhododendron* spp., *Magnolias*, *Viburnums*, *rose* spp., and hosts more—are set out, each in its own correct setting, to act as shade or shelter (as well as specimen in its own right) to the myriads

of rare plants with which every inch of ground is clothed. Primulas, meconopses, liliiums, ericaceous plants of all kinds abound everywhere in greatest profusion and robust health, and the scree garden seems to be a happy home for most of our most choice rock plants old and new. To those who were visiting Branklyn for the first time the garden came as a revelation which held them spellbound.

On Tuesday afternoon members enjoyed the relaxation of a visit to the old world garden of Mrs. Purves, Earls Hall. This old-fashioned, walled-in garden with its protecting plantings of trees is situated on Tents Muir, and any obvious intrusion of modernity has been carefully avoided. The result is a garden soothing and restful, but at the same time full of beauty and colour. There are many old-fashioned varieties of roses, of the "Cardinal de Richelieu" and "William Lobb" type, herbs, and flowering shrubs (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*, *Fothergilla major*, *Parrotia persica*, *Carpentaria californica*, *Cotinus coggyria* v. *atropurpurea*, and many more), a terrace garden with its troughs of gentians and other typical trough plants, very attractive herbaceous borders, a paved garden; and over all an air of quiet peace—except when, unfortunately the air is shattered by the roar of 'jets' from the neighbouring aerodrome. Progress ???

On Wednesday afternoon members set off for Maryfield Nurseries, not too long a run, eager to see Mr. Lyle's plant collection. The weather was good, and as usual Maryfield struck newcomers by its tidiness and layout. The visitors were immediately thrilled by the long border so fascinating in its display of established specimens of dwarf conifers and numerous varieties of heathers. The beds of massed gentians also caused admiring comments, and so the visitors went on from one section to another till they came to the frame lines. Here were desirable rock plants of every description, campanulas and dianthi being in good colour—as were many others. Few visitors felt that they had seen all they wished when the time came to leave.

On Thursday the party set out immediately after breakfast in quite good weather on the long run to Inschriach Nursery near Aviemore. After an exceedingly pleasant journey we arrived at Inschriach dead on time and were greeted by Mr. Jack Drake and his partner, Mr. John Lawson, who from then onwards spent two very hectic hours answering a spate of questions and inquiries, with the rest of the nursery staff trotting round the nursery at the double making up orders. To those who had not been at Inschriach before, the place was a revelation, and to those who knew it in its earlier days the steady expansion and progress made since then showed that there is no slackening off in the efforts to keep pace with the latest introductions to, and demands of, rock gardening. To mention names would be to embark on a catalogue of the whole range of rock plants. Sufficient to say that after more than two hours of intensive inspection the party was gathered together and started on the homeward journey with minds full of the many treasures they had seen (and in many cases brought

away with them). A halt was made at Newtonmore for a most welcome and satisfying tea, and the party arrived back in St. Andrews late in the evening, tired but contented after a long day. There were few sat up to the midnight session of films and discussion that night !

Friday brought the last of the Week's visits, when members spent a wonderful afternoon, in brilliant sunshine, in the gardens of Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay at Keillour Castle. Here we were all warmly welcomed and conducted round those extensive and indescribable gardens with Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay capably dealing with the endless flow of questions showered on them. To those of us who had known this garden through the years the great question must always be—"how is it done ?" and "how much more development can there be ?" Every time one goes there, no matter how often, there always seems to be some new feature or extension to be seen.

Superb primulas, meconopses, lilioms and nomocharis seemed to be everywhere, flowering shrubs of all kinds, rose and berberis spp., embothriums, philadelphus and deutzias, and everywhere rhododendrons—from the larger and well established plants of the older parts of the garden to the recently planted specimens covering the banks of the deep ravines. One cannot omit mentioning the very evident thought given to the planting of the various specimen trees and shrubs and the evidence of a care for autumn colour effects later on in the year. As one member remarked on the homeward journey—"A wonderful climax to a great week !"

Garden visits officially ended on Friday, but on Saturday forenoon there was considerable scurrying about St. Andrews as visiting members visited or re-visited the gardens of local members whose acquaintance they had made during the Week.

Little green fingers dainty and deft
 Fashion a delicate whimsey,
 Coaxing a cluster or closing a cleft.
 Little green fingers dainty and deft
 Banish a blossom of beauty bereft,
 Wire a flower that is flimsy.
 Little green fingers dainty and deft
 Fashion a delicate whimsey.

County Activities

ABERDEENSHIRE AND KINCARDINESHIRE

FIVE MEETINGS were held last session and all were well attended. Talks, illustrated with coloured slides, were given by Mr. H. Esslemont, Mr. Stewart Mitchell, Mr. J. Lawson and Mr. A. Evans, while Mr. and Mrs. Renton presented their film of Branklyn. We are grateful to all these for sustaining an interesting programme. Early in June, by invitation of Professor J. R. Matthews, members spent a very pleasant evening in the Cruickshank Botanic Garden.

During the year we changed our place of meeting to the Station Hotel. Unfortunately we are compelled to make another change this year and our meetings will take place in the Music Hall, Union Street, on the last Wednesdays of November, January, February and March. Our October meeting, however, has been advanced to the 14th so that it may precede the Week-end Meeting of the Club in the Northern Hotel on the 24th and 25th October.

The S.R.G.C. stand at the Royal Highland Show was in charge of Mr. J. D. Crosland. The stand attracted considerable attention, although the harvest of new members was comparatively small. To those members who lent plants, to those in attendance at the stand (particularly Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Gray) and, most of all, to Mr. Crosland, the Club is greatly indebted.

The programme for 1959-60 when complete will be posted to local members.

J. STIRLING

ANGUS

THE WINTER months were brightened by five lectures illustrated by coloured slides, and by the members' show.

The opening meeting on 3rd November was "A Dolomites' Tour 1958," by Mr. S. Mitchell, C.R. Mr. Mitchell apologised for not having all the slides he had hoped to have as he had had shutter trouble, but we were enthralled by the beauty of his slides. We are now accustomed to Mr. Mitchell's high standard of plant photography and were also pleased to see pictures of like merit of the scenery.

On 1st December Mrs. L. C. Boyd Harvey gave an interesting and instructive lecture on "Sinks, Troughs and Raised Beds." She showed, by a series of slides, the construction of troughs of many sizes from simple materials, and gave us useful hints on the kind of plants to use and their position in the trough. 'The Raised Beds' were carefully noted by those of us who are not now so able to bend.

Members' Transparency Night on 12th January was a greater success than ever, more members bringing slides of varied interest and of good quality.

On 2nd February Mr. James Keenan, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, held our interest closely with the 'Naming of Plants'—a subject new to most members.

The final lecture on 2nd March was 'Colour Slides from an Angus Garden' by Mr. D. G. Dorward. He showed slides illustrating his garden throughout the year.

All lectures were well attended.

The last meeting on 6th April was Members' Local Show, where members judged first. Mr. Charles McDermott, St. Andrews University Botanic Gardens, judged and gave a useful commentary on his decisions. It is a pity that a larger number of members do not submit at least one entry. Next year's show in Dundee will need all the local support that it can get, and diffident exhibitors gain confidence and experience by showing at the Members' Show.

The Summer Visits were to Mr. and Mrs. Renton's garden at Perth on 30th May, and to Major Sherriff's at Ascreavie on 13th June. A very friendly welcome was given us by both Mr. and Mrs. Renton and Major and Mrs. Sherriff.

Owing to the illness of our C.R., these notes were taken by one not so well-versed in unusual or outstanding plants.

Branklyn was just on the point of suffering from drought. Among the many interesting plants I noticed were *Trillium stylosum*, *Nomocharis*, Azaleas, *Meconopsis grandis* S 600, *M. sheldonii* and *M. nepalensis*. *Lewisia*s were in profusion. An unusual plant was PSW 5425 *Macrotomia benthanii*, woolly but not very beautiful. *Viburnum tomentosum mariesii*, two dwarf lilacs and *Dianthus neglectus* were beautiful. Quite attractive, and I believe, rare, was *Calanthe tricarinata*, grown from tubers sent by Colonel Lowndes. The flower is orchid-like in appearance and is yellow and brown. *Primula reidii williamsii* was another outstanding plant with a delicious scent.

At Ascreavie was a large selection of Primulas. One that I liked particularly was *P. kingii*, a beautiful dark red. A rather rare *Lilium* was *L. sherriffii*. There were also several clumps of a lovely pink species, *L. rubellum*; azaleas, *M. grandis* (white) and *M. regia* (yellow). *Aster tongolensis* and *Rhodohypoxis* made a striking show.

Both outings were blessed by lovely weather, and both ladies refreshed us with a delicious tea. We are indeed fortunate to be able to visit these beautiful gardens and be given such a friendly welcome by their charming owners.

D. DORWARD

ARGYLL AND BUTE

THE 1958-59 season of winter activities opened in Dunoon at the end of September with a talk on "The Small Rock Garden and its Plants," by Mr. D. Livingstone. In October Mr. S. V. Coats showed us something of his beautiful garden across the river at Langbank and in November Mr. Howat told us of his experiences in the Alpine "trade."

A return visit by Mr. Evans in January told us just which "Miniature Bulbs" we should buy for our gardens, while in February Mr. Taggart described his Herculean labours in "Taming a Two-acre Wilderness" across Loch Long at Kilcreggace. In March Mr. Duguid gave a very practical demonstration on "Alpine Propagation" and the season was completed in April with a Business Meeting and a general exchange of plants.

It is good to be able to report another satisfactory season with an increase in membership, a comfortable bank balance, and a great increase in knowledge. This last is due to the efforts which so many enthusiastic alpine gardeners put into preparing for and giving talks in Cowal. We are very grateful to them all.

A happy innovation this year was our meeting on 2nd May with members from Edinburgh and Midlothian, when they visited the Benmore-Younger Botanic Garden. The time sped by too soon, for we were glad to join so many keen rock-gardeners and to talk of our successes and failures. We hope that other groups may come to visit the area, for we have beautiful shrub gardens to show.

Cowal area programme for next winter promises well and we hope for good attendances at the Imperial Tea Room at 7.30 p.m. each time to hear the following speakers:—

- 1959 September 29th: "Alpine Gardening," Mr. W. R. Adams.
 October 20th: "Miniature Rhododendrons," Mr. H. H. Davidian.
N.B.—This is not the last Tuesday in October.
 November 24th: "West Coast Gardens," Mrs. Michael Noble.
 1960 January 26th: "Our Own Gardens." A symposium.
 February 23rd: "Alpines of Switzerland," not completed.

Cowal members are encouraged to bring plants to the meetings for the monthly raffle—and their prize specimens to show their fellow members. Members outwith Cowal are invited to contact the C.R. with a view to arranging further meetings for local groups.

J. F. MCGARVA, C.R.

BERWICKSHIRE

THE BERWICKSHIRE GROUP, though a small one, carried on successfully through the winter, though one of the lectures—in December—had to be cancelled owing to the icy roads. We started off with a most enjoyable lecture from one of our members, Mrs. Cairns, illustrated with her delightful slides.

Miss Logan Home came in November with an illustrated talk on "Plant Hunting in Yugoslavia." Mr. James Aitken delighted us in March with a lecture on his climbs in the Scottish Mountains and with wonderful and artistic colour slides, of which the members showed

their keen appreciation by prolonged applause. In April and May there were visits to other people's gardens. A tour round East Lothian enabled us to visit Grainfoot, where Mrs. Baillie showed some very interesting plants. A most ingenious layout of a small garden giving the impression of a much larger one! After which we went on to Mr. Burrows', Miss Bowe's and Sqd./Ldr. Boyd-Harvey's charming and interesting rock gardens. Later there were visits to Coupland Castle, where was a wonderful display of flowering shrubs, and to Mrs. Cawley, Glen Aln. Both she and her gardener came round with us to answer all the questions about the interesting plants in her collection and she kindly entertained us to tea.

We hope to have some illustrated lectures this coming season.

E. K. SWINTON, C.R.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

OUR 1958-59 winter session started in October with a talk by our local members, Mr. R. Forbes and Mr. C. Marchbank. It took the form of an illustrated talk on a selection of Alpine plant slides from our Club library, supplemented by some fine slides taken by Mr. Forbes. We are very much indebted to these gentlemen for their continued help.

In November we had a very welcome visit from Major and Mrs. Walmsley, Culderry, and enjoyed a very informative talk on the many fine plants which are grown in this well-known Wigtownshire garden. In January our meeting took the form of a Discussion Night and once again use was made of a number of slides available from the Club library.

We had a new face in our February meeting. Mr. Alex. Duguid of Edrom Nurseries, Berwickshire, gave us our first lecture on any single genus, with a very finely illustrated talk on "Hardy Primulas." His slide showing *P. reidii* growing against an old tree root was particularly commented upon. We hope to have a return visit soon.

In February we also had a propaganda meeting in Lochmaben, when Mr. R. Forbes and myself talked to the local Gardening Club. A lively interest was shown and we are expecting some more members from this area soon. Our visit was returned by the Lochmaben Club when a party of their members visited our Spring Show in Dumfries, again showing a keen interest. A meeting in February in Langholm was not so successful. Mr. C. Marchbank was the speaker on this occasion, and we hope to have a more successful meeting at a future date. In March, a few days before our Dumfries Show, our visitor was our good friend Dr. Davidson, West Linton, Peeblesshire. With a range of beautiful slides he took us on a trip to the Julian Alps in Yugoslavia. His meeting with *Eritrichium nanum* was particularly interesting.

We would very much like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to our lecturers for the season for coming to this "fringe" county. Any volunteers for our 1959-60 season will be very welcome indeed, and we can promise them a very keen audience. Our thanks are also due to our lady members who, by providing tea at our meetings have made us practically self-supporting. This help was very much appreciated by all.

Our meetings have been fairly well attended and we can look back on a successful season. Our county membership is rising, and we will reach our century very shortly.

NORMAN M. BROWN, C.R.

DUNBARTONSHIRE, GLASGOW AND RENFREWSHIRE

THE MONTHLY meetings of the winter session 1958-59 were well attended. Fog cancelled two of these meetings—the one in December 1958 and the February meeting in 1959. On both these occasions the fog was the worst in living memory. Glasgow was like a ghost city—no trams, no taxis and few pedestrians. One member boarded a train that left Gourrock at 3.55 p.m. and arrived in Glasgow at 8 p.m. Others set out, but did not arrive.

We are indebted to the following members of the Club who were responsible for the various talks during the session.

Professor G. Pontecorvo and Mr. Buchanan opened the sessions in October with coloured slides of rare plants grown in the latter's garden. At the November meeting Mrs. L. C. Boyd-Harvey talked on "Troughs, Sinks and Raised Beds," illustrated by coloured slides. Her talk made a great impression and several members have since acquired troughs or made them according to instructions.

The January meeting offered us a variation from the usual. Few of us, in Glasgow at any rate, have any idea of the work behind the scenes in laying out the gardens in our capital city. Mr. A. T. Harrison enlightened us. His talk was illustrated with coloured slides of the many sites in Edinburgh, including slides of the gardens in Princes Street at various seasons of the year.

At the March meeting Dr. James Davidson of West Linton again obliged. On this occasion he told us of his plant-hunting holiday in Yugoslavia when accompanied by his good lady. Excellent coloured slides illustrated the difficulties encountered and the majestic and rugged scenery. Among the many rarities collected was *Campanula zoysii*.

At the final meeting in April, Dr. Henry Tod, F.R.S.E., had as his subject "The Preparation and Staging of Plants for Show." As he was one of the judges at the Glasgow Show that followed within a fortnight, he must have been convinced that his talk had borne fruit.

Mr. Alfred Evans of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, was the unfortunate victim of the fog blanket that enveloped Glasgow at the December and February meetings. He substituted for Mr. David Livingstone at the December meeting and actually got through to Glasgow in time, Edinburgh being free of fog. At the February meeting conditions were such in the early part of the day that we had no option but to cancel all arrangements. It was a bitter disappointment to all concerned, for Mr. Evans is one of the most popular speakers with a Glasgow audience.

During the summer outings to gardens were curtailed to two. On Saturday, 16th May, some sixty members had the privilege of being conducted round the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, by Mr. Alfred Evans and an assistant. Many of the party were seeing the garden for the first time and it was a revelation and inspiration to them.

On Saturday, 6th June, we left St. Enoch Square at 1 p.m. for Kilcreggan. Heavy rain accompanied us as far as Rhu, but thereafter a clear sky and warm sunshine greeted us at the four gardens we visited. Miss Nance Paul's garden is built on a steep and difficult slope with a stream running through it. In the bed of the stream meconopsis and primulas in great variety were very much at home. Rare flowering shrubs, rhododendrons, azaleas and heathers ensure a flowering season throughout the entire year.

The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Forsyth was next visited. What a lovely garden! Created by two enthusiasts whose love of flowers is evident in every corner! The front of the house is laid out as a rock garden wherein are grown many rare and beautiful alpine, including many varieties of iris, gentians, European and Asiatic, dwarf rhododendrons, primulas, heathers, etc. The whole is intersected by crazy-paved paths, an object lesson on how this work should be done, and, what is surprising, the entire work was done by the owners themselves. A deep gorge divides the rock garden from what, for want of a better name, is called the shrubbery. Many shrubs which are not hardy in other parts of the country thrive and flourish luxuriantly here in this sheltered part of the Firth of Clyde.

The next garden visited was that of Mr. and Mrs. Taggart. They took over the grounds some years ago, and in their own words it was a wilderness. A herculean task confronts them, but they are tackling it in no uncertain fashion. Many treasures are in temporary sites and await the completion of permanent quarters.

The last garden visited was Eastwood, Cove, some two miles from Kilcreggan and belonging to a very old friend of the writer. He and his wife were Portonions and our neighbours for many years. Mrs. David Fraser had in Port Glasgow and district earned a reputation for her knowledge in many branches of horticulture. Her advice was sought by and readily given to many a beginner. She had, like many others, a 'dream' garden, but realising that her ideal could not

be realised in Port Glasgow she crossed over to Cove. There she and her husband turned a wilderness of a garden into a thing of beauty. Her death several years ago came as a great shock to her many friends in the Club, and those of us who saw the garden at Cove on 6th June will agree that she has left behind a memorial more fitting than any in marble.

In arranging these outings it must be understood that the privilege of seeing round the owner's garden is all we desire. We recognise that the owners in many cases have not the facilities for providing refreshments, but where refreshments are provided we solve our conscience by subscribing to some charitable organisation in which the owner is interested. Now the gardens visited at the Kilcreggan outing were owned by members who were all faithful attenders at our winter meetings. Owners and visitors were intimate with each other, knit together by the common bond of a love of alpiners and rock plants. Despite our protests Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth provided the entire company, numbering close on seventy members, with a sumptuous afternoon tea at a nearby hotel, and then, to crown all, when we arrived at the garden we were treated to another sumptuous tea. An hour later we sat down to high tea at Garelochhead Hotel and did it justice. Was it the Kilcreggan air that whetted our appetites? Truly, a memorable outing and was in the opinion of many the most enjoyable of all our outings to date.

Arrangements for next winter's activities are well advanced. Meetings will be held as usual in Rosalind's Tea Rooms, 33A Gordon Street, Glasgow, C.1, at 7.15 p.m., on the first Monday of each month beginning in October 1959 and ending in April 1960. Next summer we intend to visit gardens in Ayrshire and Milngavie. Circulars will be posted to all members in the district by mid-September giving full details of these activities.

E. D., C.R.

EAST LoTHIAN

THREE OUT of the four lectures in East Lothian during the winter were given by East Lothian members. The first of these at North Berwick was by Mr. David Wilkie on "Campanulas." This summer-flowering genus is not very well represented in gardens, although it can bridge the gap between the spring-flowering plants and the autumn gentians and cyclamen. After showing slides and discussing cultivation Mr. Wilkie distributed a list of species which he recommended, ranging from the rampant and spectacular *C. portenschlagiana* to such elite and tricky plants as *Cc. piperi*, *pilosa*, *morettiana* and *zoysii*.

Mr. Alfred Evans came to North Berwick the following month for a lecture on "Lilies." Although their soil requirements and stature make most lilies unsuitable for growing in the average rock garden, Mr. Evans demonstrated by coloured photographs where they may

be planted so that their grace and beauty may be well displayed. He described fully how easily they may be propagated by seed and by vegetative means.

At Haddington Mrs. David Tweedie showed the photographs which she and her husband had taken in Patagonia. These gave a good idea of the harsh conditions to which plants growing there have become adapted—rock-hard cushion plants and gnarled shrubs clinging closely to the contours of the ground. Although most of the photographs showed plants not yet known in gardens, members were interested to recognise their old friend (or foe?) *Calceolaria darwinii* growing in the shelter of a fallen log.

Following the county annual general meeting Mr. G. S. Burrows gave a lecture entitled "Mainly for the Novice." Mr. Burrows, who has recently moved into Dirleton, has given much thought to the question of rock garden design and has put his ideas most successfully into practice in his new garden. He spoke of the "plantsman's garden" for cultivating rare species, the rocky outcrop which simulates a piece of natural scenery, and the formal paved courtyard or terrace close to the house. Although his talk was directed to beginners it is likely that quite a few more experienced members returned to their own gardens with a more critical eye and a healthy feeling of dissatisfaction.

The "bring and buy" sale this year was held at Longniddry by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Baillie in the large shed where this rock gardening family indulges in its other hobby of boat building, and coffee was served in a comfortable outbuilding where the younger members of the family entertain their friends. A substantial sum was raised to cover running expenses of lectures and of the North Berwick Show, but above its money-making value it was a most enjoyable occasion.

Three outings to gardens were arranged for early summer. The first—through the kindness of the owners—was to three gardens at Barnton. Dr. and Mrs. Simpson Hall showed their beautiful garden, where plants look their best with a background of trees and shrubs. At White Lodge Dr. Morison showed us round and explained how he had excavated and built up the rock work to make a home for his many interesting plants—a number of which he had collected from their native habitat. Lastly the garden of Professor Grahame was visited and this gave an example of how much can be achieved in a small space.

On 11th June the Misses Logan Home most kindly received members and showed them over Edrom Nurseries. The feature here was drifts of primulas of many colours, meconopsis, and other plants growing naturally under Scots pines.

A memorable day was spent at Keillour Castle on 17th June, where a tour of the extensive gardens was made under the guidance of Major and Mrs. Knox-Finlay, who also most kindly entertained the party to

tea. It is difficult to pick out any one feature from such a wealth of rare and interesting plants, but nomochares, meconopses, ramondas, and shrubs were seen, all growing as most of us dream of but seldom attain.

Saturday 3rd October, at 3 p.m. at Marine Hotel, North Berwick.
Illustrated Lecture : "Nature's Soil Production," by Dr. Henry Tod, F.R.S.E.

Friday 6th November, at 7.30 p.m. at Hope Rooms, Forth Street, North Berwick. Illustrated lecture : "The Dolomites and their Plants," by Mr. Harold Esslemont, Aberdeen.

Saturday 5th December, at 3 p.m. at County Buildings, Haddington.
Illustrated lecture : "Plants Native to Scotland," by Mr. Grant Roger of the Nature Conservancy.

EDINBURGH AND MIDLOTHIAN

THE FOLLOWING meetings were held in 1958-59 at the usual venue, the Scottish Tourist Board Hall, Edinburgh :—

1958

Oct. 14 A Rock Gardeners' Forum.

Nov. 11 Alpine and Show Auriculas and Polyanthus—Dr. Richard Pike.

Dec. 9 Plants in a Wigtownshire Garden—Major Alan Walmsley, M.C.

1959

Jan. 20 Plant Hunting in Yugoslavia—Dr. James Davidson.

Feb. 17 A Holiday in Switzerland—Mr. Stewart Mitchell.

Mar. 17 Dwarf Rhododendrons—Mr. E. E. Kemp.

April 14 Some Patagonian Plants—Mrs. Tweedie.

May 2 Excursion to Benmore.

May 12 Members' Night.

The attendances at all these meetings were extremely good ; all except the first were illustrated with colour slides.

In the winter programme for 1959-60 the Edinburgh and Midlothian Sections will again hold joint meetings, but will Members please note that the dates for October-December are highly erratic due to cancellations of our fixed dates by the Tourist Board. The dates are :

WEDNESDAY, 21st October 1959

MONDAY, 23rd November 1959

WEDNESDAY, 16th December 1959

After the New Year the usual Tuesday evening date will be resumed. A copy of the syllabus for 1959-60 will be sent to each member in September.

HENRY TOD, *C.R. Midlothian.*

FIFE—EAST

ON THURSDAY, 6th November, in St. Andrews, Mrs. Boyd-Harvey gave an exceedingly interesting talk on "Sinks and Troughs," illustrating her subject with a number of very appropriate slides. Her remarks and pictures were followed by her audience with keen interest.

In Cupar, on 11th December, Mr. Stewart Mitchell as usual enthralled his audience with his happily informal way of presenting "A Holiday in the Dolomites with my Camera." Although at the beginning he announced that unfortunately a lot of his colour photographs had been spoiled, those he showed were superb plant studies and views such as we have come to expect from 'S.M.'

On 9th January "Members' Night" was held in St. Andrews and again we were happy to have a good turn out of members in spite of illnesses and weather, and a most enjoyable evening was had by all those present, with several members showing and commenting on a large number of very fine transparencies. The Club as a whole must now boast many able colour photographers and possible speakers.

Mr. H. H. Davidian, in Cupar on 6th February, gave a most masterly talk, comprehensive but always engrossing and never heavy, on "Dwarf Rhododendrons." Mr. Davidian is an enthusiast as well as the authority on this subject, and his evident enthusiasm was passed on to members by his remarks and slides, so that he was called on to answer a number of keen questions after his address. He assured members that many dwarf rhododendrons would grow well even in East Fife, and many members determined to take him at his word and add these plants to their collections.

In St. Andrews on 6th March, the speaker was Mr. James Keenan. His talk was on "The Naming of Plants," and Mr. Keenan, having had close connections with St. Andrews area before going to Edinburgh, was well-known to many of his audience with the result that questions and discussion were not slow in being forthcoming. During a most enjoyable evening Mr. Keenan was able to prove his point and silence—even if only temporarily—all those who complain about the difficulty of keeping up with plant names.

We were happy to have Mrs. Earl Marshall, of Portland, Oregon—a fellow member of the Club, visit St. Andrews while on holiday in Scotland, and show us colour films and slides taken by her late husband. To meet Mrs. Marshall and to hear and see something of the mountain plants of N.W. America, a joint meeting of Angus and Fife groups was arranged for 29th April in St. Andrews. This proved a happy and successful meeting and many of our Dundee friends took the opportunity to do some garden visiting in the afternoon before the meeting.

About the meeting itself I must be careful, because when I referred to the area to which the talk was to refer as part of the Rocky Mountains my geographical knowledge was questioned and Mrs. Marshall started her talk by showing us on the map just where the Steen Mountains were and giving a short explanation of their general formation before

going on to show us the plants inhabiting the area. It was an interesting and instructive talk ; many of the slides were very beautiful, though some, perforce, had been taken in poor weather conditions so that they compared less favourably with the best.

Altogether it was a most engrossing address and film show, and later was followed by a discussion and chat over a "cup of tea" together before members went their various ways.

The Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale in May was voted a great success both socially and financially, and a debt of gratitude is owed by the group to all the lady members who organised and conducted this event so successfully. For many members and friends it is regarded as one of the events of the year, and it has never yet failed to be the means of bringing new members into the Club.

Summer Week, at the end of June, though a Club affair, was attended by quite a few Fife members, some of whom were able to take full advantage of the forenoon lectures as well as those of the excursions which most interested them, while others—though not free during the day—attended the evening sessions. Everyone appeared to enjoy the event and a lot of new friendships were formed.

We were pleased to welcome a number of new members into the group during the year, and hope they will find their membership a continuing source of help and pleasure. The thanks of all are due to those who gave so willingly of their services as lecturers and to those local members who helped so willingly in organising and running the activities.

J. L. M., C.R.

FIFE—WEST

OUR OPENING meeting on 29th January was given by Mrs. L. C. Boyd-Harvey on "Garden Troughs," with lovely colour slides, some being of her delightful garden, showing the many ways she used troughs in the garden scheme. We enjoyed a most informative and delightful evening.

"Members' Night" on 19th February was a great success, and we were so pleased to welcome members from St. Andrews, Leslie, East Wemyss, Alloa, Lundin Links and Aberdour. Mr. Halley started the evening with an hour's entertainment of lovely "pictures," all of his garden. Then Mr. and Mrs. Niven showed views of their delightful garden and some of the Forestry Scheme at the Culbin Sands. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hamilton each showed slides of Poolewe, as well as their respective gardens. Mrs. Brown showed us what could be done from seeds and Mrs. Hamilton showed us some lovely Rhododendrons. Then Mr. Mowat gave us a talk on some unusual and interesting plants, the evening finishing up with some slides of plants from Mrs. Wilson's garden.

On 19th March Mrs. C. I. Smart of Limekilns gave us a talk on "Two Sides of a Mountain," showing us slides of a holiday at Brand and Lech with the contrasts there are on the different sides of a mountain both in plants and soil. Her lectures are always a delight and full of unusual information.

"Judging Night" on 30th April was a great success and we have to thank Mr. Mowat, St. Andrews, for giving us so many hints on showing plants and judging the merits of the plants for ourselves, as well as the care of them after a Show. The competition was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

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

INVERNESS-SHIRE—SOUTH

THOUGH THIS is a small group the meetings were very well attended. At the end of October last year Mr. Grant Roger gave an illustrated talk on "Scottish Alpines," showing first the kind of country, then the terrain, and finally the plant happy in its nearer surroundings. In December Dr. James Davidson showed some of his beautiful slides, which illustrated a talk on "Alpines at Home and Abroad."

In January Mrs. Boyd-Harvey talked on "Sinks, Troughs, and Raised Beds," and her talk and slides encouraged some of our members to further effort. In April Mr. Jack Drake gave a most helpful talk on "Building a Rock Garden," and brought material and plants for demonstration, answering many questions from an interested audience.

The season closed with a visit to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Lang at Gallovie, Kinloch Laggan, and after a drive through the forest and a visit to the Pattock Falls, the gardens at Ardverikie were admired, bringing a happy afternoon to a close.

The season's fixtures will be advertised in due course.

C. Ross, *C.R.*

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

THE SEASON of 1958-59 opened as usual with a "bring and buy" sale on 18th September. This sale provides funds for the normal county expenses covering lectures, etc., and as usual the response was most enthusiastic.

Our first lecture was on 24th October, when Mr. Malcolm McDonald of the Crichton Royal Gardens spoke on "Plants for the Smaller Rock Garden"—illustrating his most interesting talk with numerous, fine, coloured slides.

Next came an informal coffee morning on 8th November, a pleasant way of raising the additional funds necessary to provide our branch

of the Club with cups and saucers, etc., obviating the somewhat embarrassing necessity of borrowing. The response was gratifyingly overwhelming and the members also took the opportunity of introducing gardening discussions.

On 14th November Mr. H. H. Davidian returned to give us the lecture he had promised on the occasion when bad weather disappointed so many members the previous season. His lecture on *Rhododendron* species, divided into four sections, was so stimulating that few of the members who crowded the hall left without the determination to start a collection of their own.

January 15th saw Commander Graham here, with a departure from the more usual subjects expected by Club members. He showed coloured cine films of "Wild Flowers of South Africa." These were all filmed by Commander Graham and were very beautiful. Particularly was the vivid colouring a joy on a cold January evening.

Our final lecture took place on 20th March when Major A. Walmsley, M.C., spoke on "A Wigtownshire Garden"—his own garden, in fact, illustrated by his own very beautiful slides. This lecture was most enthusiastically received. Members appreciated the quietly helpful way in which Major Walmsley showed them how a multitude of beautiful plants could be grown by any one of them.

On 16th May the Kirkcudbrightshire group joined with the Dumfries members in a visit to the Crichton Royal Gardens by the very kind invitation of Dr. Harper. The weather was perfect; the gardens looked particularly well, and Mr. Malcolm McDonald and Mr. C. Marchbanks, who conducted the party, were tireless in answering the hundreds of questions put to them.

The Kirkcudbrightshire members are deeply appreciative of the kindness of the lecturers and of the directors of the Crichton Gardens. The County Representative thanks also the members for their enthusiasm and support.

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

PEEBLESHIRE

DURING THE past year meetings have been held in Peebles and West Linton. This is the first year that lectures have been given in Peebles, where the meetings took place in Mr. Whitie's Hall, 71 High Street. Dr. Henry Tod gave a highly instructive talk on "The Building of Rock Gardens," which was illustrated by lantern slides. There was also a most interesting lecture-demonstration on "The Growing of Alpine Plants from Seed." This was given by Mr. J. Wilson of the Propagating Department of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, who very kindly gave a most lucid practical demonstration on the preparation of seed pans, suitable soil mixtures and the sowing of seed, with useful cultural hints. An illustrated colour lecture on "Alpine Plants at Home and Abroad" was given by Dr. James Davidson.

Two meetings were held in West Linton, at one of which Mr. Evans of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, gave a very clear and authoritative lecture on "Lilies." This was illustrated by a number of beautiful colour photograph lantern slides. At another meeting Dr. Davidson described his experiences during a Plant Hunting Expedition in Yugoslavia, which was also illustrated by colour photograph slides.

It is hoped that during the coming year there will be good attendances at the meetings and members are reminded that friends who are interested will be most welcome.

PERTHSHIRE

AN EARLIER hour, 6.30 p.m., was arranged for the past winter's series of meetings in Perth, which did not commence until December, as the Discussion Week-end was held in Perth in late October. It had been suggested that meetings were finishing too late for members wishing to attend from the outlying parts. The earlier hour also helped speakers from a distance to return home on the same evening. Unfortunately the response to the earlier hour was poor and attendances dropped. A return will have to be made to the later hour.

On 2nd December Dr. C. I. Smart gave a most interesting illustrated lecture entitled "Two Sides of a Mountain," comparing the flora on opposite sides of a range lying between the Tyrol with its limestone and the Vorarlberg with its primitive rock. On 3rd February Mr. A. K. Johnston showed us superb slides of the wide range of plants, shrubs and trees in his garden at Invergowrie.

On 3rd March Mrs. Ruth Tweedie told us of her plant hunting experiences in Patagonia in a climate of high winds, low rainfall and intense light in sheep ranching country where, properly to observe the native flora, she found it necessary to have a small hill fenced off from sheep for a season.

On 7th April Dr. Henry Tod showed slides of plants which had appeared at previous Club Shows to explain most effectively the preparation of plants for showing. Mrs. Knox Finlay then joined him in a highly instructive session of "Judging Aloud" on the plants brought in for show by group members. The final talk was given by Mr. Kenneth Corsar on the afternoon of 23rd April, the first day of the Club's Perth Show, on "Primulas in the Garden."

In Pitlochry Mrs. T. A. Stuart arranged two meetings on 12th November and 4th February. At the first, Mr. R. S. Masterton showed colour slides of plants growing in his garden high on the hillside east of Aberfeldy. At the second, Dr. Morison showed Swiss Alpines in their native habitats.

R. G. Dow, C.R.

ROXBURGHSHIRE

THE LECTURE arranged for October 1958, when Mrs. Boyd-Harvey was to have been the speaker, unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to the room which was to be used having been let for other purposes. On 26th March members met at Hallrule, near Hawick, when Lady Usher very kindly provided tea.

On 29th April, at Bewlie House, Melrose, Mrs. W. A. MacTaggart held a Coffee Morning to raise funds towards county activities. With the aid of a "bring and buy" stall a substantial sum was achieved.

On 15th June a party of twenty visited the gardens at Biel, near Dunbar, where Mr. Spence and his gardener spent the afternoon showing members round this beautiful garden.

A lecture on "Plant Propagation," by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey, has been arranged for 3rd November at 7.45 p.m. in Kelso High School. It is hoped that there will be a full attendance of members and friends.

E. D. SHORT, C.R.

STIRLINGSHIRE

DURING THE season the Stirlingshire Branch held three meetings, two in Stirling and one in Falkirk, and arranged garden visits for May and June. At the meetings plants were brought by members for sale for the benefit of Group funds, and the Seed Distribution Centre very kindly sent us some of their surplus seed for the same purpose.

At our October meeting in Stirling we were very happy to have as our guest Mr. Stewart Mitchell, who gave us his very delightful lecture on "Swiss Alpines." The numerous slides, taken by Mr. Mitchell on a recent holiday, showed the alpine meadows and screes in general, as well as details of the flora in the habitat of their choice. There was, for example, a fine slide of a *Primula rubra* canopied by a rock shelf, while another very attractive slide showed an ethereal drift of *Soldanella* down a miniature gully. We had a large and appreciative audience drawn from our own area and the neighbouring parts of Perthshire, and were joined for the occasion by members from Clackmannanshire.

In early March we had a second meeting in Stirling at which we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. J. A. Stainton to speak to us again, this time on "Plant Life in North Pakistan." We had an excellent turn-out of members to enjoy Mr. Stainton's superb slides and informative account of the Chitral region, which ranges from the hot steep valleys of the South to the uplands and glacier-fed pamirs of the North. The South provided in its lower regions a delightful yellow rose, *Rosa foetida* Herrm, and in its upper regions a yellow pea with dense flower-heads close to the ground, *Astragalus hindu-kushensis wendelbo*, while the North produced a red labiate on the scree, *Lamium rhomboideum* Benth., and on the melting-glacier level, a pink rose, *Rosa webbiana* Wall. ex Royle.

In April we held a meeting in Falkirk, when members from the east of the county spent a most enjoyable evening listening to Mr. Alfred Evans talk on the subject of "Peat Walls." The very fine slides which Mr. Evans showed to illustrate his talk afforded us an insight into the great range of colourful and lovely plants which are grown in the peat garden of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, and stimulated some members to hope that their gardens might some day likewise be adorned.

In May we had the pleasure of renewing our acquaintance with the garden of Mr. W. Buchanan, "Douglasbank," Bearsden, and of being welcomed and most hospitably entertained by Dr. L. M. Dean at "Saratoga." Mr. Buchanan's garden was, as before, delightful to visit with its ever-increasing number of choice and interesting plants, and Dr. Dean's garden with its rock walls and its very steep terraced descent to the camomile lawn aroused much admiration.

In June we had the privilege of being the guests of Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay at Keillour Castle and had the good fortune to have a perfect summer's day for our visit to their exquisite and unique garden.

We are indeed very much indebted to the owners of the gardens for so generously giving us an opportunity of seeing their treasures.

We shall begin the 1959-60 season with a "Members' Colour Transparency Night," to be held on 21st October 1959, at 7.30 p.m. in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling.

J. MCEWAN, C.R.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

WINTER MEETINGS were held as usual in Newton Stewart and were well attended. We should like to thank the lecturers who came such a long way, for their advice and instruction. The West of Scotland Agricultural College at Auchincruive have been of great help to the S.R.G.C., both in giving lectures and in inviting the Club to visit their gardens. We would particularly like to thank Dr. Dovaston and Miss Wilson for all their trouble and kindness. Miss King of Banbarroch Nurseries gave us a very interesting talk in the winter, and also Mr. Taylor from the Cally Hotel Gardens.

Culderry Gardens had an "open day" for members at the kind invitation of Major and Mrs. Walmsley and a very successful plant stall helped to swell the funds. We are very grateful to the many members who sent in good plants.

Winter meetings will again be held in the autumn, starting in November, to which all members are cordially invited to attend. A syllabus will be sent out in October.

L. W., C.R.

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

FOR THE Autumn to Spring 1958-59 season there was one afternoon meeting and four lectures. In September there was the usual Plant Exchange—always a popular fixture.

The lectures commenced in October, when our old friend, who is always a most welcome visitor to our county, Mr. Stewart Mitchell, gave a talk, "A Holiday in Switzerland," which he illustrated with many of his fine coloured slides, showing that his ability as a photographer equalled his skill as a gardener.

Then in November Mr. J. Jefferson-Brown, a lecturer new to us, gave a most instructive talk on "Narcissi in the Rock Garden," a subject which we had not had before.

In December we were pleased to welcome Miss H. M. Logan-Home of the Edrom Nurseries, who gave an interesting lecture, "Plant Hunting in Yugoslavia." She described her recent holiday there and gave a most amusing account of her adventures and the many plants found, including such rarities as *Campanula zoysii*. She showed many fine slides.

There were no further lectures until March, when we had yet another visit from a member of the staff of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Mr. H. C. Davidian, who gave a talk on "Dwarf Rhododendrons," which he illustrated with numerous coloured slides. The audience was most interested and appreciative and took many notes, so that we should see many more rhododendrons in the Northumberland gardens in the near future. With one exception, the lectures were very well attended.

Only three days of garden visits were arranged for this Spring and Summer, with the hope that the fewer number might produce larger gatherings, and this proved to be the case. It was felt that the effort made to notify each fixture had been well worth while, but some credit must be given to the weather, which was very kind on each occasion in complete contrast to 1958.

Six gardens were visited on these three days and it may be mentioned that five were gardens of members of the Club. On 29th April the visits commenced in the morning with the County Representative's garden at Grindon Corner. Here the lay-out is very simple in order to save labour and the main display is in three small rock beds and a little peat bed, with various other small patches devoted to dwarf rhododendrons. There are ten large troughs and several small ones, which show cushion plants to great advantage. Several dwarf irises, including the varieties "Blue Lagoon" and "Zwanenburg," caused interest, as did several of the alpine aquilegias, which included a number of *A. flabellata nana alba*. Members then crossed the Border and visited Birnieknowes, Cockburnspath, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Sanderson. Here there was a most interesting little garden on a sheltered sunny bank where there were many fine plants, among

which was a beautiful blue-green *Iris pumila* and the difficult *Corydalis cashmeriana*. Mrs. Sanderson very kindly entertained the members to tea. The last visit of the day was to the Edrom Nurseries, by kind permission of the Misses Logan-Home. The lay-out of the garden, with its natural wild setting and stream, is very fine, and there was a great display of rhododendrons, azaleas and primulas. There were several well-planted stone troughs in which many members went to look for the famous plant of *Eritrichum nanum*. The nursery beds also proved a great attraction.

On 4th June the members met in the afternoon at the home of the Hon. P. J. Fairfax at Mindrum. Here Mr. Fairfax, in the space of a few years, has put in order a large rock garden which had been neglected and has extended the garden, planting several trees and many rhododendrons and azaleas on a very pleasant undulating site. Interest centred on the Westmorland limestone rock garden, which was laid out about twenty-five years ago. This is on a steep bank and very large rocks have been employed with a skilful use made of water to provide little cascades. The ornamental trees, including acers, were very beautiful, as was the rose garden. Mr. Fairfax was to be congratulated on the large amount of work that had been done in a very short time and the members felt confident that in a few years' time the garden would present a memorable sight. Members then went on to Ford Hill House, the home of Miss V. M. Bertie. Here they descended to a little stream by steps down a steep slope where the crevices in each step had been planted with *Gentiana acaulis*. Down the side of these steps was a large bed of *Alstromeria* "Ligtu Hybrids." On the far side of the stream Miss Bertie had been fortunate in uncovering a mass of natural rock which has been planted with great skill. The stream side is a mass of candelabra primulas which have naturalised and several varieties of *Iris sibirica*. These two gardens, only a few miles apart, had not been visited previously and great pleasure was expressed at finding such lovely gardens at the homes of our own members.

On 8th July a smaller party went the greater distance to visit the famous garden of the Hon. Robert James at St. Nicholas, Richmond, Yorkshire. Here Mr. James, a very spirited and vigorous octogenarian, showed us round the very extensive garden and, as much pleasure was given by the company of the humorous host as was by the garden. This large garden has been divided into many small compartments by the planting of now great hedges, so that there is much shelter and many tender shrubs survive. Earlier in the season there had been a great display of rare shrubs and rhododendron species; incidentally, these were growing happily over limestone; but now the chief interest was centred on an enormous collection of old bush roses, the finest the writer has had the pleasure of seeing. Mention must be made of such varieties as "William Lobb," "Cardinal Richlieu" and "Tour de Malakof." There was also a fine display of lilies, including many of the new American hybrids. The visit ended with Mr. James pre-

sending each member with a plant of the old "Hen and Chickens" daisy. The weather was quite perfect for this day and all greatly enjoyed the long drive, which they felt had been well worth while.

The Group Annual General Meeting was held at the Blue Bell Hotel, Belford, on Thursday, 11th June. An afternoon meeting with a small Bring and Buy Sale of plants is arranged for Thursday, 10th September, at the Blue Bell Hotel, and there will be the usual four winter lectures. It is proposed to hold a large Bring and Buy Sale of plants in the Spring.

D. C. PAPE, C.R.

Book Reviews

"ROCK GARDENS," by E. B. Anderson. Pp. 176, with 121 photographic illustrations and 8 line figures. A 'Penguin Book' publication. Price 5s.

This remarkable book, produced in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society, can be described in no other way than fantastic at the price at which it is offered. In Mr. E. B. Anderson we have one of the country's leading authorities on the subject and here he treats every aspect so concisely, but at the same time comprehensively, that the veriest novice can find in this book all he requires to make him a well-qualified and proficient rock gardener. Nor is it a book for the beginner only; there is much sound advice and mention of good plants which will prove interesting and useful to gardeners of experience.

After an opening chapter on "Rock Plants at Home," in which their natural habitats are described along with the conditions under which they grow, the author goes on to treat in detail the essentials in construction, illustrating his points with useful explanatory line figures. Next he proceeds to deal with "accessory and special features" such as scree, dry wall, pavement gardens, and peat walls. After this comes much good advice on planting and cultivation and then a short section dealing with pests and another on cold frames—their uses and management. The following chapter on propagation goes into considerable detail and covers division, stem cuttings, root cuttings, and seeds.

Not every rock gardener will be able to make use of the chapter on "collecting," but at least all will find it interesting, while I expect that the next three, on "a selection of rock plants, bulbs, and shrubs," will prove the most controversial in the whole book because no two enthusiasts think quite alike; in this regard I suspect that some readers will certainly disagree with certain of the "plants to avoid," a section at the end of a series of lists of plants for special purposes. The usefulness of this most attractive book is enhanced by a very comprehensive index, though one could have wished that the reproduction of some of the illustrations could have been clearer—probably a most uncalled-for criticism in view of the ridiculously low price at which this book is published.

J. L. MOWAT

“**HARDY PRIMULAS**,” by H. G. Lyall. Published 1959. London, W. H. & L. Collingridge, Ltd., and Florida Transatlantic Arts Inc. Printed in Great Britain by the Camelot Press, Ltd., Southampton. Price 25s.

This new book of primulas will be welcomed by many enthusiasts. The late Mr. H. G. Lyall was a well-known grower and it is greatly to be regretted that the result of his years of experience is only now published, just after his death.

It is a pleasant book to handle and includes good photographs. It is detailed and cross referenced. The chapters on where to grow primulas, preparation of the ground, pests and diseases, and on propagation, are very good.

Perhaps some of us may question the title, “Hardy Primulas,” but Mr. Lyall has covered this in his introduction to include those for the Alpine house. We may not all agree with the miscellaneous plants he mentions to be grown with primulas, but his suggestions will not go amiss.

This is not a book of reference, but in Chapter 13 under the heading “Species and Varieties” the sections of the primulas mentioned are included. Mr. Lyall has added under this heading that all these primulas are available and offered by nurserymen to the general public. I only hope that this is correct, but I wonder !

M. FINLAY

Miss KATHLEEN HUNTER

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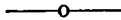
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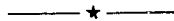
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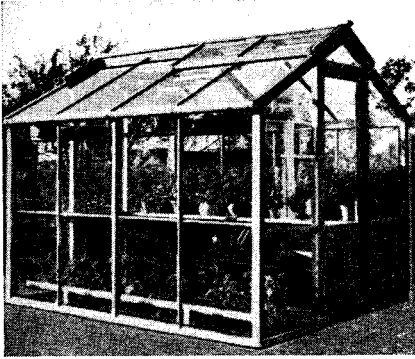
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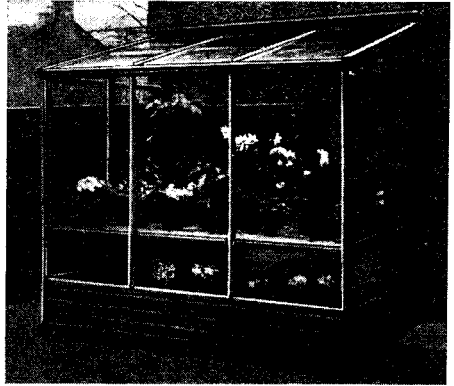
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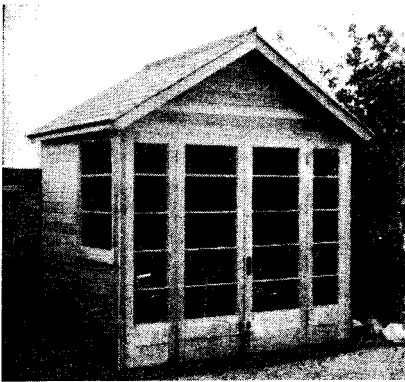
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