

# The Journal OF The Scottish Rock Garden Club

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



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# The Journal

OF

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

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

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## Editor's Notes

IF THERE is any truth in the saying that gardeners and farmers are never really happy unless they have something to grumble about, then surely all Club members should be deliriously happy this year. Show Secretaries of our earlier Shows in particular had every reason and opportunity to reach supreme heights of happiness.

A long spell of excessively wet weather in the latter part of last year's 'summer' started the rot—quite literally in the case of many close-growing and soft leaved cushion plants and woolly-leaved xerophytes—and left plants to face the winter with a lot of soft and unripened growth which was soppy with excess of water. Suddenly, in little more than twenty-four hours, the weather changed from continuous mild rains to really hard, penetrating frost. The temperature in many parts of the country suddenly dropped to more than twenty degrees of frost. To many plants this initial shock caused damage from which they have not yet fully recovered, while other plants were thrown completely off balance and have since struggled along all out of season. After a long and pretty hard winter we had a very short but pleasantly mild spell in early Spring and things began to move again. This proved to be only a false alarm and after a fortnight or so we plunged right back into cold frosts and a long succession of biting northerly gales, which, coming after the mild spell, did untold damage to budding shoots and young growths. Rhododendrons in particular, which had to endure a very bad Spring last year, suffered severely again, as did many garden roses, while pasture fields were so blasted and dried out that they looked more like what we are accustomed to see only at the end of an unusually long hot drought than like fields of Spring grass.

The earlier of the Club Shows were of course knocked haywire by the season ; the range of plants in evidence at them was very limited indeed and consisted almost entirely of pot grown plants and bulbs. Here we think that the great debt of gratitude owed by the Club as a whole, and by Show Secretaries in particular, to those members who so loyally rallied round and scraped together entries (with little idea of ever reaching the prize list) to make these shows possible, should be recorded. Without their generous support some of our shows would have been a sorry failure this year. The improvement in the standard of most of our shows as the season progressed was very noticeable indeed, but in the queer season it was also noticeable that the schedules were sometimes far from fitting the plants at their best. Many plants usually evident were conspicuous by their comparative absence, while in their place there often appeared plants not often seen at our shows—plants which somehow usually just miss being right at show time. This was at least some small compensation in a very unusual season.

Again there are heard various faint whispers of that suggestion mentioned two or three years ago that some members felt that many

of the winter meetings were at a level above the heads of many beginners and ordinary members. Many of the Club's office-bearers such as the Group Conveners might be very willing to concede this, but the remedy is not easy to see, and when suggestions were invited in the pages of the *Journal* not one single reply was forthcoming. We are sure that every office-bearer of the Club would welcome criticisms and suggestions in the pages of the *Journal*, which is after all intended to be a medium for the exchange of ideas and is open to the pen of every member in the Club with anything whatever to contribute, be it complaint, criticism, request, suggestion, or even only agreement. So go to it, members. You should know by previous *Journals* that pseudonyms are respected and writers' names withheld by the editor if so desired. We know that all Group Conveners (County Reps.) would be only too delighted to have some guidance from members willing to state their choice regarding the type of evening meeting they would like.

Those whose job it is to prepare a winter programme have no easy task. First they have to try to arrange something interesting to all members from the most recent beginner to the most experienced 'old hand.' When they come to try to fit together the chosen speakers and the meeting dates the trouble begins, and they very often end up with a programme very different to their original intention. Most Group Conveners, we are sure, would be very happy to know that their programme was a well-balanced mixture of advanced or specialist and general or elementary talks, but this is not easy to attain—and if it were attained, would things be so very much better? Very surely some who had complained of talks above their heads would claim some of the talks below the level of their advancing knowledge. And what of the old knowledgeable member with many years' practical experience behind him? Would too many elementary evenings not prove so boring to him as to make him decide to stay at home beside his books?

One often hears the remark that so and so, or such and such a type of person, is the backbone of an institution or association. One hears this often applied to those industrious, self-sacrificing folk who always seem to be dashing about on the affairs of their chosen association or kindred body. But we have our doubts. Officials come and officials go and societies go on with little apparent change as a rule. Surely then, this points to the fact that the backbone of any body must be those ordinary members who attend meetings regularly, are kindly helpful to their fellow members, and willing to do a small thing quietly when asked, but who shun the limelight. How could any society exist without these—the ninety and nine?

Many of the District Groups have a summer programme which usually consists of visits to certain well-known gardens. At the suggestion of a member last winter one group revived an idea carried out successfully several years ago. This was a series of visits to the

gardens of those who were more or less next door members of the Club. It might be a garden further along the street, in the next street, or perhaps in the next town. Transport seemed no problem. Some preferred to walk the shorter distances, and for the longer distances an ample choice of seats in cars was available.

The proposer of the idea had said how much he had enjoyed the informal friendliness of these evening visits to fellow-members' gardens and what a fine way of getting to know one another. And such indeed proved to be the case in spite of such a chilly June. So far as could be judged by the attendances they proved themselves far more popular than the organised trips to notable gardens have ever done. Members saw and were able to enjoy gardens in most cases comparable in size and setting to their own and could discuss with one another successes and failures, problems and ideas, experiments and the results of them, and all the little details that can crop up in a garden.

References to 'Group Conveners' have probably been noticed and perhaps members may have wondered if these were some new type of official to be imposed on them. They are in fact more or less County Representatives under a new name. The years of experience in Club work have brought out the fact that county boundaries are sometimes rather arbitrary demarcations and that in practice they do not always work too well. Some counties are too large and function better when divided, others small and with a small membership, better when grouped together or basing their activities on a centre just over the boundary into the next county. For these reasons and others it was suggested that 'Group Conveners' might be a more suitable designation than County Representatives.

One of these, the Convener for N.E. England, firmly believes in keeping his group on their toes all the time—as he seems to do himself. At the beginning of this year he undertook to prepare and circulate to fellow conveners a very useful "Newsletter" to keep them in touch with one another's activities.

Now there will be seen on page 96 the latest germination from Newcastle area, and one which could very well grow into a sturdy plant. For those resident in Scotland the journey to and from London often proves itself a tiresome and costly addition to a tour on the continent: our 'Geordie' friends seem to have thought of a happy solution to this problem.

The editor once again wishes to express his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to those contributors to the *Journal* whose support helps to ease an otherwise thankless task. After the many promises which never mature it is only the loyal support of the few which makes the task endurable.

St. Andrews, *August* 1962.

*P.S.*—We have just received as the *Journal* was going to Press an extremely interesting letter from Mr. A. D. Hall of Johannesburg,

one of the Club's two lone members in South Africa. His keenness and enthusiasm under climatic and other difficulties make very interesting reading. We feel sure that Mr. Hall would greatly appreciate a word of fellowship from some of our members here at home who would exchange points of view on plants with him.—*Editor.*

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## Notices

75 Whitehouse Road,  
Edinburgh 4.

14th August 1962.

Dear Editor,

Because my work is demanding more of my time, and because after seven years of my tenure I feel that the Club should have the advantage of the new ideas and vigour of a fresh incumbent, I have decided not to offer myself for re-election as Publicity Manager at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in October.

I should consider it improper, however, to demit office without expressing my thanks to the many members and to my fellow office-bearers who have co-operated and assisted during the period when I looked after the advertisements in the Club's publications and the general publicity activities of the Club.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES T. AITKEN

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## Kilmacolm Week-end — Corrections

IT IS MOST regrettable that owing to the late receipt of the report of Kilmacolm Weekend it had to be passed on to the printer without an opportunity for proper checking. Owing to this a number of errors were contained in the reports of Mr. W. G. Mackenzie's address on "Plant Introductions of the Century" and Professor Pontecorvo's lecture on "Rock Plant Endemisms."

For these errors apologies are due to these two speakers, who are well-known authorities on the subjects on which they spoke. The corrections will be found in detail on page 125.

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## Index to Journals 1-19

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



## Subscriptions — A Reminder

MEMBERS are reminded that Subscriptions, at the new rate of £1 for Ordinary Membership and £1 10/- for Family Membership, are due now and should be paid to the Hon. Treasurer : David Elder, Esq., Jessamine, Kirkhill, Penicuik, Midlothian.

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## S.R.G.C. Christmas Cards

THE FOUR colour plates in this *Journal*, figs. 17, 18, 19, 20, are to be this year's Christmas Cards and it will be easily seen how attractive they are. They will be supplied in lots of NOT LESS THAN ONE DOZEN, either all of one kind, or mixed, as desired. It will be sufficient to give figure numbers when ordering, which should be as soon as possible to the Hon. Treasurer : David Elder, Esq., Jessamine, Kirkhill, Penicuik, Midlothian, enclosing the necessary remittance. The price, including envelopes, is 9/6 per dozen, post paid.

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

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## Club Badges

A NEW supply of Club Badges is now available and is in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer, to whom Group Conveners who wish to replenish their stocks should apply. Members wishing to obtain one of these badges, price 2/6, should apply to their local Group Convener at any group meeting.

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## Seed Distribution 1962-63

DONATIONS OF SEED (or list of seeds "to follow") should reach Mrs. B. B. Cormack, 199 St. John's Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh 12, **not later than 2nd November 1962.**

*Seed Lists* will be sent to Home Members who donate seed and to ALL Overseas Members. Other Home Members may obtain a Seed List by sending a stamped (2½d) self-addressed envelope marked "Seed List" to the above address **before 1st December 1962.**

*Surplus Seed* will be distributed after all orders have been completed. Information will be enclosed with orders.

B. B. CORMACK

## The Clark Memorial Lecture

THE CLARK MEMORIAL LECTURE, immediately following the Annual General Meeting on 31st October 1962, will be given by Rear-Admiral Paul Furse. It will be entitled "The 1962 Expedition to Turkey and Iran," and will be fully illustrated with colour slides.

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## A Proposed Tour

THE CLUB has not so far arranged for its members a Plant Hunting holiday on the Continent, no doubt for geographical reasons. However, a small group of enthusiasts from N.E. England propose to rectify this omission by organising a fortnight in Val Gardena (Dolomites) in July 1963, *flying direct from Newcastle Airport, thus avoiding the journey to London*. It is hoped that sufficient of our fellow members in Scotland will be interested in the idea to enable a party of about 30 to be got together. Arrangements are, so far, rather nebulous and dependant upon the response and the wishes of those who are interested, but in order to enunciate the broad principles involved it is proposed to use transport as far as possible to the higher regions. Val Gardena is well placed for these conveniences, whether they be bus or chair-lift.

A fortnight at one centre may seem a lot, but in this district the potentialities are enormous. The intention is to divide the fortnight into seven days of moderate walking and seven by transport to the locus—"One off, one on." There are also many other intentions which may be modified on receipt of your letters showing interest.

If, as is to be hoped, you are interested in this sort of holiday, please advise me as soon as you can. In *Bulletin* No. 24, p. 234, Mr. Stewart Mitchell gives a foretaste of the pleasures.

F. CYRIL BARNES,  
55 Jesmond Park West,  
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## NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

both interesting and informative.

Price 6/- post paid from the Hon. Secretary :  
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## Discussion Week-end

29th-30th SEPTEMBER 1962

FISHER'S HOTEL, PITLOCHRY

### PROGRAMME

Saturday 29th :

- 2.30 p.m. Opening Address  
 2.40 p.m. "Tulip Species"  
           J. S. Gilmour, Esq., M.A., V.M.H., F.L.S., Cambridge  
 4.00 p.m. Afternoon Tea  
 5.00 p.m. Two introduced subjects, and the rest "open to the house"  
       (a) "Feeding a Rock Garden, especially Scree"  
           Discussion opened by :  
           Dr. James Davidson, F.R.C.P., West Linton  
       (b) "Most allegedly Dwarf Conifers are Phoney and more 'Bonsai' subjects than Rock Garden Plants"  
           Discussion opened by :  
           F. Cyril Barnes, Esq., A.R.I.C.S., High Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
 7.00 p.m. Dinner  
 8.15 p.m. "Some European Alpines in their Native Habitats"  
           Dr. Duncan M. Morison, F.R.C.S., Edinburgh

Sunday 30th :

- 10.15 a.m. "The Peat Garden and its Plants"  
           E. E. Kemp, Esq., M.B.E., N.D.H., Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh  
 11.20 a.m. Break  
 1.00 p.m. Lunch  
 2.30 p.m. "Alpines we have loved and lost"  
           Reginald Kaye, Esq., Silverdale, Lancashire  
 4.00 p.m. Tea  
 5.00 p.m. Close down

### SUNDAY MORNING BREAK

During this time visits to one or two local gardens will be arranged for those who would care to visit them.

The Pitlochry Discussion Weekend is now fully booked for Lecture Room seating. There is a waiting list for any cancellations.

## In the Interests of the Seed Exchange

By T. M. LAURENSEN,  
Christchurch, New Zealand

BETWEEN the demands of my four children and of Nell's numerous grandchildren, show commitments, etc., it was a matter of no small difficulty to snatch a whole day of freedom together. Friday was the only possible day, and Friday we clung to desperately. We rose stealthily at 5 a.m., on a calm but misty morning, the 2nd February, and having successfully eluded our sleeping households we met on the northern outskirts of Christchurch at 6.30 a.m. I parked my little old car near a garage on the main north road, climbed into Nell's and off we went, through the patches of rising mist, northwards into a shining sunny day. At Waipara we turned inland. The softly rolling hills of the Weka Pass were a velvet brown from the summer's drought. The Balmoral State Forest still showed the skeleton scars of a disastrous fire nearly ten years ago. A few early workers were stirring in Culverden, and at Hanmer at 8.15 the day was really warming up. From Hanmer it is only about three miles up to Jack's Pass. The road belongs to the State Hydro Electric Department. It is steep and winding, but in dry weather presents no difficulties. It was in constant use on this day, by heavy trucks grinding up in low gear with loads of huge concrete culvert pipes for construction work somewhere further north. At 8.45 a.m. we had put eighty-five miles behind us. At the top of Jack's Pass (just over 2000 ft.) at the beginning of a perfect day, we sat looking out over Hanmer and the green and brown plain of the Waiaru River, back to the lesser mountains we had passed. A cup of tea tasted wonderful, but we couldn't bear to linger over it.

Jack's Pass is a plant hunter's paradise. Our main objective was seed-collecting and we found we had timed the trip perfectly. By mid-morning we had filled almost all our first supply of bags, envelopes, etc., and found we had eighteen varieties. One of the first finds was a large spike of *Aciphylla colensoi*, seed almost ripe. These aciphyllas are vicious to anyone walking in a dream through a soft mountain meadow. We call them "Spaniards." The plants sit low, a neat rosette of a hundred sharp green knives. This one had comparatively broad basal spines, half an inch wide or more, with deep cream edges, and with its fat flower spike of 24 spiny inches it was a handsome specimen. We went to work with a sharp knife, and between the two of us managed to remove the whole head without major damage to ourselves, and left it on the back seat of our car. Some little time later, while wandering further away, through elysian fields of celmisias, we came across a pair of a different species, *Aciphylla squarrosa*, with much finer, longer foliage, spraying out in a graceful plume of plain green. The flower head we cut was even larger, the stem an inch and a half through at the base. The spikes, protruding through the seeds all the way up, stuck upwards for an inch or so, and then bent sharply

downwards in a graceful curve. It was inconveniently far to take it straight back to the car, so I added the spiny brute to my growing handful of bags and bulging envelopes. It became necessary to do a count each time we moved, but we were doing very well until Nell, in a moment of enthusiasm, sat down on the aciphylla, where I had left it innocently lying.

We are only beginning to know some of the back country of New Zealand, but I cannot imagine there are many places where so many different celmisias grow, in great carpets of green, grey, blue-green and furry white, in the space of a hundred or two square yards. The noblest of all, of course, is *Celmisia coriacea*. It varies quite a lot in size and form, but at its best it is a magnificent plant, with broad leaves a foot or more high, stiff and proud and almost pure silver. The flowers, of course, were all over, but the seed heads, many of them 18 ins. tall and 1½ ins. across, were a bloom like soft brown velvet. There is a little grub which burrows into our celmisia flowers and makes a snug nest for itself among the ripening seeds, thus ruining countless thousands. After a while one could almost tell just by looking at a head whether it was bug-riddled or not. Some were only partly spoilt, but there was only perhaps one in twelve that was perfect. Then with one pinch one could collect a hundred healthy seeds. In no time our envelopes for *Cc. coriacea* and *spectabilis* were full to bulging. We collected seed of eight species of celmisia altogether, and a ninth, *C. viscosa*, was present but had not flowered. Next to *C. coriacea* the loveliest was *C. incana*, which at Jack's Pass makes carpets a yard across. It is somewhat similar in form to *C. discolor*, only slightly larger, but so thickly covered in white tomentum as to appear to be cut from off-white felt. Unfortunately, although we found several patches of it there was only one seed head in all, and this, with the grub removed from the middle, yielded perhaps thirty or forty good seeds.

The small berried shrubs took longer to deal with, although *Gaultheria depressa* was so thickly covered with its huge white berries that we had a bag full in no time. A small hairy pimelia species not yet identified had berries like apricot-coloured rice grains, with an annoying capacity to pop off and roll away.

Next to *Celmisia coriacea*, the most striking plant in these alpine meadows is *Astelia cockayneana*. This would be suitable only for a large rock garden, but in the right place would make a delightful specimen. It is rather like a slender, very graceful flax, a large plant being two to three feet, and all of shining silver, even a clearer silver than the best *C. coriacea*. I have not seen it in flower, but we found one with a whole cluster of seed-heads, right down at the base of the leaves, somewhat like small pineapples.

By 11.30 a.m. we were quite ready for lunch. Then I made a quick trip up the nearest crag, and almost immediately found what I was seeking, but in full flower, not in seed. Hanging from a crevice in a

sheer rock face was a compact bush about twelve inches in diameter, of *Helichrysum selago* var. *microphyllum*, and the whole plant was a blaze of the clearest yellow. With the great sheet of dark lichened rock behind it, it was an unforgettable picture, and I greatly regretted having left my camera at home. A good specimen of this sun-loving small shrub will stand comparison with any exotic alpine I have seen. Two small plants I was able to move without damage, by shifting a sliver of rock on one side of the crevice and lifting out a wedge of soil and roots intact. I could see Nell, a tiny figure below, searching diligently but unsuccessfully for some small orchids seen here in the Spring, but which had disappeared underground.

“What have you got for me?” I asked, with my treasures concealed.

“Hand over,” she said.

It was still only one o'clock and there was no need to leave before three, so we decided to prospect a little further along the road. Over the pass, we descended into a narrow valley, the upper reaches of the Clarence River, and taking the north branch of the road, proceeded for four or five miles on a good hard metalled surface until some overhanging crags got the better of us and we parked again to explore. Here, because we had still plenty of time, I scrambled further and further upwards, sometimes scraping the loose shale off the narrow ledges before I could trust them for a foothold. All up these cliffs was *Helichrysum selago* var. *microphyllum*, sometimes in full flower, often in bud, but *Helichrysum selago* itself, also plentiful, had long since flowered and shed its seed also. I collected some glowing golden branches of the former, in the hope that, heeled in at home, they might set seed and ripen it also. This follows very quickly after the flowers. I wondered idly several times why it was I couldn't resist going further and further up. The car looked quite small in the distance, when, tucked in among some helichrysum, I spied a different green. It was *Hebe cheesemani*, and I soon had several lovely small plants of it. This is a tiny gem among whipcord hebes. Furthermore, some plants had flowered, and I collected a few microscopic seed heads. It will be quite a job to separate the seeds from the capsules, and I shall be lucky if there is a pinch of it, but some there is certainly. Altogether we collected five small hebes, of widely differing forms, including *Hebe raoulii* and several not yet identified.

We shared the remains of our tea and turned for home feeling more than satisfied. One other cliff invited us, and we crossed a small stream to investigate it. We had not climbed far when, on looking down at a group of black cattle not far away, we spied one huge black bull. He was not looking our way, but the sight of him was quite sufficient to convince us that there could be nothing of value on that cliff. Our descent had more haste than dignity. Well-informed persons have since assured us that Hereford cattle when roaming at large are not at all dangerous, but we cannot feel sufficiently convinced to regret

our hasty retreat. As we drove past quite close, and viewed him smugly from the safety of the car, he was a great, disgruntled he-man of a bull.

My little car was patiently waiting where I had left it, and the baby was clamorous when I arrived home. Seed collecting only begins in the field, however. One learns a little in identifying samples brought back. One spends absorbing and sometimes (to be truthful) exasperating evenings extricating seeds from reluctant pods. Occasionally one reaps quite unexpected rewards. The berries of *Gaultheria depressa*, when dried from their succulent whiteness to a shrivelled brown, open to shed their seeds freely, and at the same time give forth a delightful spicy fragrance.

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## New to My Garden — Part IV

By D. M. MURRAY-LYON

THE FIRST three parts of these notes appeared in the April *Journals* of 1956, '57 and '58. As I said in Part I, plants described are not new, not necessarily even new to me, but—new to my garden. They are all either available from nurseries, or—seed of them has been listed in the S.R.G.C. Seed List.

At the time the first three parts were written I was living in Edinburgh, but now I am back in my old garden in Perthshire 600 feet above sea level. I mention this, as I always think that references to hardiness and to methods of cultivation without saying where the plants are growing are not of great value. The garden is on a slope, and the soil light and well drained. In the parts where ericaceae and other peat-loving plants are grown the soil has been conditioned for them by the addition of much peat, and as much leafmould as I was able to get.

I shall start with some bulbs, or rather the usual class “bulb, corm or tuber.” *Albuca* species from Basutoland, so far as I know still un-named, is available from at least one nursery. It belongs to the lily family, and the flowers are something like snowdrops but looking straight up. They are green and white with a yellow edge to the petals. The leaves are also rather snowdrop-like, but small and neat, the maximum height being about two inches. Although coming from South Africa it seems to be quite hardy. It has survived three Perthshire winters, including 28 degrees of frost, growing outside in sharp scree with no protection. It flowers here in June/July, and the flowers have a pleasant scent reminiscent of vanilla.

*Anemone blanda* var. *scythinica*. This is like the typical *A. blanda* in appearance and requirements, the latter not being difficult to supply—any decent well drained soil in sun. The flowers are white, but the reverse of the petals is quite a deep blue, which is a very attractive

combination. It usually flowers in April, and the leaves disappear fairly quickly after the flowers fade and so are not an embarrassment. It comes from North Kurdistan and is quite hardy and produces self-sown seedlings.

Iris 'Joyce' and 'Harmony' are both hybrids of *I. histrioides* and *I. reticulata*. The flowers are Pansy Blue, the falls being rather darker with an orange yellow ridge. They are about five inches high, and the grass is not so long as in *I. reticulata*. With me they flower in March, a little before *I. reticulata*. They look the same to me, but 'Harmony' is a week or so earlier in coming into flower. Good well-drained soil is all they ask, and a position where they will get sun to ripen the bulbs.

*Iris gracilipes alba* is by no means common in gardens, though it can be obtained from some nurseries. It resembles the better known type form which has pinkish-mauve flowers on "five inch sprays of wide-winged delicate butterflies in the tenderest crumpled silk" (Farrer). The leaves are frail and neat, those of the white form being much the paler. The flowers are a delicate diaphanous white and most attractive, they are produced in June. Both forms are natives of Japan, and are said to be lime haters. They are easy in a cool moist soil with plenty of humus in it, but well drained. They divide easily after flowering. (Not bulbous).

*Oxalis laciniata*, from Patagonia, is one of Mrs. Tweedie's introductions, and it was given the Award of Merit on 19/5/58. The plant is very neat and is only about an inch high. The leaves, to quote a well-known nurseryman, are "like metal shavings," an apt description I think. The flowers are relatively large, and are held just clear of the leaves. In colour they are very variable, some naturally being more attractive than others. Colours include shades of blue, purple and mauve, many of them very lovely. It appears to be hardy, though I have lost some in winter, probably due to faulty drainage. Detailed notes on cultivation have been given in the *Journal* on more than one occasion in the last few years so I shall not go into them here.

Another oxalis, this time from South Africa, is *Oxalis convexula*, better known perhaps as *O. inops*. In spite of its coming from South Africa it is quite hardy in scree or on a dry bank. It was late in appearing this year (1962) after the bad winter, and I was beginning to wonder if it had been killed. However, it appeared all right early in July and is now producing its usual succession of flowers which will continue till cut by frost. It is about two inches high and runs, but not too fiercely. The flowers, up to an inch and a half across, are quite large for the size of the plant, and are rose-pink in colour with a yellow centre merging into a white zone which fades into the rose-pink. Each petal at its inner end has a thin brown arrow-head. There are also some faint radiating brown lines. The general effect is gay and attractive. Increase by division of clumps of corms in April.



An attractive spring flower less often seen in gardens than it deserves is *Adonis vernalis*. It is one of the Ranunculaceae and an inhabitant of the European Alps. The ferny foliage grows to a height of about nine inches, carrying golden rayed flowers in April. It is said to need lime, but it grows quite well for me without any amongst dwarf rhododendrons, which gives an idea of its requirements. It does like sun, though, so do not put it in the shade of a rhododendron. As it disappears entirely below ground in the autumn, its position should be carefully marked.

*Chrysanthemum haradjanii* (P.D. 16366) is a Peter Davies introduction which was awarded a Certificate of Preliminary Commendation by the Joint Awards Committee in 1959. Unlike some Levantines it is perfectly hardy. This is primarily a foliage plant, the foliage being silvery grey with a soft silky appearance. The leaves are deeply indented and fern-like and are about two inches long including the petiole. It forms a rather shrubby plant about six or seven inches high, with the flower stems a little longer. The flowers are yellow. Well drained soil on the poor side in full sun suits it. Too rich a soil tends to make it coarse and sappy. Cuttings in summer strike easily.

Another member of the Compositae from the Orient with attractive foliage is *Anthemis biebersteinii*. The leaves are finely cut and very silvery. The flowers are quite large daisies and golden yellow. The flower stems grow to about six inches in length. It comes from the Caucasus and does well in wall or scree. Propagate by cuttings in July or August.

Next is another chrysanthemum, *C. alpinum*. It has a wide distribution—Pyrenees to Transylvania—usually above 6000 feet. It has the reputation of being not too easy to please in cultivation, and certainly a plant I brought over here died during its first winter. However, a plant collected by Dr. James Davidson and given to me two years ago is doing well and is in full flower now (June 1962) for the second year running. It is growing in medium scree in full sun. A second plant grown from S.R.G.C. seed is now 18 months old and is also in flower. The growth of the latter plant is somewhat more lax than that of the collected plant, and the flower stems rather longer, about six inches as opposed to two or three inches on the collected plant. Whether the plant is variable in nature or my plant a hybrid I do not know. The leaves are toothed and small. The flowers are quite pleasant white marguerites, or Scottish gowans. Of course the difficulty, or reputation for difficulty, gives the plant a certain amount of snob value.

*Epilobium kai-koense* is a New Zealander, and more restrained and manageable than its bigger and better known relative which is somewhat of a nuisance in this country. It is a small plant with glossy leaves and rose-pink flowers on four inch stems. It has the typical willow-herb seed-heads, and though it does seed itself around, it does not constitute a menace. It really is an attractive little thing for a wall or dry bank.

*Lewisia tweedyi* with its apricot flowers is well known, but the form with rose-pink flowers is not. It requires the same treatment as the type, i.e. well-drained but fairly rich soil. Both are said to require protection in winter, but do not get it here in Perthshire, and I have had the same type plant for over 12 years. In catalogues the rose-pink form may be found described either as *L. tweedyi* 'rosea' or merely as Pink Form.

*Heucherella* "Bridget Bloom" is a bi-generic hybrid—*Heuchera* x *Tiarella*. It may be said to take after both parents to about an equal extent, although the flowers, carried on twelve- to fifteen-inch stems, are perhaps more heuchera-like. They are a clear pink and have a long flowering season from June onwards. It is quite easy in any decent soil in sun or half shade, and looks well growing amongst the taller dwarf rhododendrons.

*Andromeda polifolia alba*, unlike so many albinos, has not got pale but deep green leaves, quite as dark or darker than those of the typical pink-flowered form. The combination of pure white flowers and dark green leaves is most effective. In habit it is very like *A. polifolia minima*, and like it is a native of Japan. It is easy in 'humusy' soil in part shade, or even in full sun if the soil does not dry out. It runs, which makes propagation comparatively easy.

*Erica cinerea* "Golden Drop" has copper foliage which turns redder in winter. The flowers are pink, quite pretty but not outstanding. It is well worth its place, however, as a foliage plant alone. It looks particularly well hanging down over a rock or peat wall.

I will finish this instalment with two violas. The first is *Viola dissecta eizanensis*, a native of Japan. "Dissecta" refers to the leaves, which are quite deeply cut and are more fern-like than viola-like. They are quite large, about seven inches long including the petiole, and half that in width. The flowers, produced in June and July, are roundish, and in the form I have are white. There are, however, I understand, rose and lavender forms. The flowers are sweetly scented and the plant is most attractive. With me it flourishes in part shade in soil enriched with peat and leafmould, and self-sows itself.

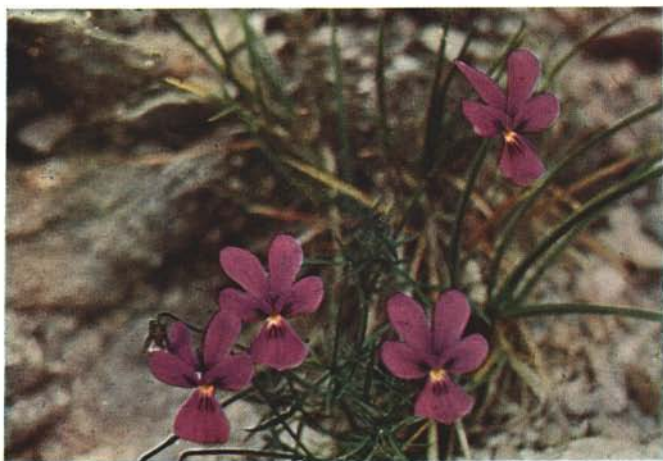
The other viola is *V. gracilis*, the true species I think, and this has been confirmed by some knowledgeable visitors. Its home is in Asia Minor, and it is not easy to get the true plant in this country. Most nurseries list a number of forms—*V. gracilis* this and that—all hybrids. At least one nursery, however, can supply the "Real Mackay." Its flowers resemble those of *V. cornuta* in shape, but are perhaps somehow daintier. In colour they are a good deep violet-purple. The leaves, which are much narrower than those of *V. cornuta*, are lanceolate in shape and of a deeper green. The whole plant is neater and more compact. I find it quite easy in what I call my alpine meadow, the soil being fairly rich, with plenty of humus and a certain amount of gravel. It is said to do in sun or shade, but I have only grown it in full sun, which seems to suit it here.

(To be continued)



*Photo—H. Esslemont*

Fig. 17—*Cyclamen europeum* on the Cima Tombea (see page 34)



*Photo—H. Esslemont*

Fig. 18—*Viola dubyana* on the Tremalzo Pass (see page 35)

## Cyclamen Neapolitanum

By L. CHRISTIANA BOYD-HARVEY

THE GRACEFUL pink or white flowers of this cyclamen succeed each other from the end of August until the end of October. The leaves, which are as decorative as the flowers, are displayed from the beginning of September until the end of May. It is long-lived, and unlike so many other rock garden plants, it does not become senile with the passing of the years. Our oldest plants here date back to 1947, but across the village green in Miss Bowe's garden there is a plant, inherited from her father, which is 45 years old or more.

It is the easiest of all cyclamens to grow, and I do not know of any ill-treatment which will kill it—except feeding it to pigs, as suggested by its vernacular name "Sowbread." In this garden it has been tried in various mixtures of loam and mortar-rubble, leaf-mould and sand and leaf-mould and peat. Some plants have been moist all the year round and others have suffered from drought ; some have been in shade and others in full sun. I know of a self-sown plant which is growing sideways in the crevice of a stone wall.

It took me several years to find out which conditions suit it best here. The species has several peculiarities which are misleading, so it may be of use to list those mistakes which are most often made.

### 1. *Tuber planted upside down.*

The roots of *Cyclamen neapolitanum* arise only from the upper surface of the tuber, so this mistake is easy to make. The plant will survive, but the leaves and flowers will waste time and energy in struggling round the sides of the tuber. Very young tubers less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. across do have roots at the base ; if still in doubt after careful examination with a lens, be on the safe side and plant sideways rather than upside down.

### 2. *Tuber exposed on the surface.*

This is common practice with the greenhouse forms of *C. persicum*, in which the roots arise from the base of the tuber. *C. neapolitanum* if planted in this way would be deprived of water and food. A thick top-dressing of gritty leaf-mould will put matters right.

### 3. *Tuber damaged during rest period.*

Unlike most other rock garden plants, *C. neapolitanum* grows in winter and rests in summer. Those who are growing the cyclamen for the first time may be misled into thinking that its loss of leaves in May indicates its death. They may hasten to fill the vacant space with some new acquisition, and then the resting tuber is likely to be

sliced with the trowel. If the damaged surface is dusted with sulphur it will recover even from such gross ill-treatment as this. The injury will set it back, but need not kill it. A large label and a circle of stones will act as a warning against future accidents.

#### 4. *Plants overcrowded.*

The tubers of young plants are small and there is a temptation to plant them as closely as crocuses in order to obtain a good display quickly. After ten years or so each plant is able to grow to a twelve-inch leaf-span, and each has leaves of different design from every other plant. They are of great beauty and interest when they have room to spread out like a mosaic plaque, but when overcrowded the leaves are muddled together and this lovely effect is lost.

Early this year a member was telling me about two plants she had found in her garden, one on top of the other, like a cottage loaf. In spite of this the leaves and flowers of the lower tuber had managed to struggle to the surface.

It is a puzzling mystery why the peduncles of cyclamens roll up into tight corkscrews, thus bringing the seed-capsules down on to the surface of the parent tubers. If cyclamens were short-lived plants, it could be explained as replacement of the old by the new, but parent plants and their progeny all have many years of life ahead of them. An undisturbed planting of cyclamens soon becomes solid with tubers of all ages.

When the leaves die down in May a search should be made for self-sown seedlings on top of the parent tubers. They should be rescued from so unpropitious a position and potted on separately.

#### 5. *leaves deprived of light.*

There is a widespread belief that *Cyclamen neapolitanum* should be planted between shrubs, in woodland gardens, and in other shaded places. It certainly shows characteristic adaptations to life on the floor of a deciduous forest—leaves which spear their way through loose surface leaf-mould before spreading out to the light, flowers with a nodding posture, and the rhythm of winter growth and summer rest. When I am asked what is the secret of success with *Cyclamen neapolitanum*, and I reply "Full exposure to sunlight," I am met by startled incredulity, almost as though I had said that *Gentiana sino-ornata* ought to be grown in limestone scree.

I will therefore go no further than to say that in this northerly latitude, in the climate of this garden, and in the hands of this grower, those plants of *Cyclamen neapolitanum* which receive the fullest possible unobstructed autumn, winter and spring sunshine will cover themselves with glory the following september ((see fig. 21). Those growing in the shade of shrubs are just ticking over, making little growth and producing few flowers.

## From the High Hills—Part II

### Mountain Daisies and Buttercups

By A. W. ANDERSON

“GO WHERE you will on sub-alpine and alpine herbfield, their silvery foliage strikes the eye, it may be in stately rosettes of dagger-like leaves, in circular mats trailing over the ground, or in dense cushions. Their aromatic fragrance fills the air, from early till late summer some of their white heads of blossom may be seen, while in due season gregarious species clothe both wet herbfield and dry stony slopes with sheets of white.” That was Dr. Cockayne discussing the celmisias, of which we have nearly sixty species and many well-defined varieties. So you see that, by sheer weight of numbers as well as by their striking appearance these mountain daisies take pride of place among our wild-flowers.

All our species are peculiar to this country and, ranging as they do from sea-level to well over 7000 feet, in every type of habitat except standing water, they show a wonderful diversity of form. The modern way of grouping them into seven sub-sections which include no fewer than fifteen series, that has been adopted in the new *Flora of New Zealand*, will do much to simplify the way of the plant hunter who is trying to find his way through the maze.

Perhaps the most noticeable is *C. coriacea*, so plentiful in mountainous country, with its erect tufts of lance-like leaves that may be anything up to two feet long, covered with a silvery skin above and beautifully dressed in a coat of white wool beneath. The handsome four-inch flower-heads on their long woolly stalks have thick white fringes that place them high among the daisies of the world. More colourful is *C. traversii*, from the hills of Nelson and one locality in Fiordland whose flowers are only about half the size. It has achieved fame by reason of the rusty-red tomentum that covers buds, flower-stems, and the under-sides of the leaves so thoroughly as to form a fringe all round the margins. A neater plant for the alpine garden is *C. cordatifolia*, also from Nelson, that is smaller in all its parts, has heart-shaped leaves and darker tomentum.

One of the most elegant is *C. holosericea*, from the wet mountains of Fiordland, whose dark shiny leaves have a white satiny covering beneath while the daisies rise above on their wiry stems. At the other extreme are the dwarf species like *C. argentea*, and its somewhat coarser ally *C. sessiliflora*, which both form dense cushions of closely compacted small rosettes that have the appearance of a silvery turf in which the flower-heads are embedded. A closer examination shows that they are, in fact, suppressed shrubs, or sub-shrubs. About half-way between the two types I have dealt with is the attractive plant long known as *C. novae-zealandiae* but now referred to as *C. angustifolia*. Here the sub-shrubby habit is more evident and we get a graceful

plant with silvery, aromatic foliage and graceful daisies waving on their slender stems.

Queen of the mountain valleys is *Ranunculus lyalli*, one of the most beautiful of all the buttercup family and well known as the mountain lily, although to the gardener's eye few flowers look less like lilies. Only among the wet mountains of the south and west does it show what it really can do. There the great concave leaves, tough, leathery and dark green, are about the size of a soup-plate and capable of holding nearly a cupful of rain-water. There was a time when I thought I hadn't got into the wilds until I had drunk rain-water from one of those leaves. Those who see it in drier parts of the country would be astonished at its luxuriance in those drenching hills of the south-west. I shall never forget a valley behind Mount Earnslaw at about 4000 feet which was so full of *R. lyallii* that from a distance it looked as covered by a light fall of snow. It was a wonderful sight with the four-foot flower-stems laden with the lovely white flowers, about the size of those of *Anemone hupehensis japonica* and just at their prime. Shutting my eyes, I walked through them for several paces and touched a stem at random, and on counting found that it bore over seventy flowers.

The smaller but rather similar *R. godleyanus* with its bright green leaves and golden flowers is now very rare indeed and seems to be limited to one or two sites on both sides of the Main Divide. Fortunately the most accessible grows near the Stocking Glacier at Mount Cook, where it is safe from both pests and collectors. Every bit as beautiful as the more famous *R. lyallii* is *R. buchananii*, although it is not quite so showy. It prefers moist stony ground rather than the damper peaty soils in which the former revels, and its finely cut glaucous leaves with their long, silky hairs form a delightful foil for the large white flowers. Fond of rocky clefts, it sometimes covers acres at a time and comes into bloom just as the snow melts, so that in a late season you may find it up about 5000 feet waiting impatiently in late January and pushing its flowers up through the retreating margins of the snowfields. Where the two meet you may find swarms of natural hybrids showing all the variations possible between the two types of leaves, but rarely showing more than one to four flowers on the foot-high stems.

More amenable to cultivation are some of the smaller buttercups from the drier mountains to the east of the main chain. The high ranges of central Otago give us *R. berggrenii*, notable for its inch-wide, rounded, bronze leaves that are thick and leathery and close to the ground. The pretty flowers are yellow and about three-quarters of an inch across. *R. novae-zealandiae* looks very like it except that the leaves are trifoliate; indeed, the central segment is almost the exact counterpart of that of *R. berggrenii*, while there are usually two flowers to the stem. In Canterbury their place is taken by the elusive *R. chordorhizos*, a denizen of open gravelly places up to about 5000 feet. The dark liver-coloured leaves are of the same texture, but are cut

and lobed and are almost impossible to find unless betrayed by the yellow flowers. A friend of mine growing it in his garden gets much amusement from his visitors' inability to detect the leaf-clusters among the gravel.

But the mountain lily is not the only native wildflower to paint the whole landscape with a multitude of flowers. In some moist, well-drained valleys about 4000 feet the snow marguerite, *Senecio scorzonerooides*, can present a breath-taking picture in late summer. Even individually it is a wonderfully beautiful plant with soft grassy foliage and eighteen-inch stems that bear clusters of six, eight, or even more white daisies each about two inches across. The closely allied *S. lyallii* is smaller and more graceful with yellow flowers, and as it prefers wetter ground I have never seen it covering acres at a time like *S. scorzonerooides*. When the two meet as they do in the upland valley below Lake Harris, in the Routeburn district, they cross to give a remarkable array of hybrids showing every form of variation between the two parents. It is a memorable sight to see several acres of them in flower, usually in January, showing every shade from deep gold through lemon and cream to the pure white of *S. scorzonerooides*. With both species the central discs of the flower-heads are usually yellow, but here you can find them in various shades of purple and almost salmon, and in some cases the rays may be faintly tinged with these colours.

Ourisia is one of the most beautiful genera in all our flora. The tall sub-alpine species are best known, but they tend to be coarse and you have to go to the real mountaineers of the family to find its finest members. The incomparable *O. caespitosa* is a real gem, easily recognised by its shining bright-green leaves, equally at home in a rocky cleft or spreading a carpet over moist stony debris in preparation of the sheets of white flowers dancing in slender trusses never more than a few inches high. The dainty *O. caespitosa* from wet places among the heights of Canterbury and Otago is smaller in all its parts and the flowers are only about half an inch wide. Preferring rather drier places is *O. glandulosa*, which gets its name from its fringe of long hairs along the margins of the thick dark leaves.

It is a pity that *O. sessiliflora* is so little known, because it is an alpine treasure by any method of reckoning. It is different from the others in having very hairy pale-green leaves about two inches wide and forming shapely rosettes that are attractive even when it is not in bloom. The flowers, borne from two to six together on six-inch stems, are white with a spot of purple in the throat. But my favourite is the *O. sessiliflora* var. *splendida*, seen at its best in the southern half of the South Island, where it can form large patches and reaches at least 7000 feet. A lover of moisture, it revels in cool sheltered places, or damp hollows, where it must be covered by a considerable depth of snow in winter. Of course, it doesn't live alone in such places, but shares them with such alpine treasures as *Celmisia hectori*, which has



foliage like burnished aluminium and inch-wide daisies, *Ranunculus seriocophyllus*, with tufts of silky, parsley-like foliage and large adonis-like flowers, and the quaint *Caltha novae-zealandiae*, whose creamy stars like to lie on the surface of the sodden ground close to the melting snows. Its leaves are arrow-shaped and have the lobes folded back until they appear to be produced in duplicate, one above the other. Another plant of the wet places is *Herpolirion novae-zealandiae*, which seldom ascends above 4000 feet. Its grassy, inch-high leaves are quite indistinguishable from grass when growing in the turf, but then the surface of the ground is bespangled with the short-stalked, blue stars, about the size and colour of those of a chionodoxa, even the most indifferent spectator cannot do other than stand and admire.

(To be continued)

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## The Rosebud and the Rose

The Rosebud looked upon the full-blown rose  
 Enjoying her sweet scent and fine complexion,  
 Wond'ring as evolution in her grows  
 If she will reach such absolute perfection.

Of all these thoughts the Rose was unaware  
 Flaunting her beauty in the garden gay  
 Diffusing fragrance in the Summer air  
 Well knowing she was at her best today.

The bud said "You are like a lovely Queen  
 Dressed for a great occasion in a gown  
 More beautiful than I have ever seen,  
 But you should have fine jewels and a crown."

"Nay," said the Rose, "the only gems I wear  
 Are diamonds that fall with morning dew  
 Upon my open petals here and there  
 And do not last more than an hour or two.

If I wore precious jewels on my dress  
 Or round my throat for everyone to see,  
 Their constant sparkle would the world impress  
 And *they* would be admired instead of *me*."

"Pardon, fair flower," the little Rosebud sighed,  
 "No doubt I am both ignorant and rude.  
 I did not mean to hurt your proper pride  
 And realise my great ineptitude."

C. D. W.

## Notes on the Winter and Spring of 1962

By C. M. CREWDSON

I THINK all gardeners will agree that the winter and spring of 1962 has been one of the most erratic and changeable that people can remember. Looking at my diary I find the following :—

January 1st—18° frost, January 2nd—21°, January 4th—7°, then it commenced to thaw. Then we had strong winds and rain until January 19th, when after a short pause we had a terrific gale and wind which lasted several days. On January 27th frost returned, which was followed by another severe gale on February 12th with floods on the River Kent. On February 14th frost returned and continued with varying degrees of severity until February 25th. By this time the alpine house was getting gay with various pans of *Iris reticulata*, *Iris danfordiae*, *Kabschia saxifrages*, and several pans of *Primula bhutanica* (which I find very difficult to call by the new correct name of *whitei*). On February 26th we again had frost which continued with varying degrees of severity until March 6th, when I found my plants of *Rhododendron x cilpinense* were blackened and spoilt, just as they were commencing to bloom. After that we had a little snow and after March 9th we had a little respite and it was warmer, but on March 12th frost returned and we had varying amounts each night until Sunday, March 25th, when a sudden snow blizzard swept through the Lake District and all roads were quite impassable for a short time. On March 25th I recorded 25° frost and after this date the weather remained cold with slight frost at night until April 15th, when we had our last frost (7°). After this date strong north-east winds were very persistent and not good for plants exposed to it. The first really warm spring day was April 21st.

The effects of this long and trying winter have been varied. *Daphnes* of most kinds were somewhat spoilt, one plant of *Daphne collina* suffered a good deal, one side being completely brown and dead, and I have not cut out the dead wood and hope eventually the plant will recover. The ordinary rock plants, such as helianthemums, lithospermums, etc., looked miserable in the early spring and some were killed, but a good many had recovered to a large extent by June and I could then cut out the dead wood. A plant of *Jasminum parkeri* which has been out in the garden for 25 years looked completely dead, but now (in July) I see there is one tiny shoot of green, so perhaps it will recover.

There were some casualties among my meconopses. I lost all but one of my plants of *Meconopsis superba* (which should have flowered this year), which is a great disappointment to me, and some of the other species of meconopses were very late in flowering. Many plants of *Meconopsis quintuplinervia* were killed, but a good many survived so that I was able to divide the good clumps in the early spring to fill

the gaps. In April *Meconopsis x cookei* and *M. integrifolia* were both flowering at the same time, which made a bright spot in one part of the garden. At the end of June I had a few good plants of meconopses from the seed I had collected from the S.S. and W. plants. One of these was to me rather remarkable, the first three top flowers were the really good rich pink that some had, all the rest of the flowers which are still coming out pure yellow. In July in what I call my "woodland corner" I had *Meconopsis villosa* and *Meconopsis chelidonifolia* making a golden patch with *P. bulleyana* nearby.

I am pleased that all my plants of *Streptopus simplex* have survived this winter, they were grown from L. and S. seed, which I think came from Bhutan, and are exceedingly pretty when in flower with drooping bells of white shaded with lilac.

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## Prestige Plant

By R. J. R. MEASHAM

ONE DAY in mid-June my wife indicated her interest in a plant that had begun to flower in the scree-bed. It had, she said, a lot of bunches of mauve flowers with dark, purple horns sticking out of them. Most people will think this a good description of *Phyteuma comosum*, a plant familiar from photographs and specimens exhibited at shows, but perhaps not so widely grown as it deserves to be. I am writing this note in the hope of combating the impression of difficulty conveyed by the plant's appearance—well called "fantastic" by the late Sir Herbert Maxwell—as well as by the caution with which catalogues and horticultural writings too often commend it.

I give a few quotations.

"Needs careful treatment in a limestone scree or a pan in the alpine house."

"Must be particularly guarded against slugs . . . suitable for a fissure, vertical or sloping to the sun."

"Sun and lime."

"Needs protection against slugs."

Farrer (in a note too long to quote but not too long to be read and re-read by those who enjoy his enthusiasms) stresses the need for lime and protection from slugs.

Finally, Mr. L. D. Hills, in his invaluable book, "The Propagation of Alpines," sounds the depths of pessimism. "Its life is one long battle with slugs and winter damp. It is essentially an Alpine House plant." Then, after treating the subject of propagation in his usual masterly fashion, he concludes, in effect, by suggesting that *Phyteuma*

*comosum* is too much of a problem-child for the ordinary amateur, "though it is still worthy of expert attention as a prestige plant." Hence my heading.

By way of contrast, let me give the history of the plant that attracted my wife's attention. Bought in June 1944, it filled one of the banks that I found in my small scree at North Berwick after two years' absence in war-time London. There it settled down, and in due course flowered and slowly increased. (There was no lime in the scree, nor any shortage of slugs in the garden). In the autumn of 1950 it was lifted and potted up, and in January 1951 transported to the West of England. For nearly five years it stayed in a pot, nearly always in the open ; and was then planted in a ruined cucumber-frame, filled with a scree mixture based on a formula, once recommended by General Murray-Lyon, containing a high proportion of weathered boiler-ash. There it has slowly increased in size and flowered every year, still without lime in the soil, and with no special protection against slugs. True, the unusual situation of our scree, in the kitchen garden, may partly account for the immunity from slug damage. Such crops as lettuce and strawberries are never quite free from them, and may be even more to their taste than *Phyteuma*.

As for climate, that of South Devon is perhaps as unsuitable for alpinists as any in these islands. Nearly every year we have a drought in April, May, or June—sometimes in all three : this year it was in June. Winters are usually mild, but with occasional hard spells, and with plenty of rain. The exceptionally wet winter of 1960-61 caused several casualties in the scree—e.g. *Armeria caespitosa* and *Acantholimon glumaceum*.

Our *phyteuma* is always one of the last plants to show signs of life in the spring, and every year I wonder if it has succumbed to winter damp. But every year the bunch of little black sticks, rather moss-grown, protruding through the chips, produce their small dark buds some time in April, which slowly unfold into rosettes of leaves, gradually opening to show the tightly-packed flower buds. This year our plant surpassed itself. I could never get the number of flower-clusters the same twice running, but my average count was 24, and there must have been something like 400 flowers at once—not open, as I nearly wrote, but exalting their purple horns and putting out their snakey tongues. Now I wait to see if any seed follows. So far I have never caught it. The plant has a habit of suddenly collapsing all at once : leaves, stems and flower-clusters all wilting away together. But I have taken Mr. Hills' advice and struck two cuttings this summer.

Prestige ! I suppose the desire for it is one reason why some of us take our plants to shows, and others invite people to see their plants at home. Unfortunately, rock gardeners are rare—not to say difficult—in these parts, and nobody but my wife has noticed our *Phyteuma*'s display. Perhaps that is why I have written about it.

## Aubrietias

OF THE DOZEN or so species which go to constitute the genus *Aubrieta* probably none are to be seen in private gardens, for the very good reason that they are quite insignificant things, and normally with poor little flowers. What is grown, and very widely too, is a series of forms, and possibly hybrids, most probably derived from *Aubrieta deltoides*, a species with lilac flowers found in nature over a wide area from Sicily into Asia Minor. Whether or not any of the other species have played a part in the production of our garden aubrietias is uncertain, but it has been suggested that *A. gracilis*, a more tufted or compact species than *A. deltoides*, may have been brought in to counteract the straggling habit of the latter. What is much more certain is that a great deal of patient selection, and probably the crossing of forms, all spread over a long number of years, has gone into the production of our garden aubrietias, and to those who have carried out this work we should be grateful.

For some reason there is a tendency among certain rock gardeners to scoff at the aubrietia. This may be because the plants that we know are not true species and some people will not grow hybrids ; it may be because the aubrietia present no problems of cultivation, and easy plants to some have no attraction ; it may even be that the aubrietia is deemed vulgar and lacking in refinement, but if vulgarity is the consequence of growing them this is simply because planting has been overdone and anything can be vulgar if there is too much of it. Whatever may be said against it, the aubrietia is one of our most valuable rock garden plants and one which has everything to commend it, both for appearance, ease of cultivation and tolerance of almost any conditions of situation or soil. It is wrong to denigrate the aubrietia, it is indispensable.

It may be that the aubrietia receives little credit in some quarters because it presents no difficulties in its cultivation and consequently presents no challenge to the gardener. But an "easy" plant need be no less meritorious than one which taxes the ingenuity of the grower—the aim in rock gardening, as in gardening generally, should be to produce a thing of beauty. Aubrietias may be grown in any situation, except under trees ; they will grow in any soil and though they are lime-lovers they will thrive without it ; further, they are completely hardy in any part of this country. Of course, they will not tolerate ill-treatment, but then nothing except our more noxious weeds will. Good colour forms should be propagated either by cuttings—which are not always easy to strike—or by division of plants carried out soon after flowering. Seed, which is produced in considerable quantity, will germinate freely, but the majority of seedlings will be of poor quality. Nevertheless, every now and then a good seedling will appear, and this may be worthy of reproduction vegetatively. Double and semi-double forms, as is to be expected, do not yield much, or satisfactory, seed. As many of the varieties of aubrietias tend to become

straggly and untidy with growth, it is advisable to trim plants back quite drastically as soon as flowering is completed. This has the dual result of keeping plants within bounds and also of encouraging more compact growth.

For varieties, there are many available, but perhaps still the best is that old favourite 'Dr. Mules,' deep violet-purple and of very compact habit. Because the colour of the flowers is inclined to fade in the sun, it will be as well to plant this variety in a shaded position. 'Pritchard's AI' was formerly most widely grown; the flowers are large and of a rich deep colour, but the habit of growth is lax and untidy, which rather reduces its value; all the same, it is useful as a plant for growing on a wall or bank. Another variety of somewhat similar growth, but with crimson flowers, is 'Fire King.' It has been said that this aubretia demands some care in its cultivation so that it might appeal to those who consider the genus too easy to interest them. There is, however, an improved form of 'Fire King' which does not display the weaknesses of the original and this, like 'Pritchard's AI,' will prove to be a valuable wall plant. Probably the best in this colour is 'Red Carnival,' a very bright red sport from the old reddish-purple 'Carnival.' 'The Queen,' carmine-red, is distinct and good, while 'Crimson Queen' is of a deep shade of the colour which gave it its name. But most people when they think of aubrietias think of plants with violet or purple flowers, and certainly many of the best fall within this range of colour. Here it will only be possible to mention a few varieties. 'Godstone,' 'Royal Purple,' 'Lavender' and 'Lilac Time' are all good things. Amongst the pink forms that old variety 'Bridesmaid' is probably still the best, but 'Riverslea Pink' is not far behind it; yet in the whole, the pinks do not have the appeal of the blues, the purples and the good reds.

It is a long time since anyone wrote an article devoted entirely to aubrietias, yet their names appear in every catalogue of rock garden plants. As they appear in every catalogue, so should they feature in every rock garden. Plant them in prominent positions, and here they will develop into islands of bright and attractive colours which will truly be a feature of any rock garden.

KENNETH C. CORSAR OF CAIRNIEHILL

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## Letter from the President

THIS HAS been quite an eventful year for the Club, for at the Annual General Meeting a proposal to raise the subscription was rejected. Subsequently, it was found that the financial position, which was known to be bad, was very much worse than had been estimated, and accordingly the proposal was made again to a Special General Meeting and was, this time, carried unanimously.

At the time of writing the gloomy forecasts of loss of members have not yet been fulfilled, and it is most earnestly to be hoped that

they never will. I would appeal to any who may be deliberating still about resigning over the increase in the subscription to maintain their support of the Club. After all, at the doubled subscription of £1 it is only costing each member a little over 4½d a week, which is surely a fairly reasonable sum for what they receive.

Following on a severe and very prolonged winter it seemed doubtful whether our Shows would be able to present their usual displays. In about the first half of the Show season the number of entries was down somewhat, though the standard was as good as ever—better in some cases, in fact. The later Shows were up to, or over, the usual number of entries, and that in spite of unseasonable cold and dryness. All in all, this year's Shows have been a striking tribute to the skill, patience and persistence of our exhibitors in the face of very difficult conditions.

Here may I appeal to those members who have not exhibited hitherto, or who have possibly stopped showing for one reason or another, to enter at least one or two plants—and preferably many more. Our Shows are largely supported by a small and faithful band of exhibitors and each year we lose a few through age, illness or death. If we do not get "new blood" into the ranks, our Shows must fail, which would be a real tragedy. In this connection, I might perhaps mention that most of our visitors from over the Border or from Overseas have been impressed—and in some cases, startled—by the standard, quality and number of the exhibits.

To those who did not have the chance to see both the Conference Shows, I can give the assurance that our Edinburgh one compared very well with London. This year Sir George Taylor, the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, presided at the Joint Award Committee Meetings at the Glasgow and Aberdeen Shows. I saw him later at the Chelsea Show and his comments on the plants brought before the J.A.C. there, compared with ours, were not complimentary.

Our name stands high internationally now, and we must do all we can possibly do to maintain this happy position. It is a far cry from the days of 1946 when we had shrunk down to about 300 members and were fighting for our very existence—let us make every endeavour to increase our membership and our activities within the Club. The Shows are our shop window and our meeting-place, but the winter meetings and garden visits are the workaday activities of the Club on which our success depends. It is noticeable that the members who join from the winter meetings are the members that stay.

People may join in a moment of enthusiasm at a Show, struck by the beauty of the exhibits, but our local meetings and our publications are the working forum where the real membership is forged—and lasts.

So, bring your gardening friends both to the Shows and to the winter meetings and we will win new recruits—and, also, do consider joining the ranks of our exhibitors. You will gain friends, amusement and interest—and possibly even some prizes !

HENRY TOD

## Letters to the Treasurer

Dear Mr. Elder,

I was delighted to hear that the little Pyxies arrived in good condition, and delighted with your great interest in this special little love of mine. I hope that three do well, but if they do not I can easily replace them, now that I have learned how to pack and ship them.

Few people in America grow this little gem—in fact, not very many know it. Maybe more of us will after you in Scotland and England learn how !

It was only four years ago in May that I made my first hurried visit alone to the New Jersey Pine Barrens and chanced upon the most beautiful stand of *Leiophyllum buxifolium* that I have ever seen—though I have explored and hunted, searched and collected whenever I have had an opportunity ever since. It was a tall-growing form, in full bloom, scattered through an open pine forest (*Pinus rigida*, which does not make dense shade) as far as the eye could reach. This I had grown but had never seen in the wild. And then I saw, scattered on the ground like a reflection of the *Leiophyllum*, patches of the *Pyxidantha*, but had no idea what it was.

I dug one plant hastily—and it still grows in my wild garden under my white pines. (Harold Epstein is a fine plantsman and has a beautiful garden— but his comments on *Pyxidantha* at the Rock Garden Conference were misleading and much too discouraging. I have not found it difficult to move or grow. Of course I move it, and grow it, in its own New Jersey sand ; but easily.)

The location described above is not typical ; that was perfect for the *Leiophyllum*—light, moist pine woods, an inch or two of leaf-mould soil on top of sand. But the Pyxie grows and blooms more abundantly in moist sand in the sun. The sand may *look* dry to the unwary, but if so the water is very close to the surface. The sand is very fine, not coarse ; it may be very white, or a sterile-looking light yellow with little round pebbles in it.

Your plants came from an emergency flying field in a section of the Barrens known as “The Plain,” where the pine and oak grow only three, four or five feet tall—waste and deserted. The field is a true emergency landing field ; there are no installations, no people, just a long runway bulldozed out of the pine-oak forests and covered with wild grasses, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, and the *Pyxidantha*, which has seeded itself all over the runway, and once in a while a compact clump of trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) with small sun-bronzed leaves, growing in the broiling sun in the bright yellow, pebbly, sterile-looking hard ground. Under these conditions the Pyxie is quite red ; growing in more shade it is a light green. Let me repeat. If any of the little plants falter let me replace, or send more for further experiment.

Yours, etc.,

HARRY FULLER

U.S.A.



Dear Sir,

It's a good thing my husband was in Scotland during the war, or I would have to wait for the postman on Monday to tell me a pound in dollars. It's just as funny to you to talk of dollars and dimes, as it is for us to try to think of shillings and pounds. Oh, well, it's money !

My husband often speaks of being to Glasgow. He was in the Navy, convoying troops ; it's always regretfully, though. The authorities did not allow much freedom to explore the town. He does mention the little greenhouses attached to the homes, which he saw as the train sped by. It's always with wonderment that a people should be so fond of flowers ! In some ways he is like the man and the primrose. It's just a primrose to him. We know better, don't we ?

I wish I could thank the members of the S.R.G.C. for the many hours of pleasure their seeds have given me. And some would be appalled at my garden. There isn't a slope or hill in sight. It's a flat, marshy land ! Tall cat-tails sway, across the road, with red-wing blackbirds nesting in them. Overhead the seagulls make twice daily flights to the lake. Two groups, like traffic lanes, by-pass each other squawking greetings or comments on the fishing ! In this setting my alpiners are growing in the border. There are three seedling *Anemone vernalis* growing sturdily, shaded by *Scabiosa alpina*. I am astonished they are alive. The elevation is scarcely 500 ft. above sea level. And *Aa. slavica* and *sylvestris*. This spring three plantlets of *Onosma sericeum* sprouted from seed from the Exchange. They too are in the border, protected by taller plants. My reference books tell where they grow best. But mine don't look as if they know any better. A clump of edelweiss a member gave me a year ago is growing well.

The members are ardent gardeners. Cleaning those seeds, many so fine ! These thoughts pass through my mind as I plant them and watch them emerge as bitsy seedlings. Would you as a favour convey my thanks to those members for their efforts ? Because of their efforts I can be far away beyond my swamp.

Yours, etc.,

VALERIA LAKING

Mount Clemens, U.S.A.

Dear Editor,

The notice in the S.R.G.C. *Journal* of Miss Boyd's death has brought back memories. I went with my aunt to see her at Faldonside and was given a lovely *Salix x boydii*. I still have it, but last winter was so severe that it has been cut back. It is, however, breaking away again at the base. I see they mention *Sax*, "Cherrytrees." I know my father—the late Mr. Stormonth of Kirkbride, near Carlisle—who had a nursery, had this true form from Dr. Boyd. He supplied a plant to the late Dr. Hough of White Craggs, Ambleside, and as far as I know

it may still be there. This is a lovely garden overlooking the lake and the daughter is still taking care of it. I haven't been lately but will try and find out if she still has "Cherrytrees." I saw a note about *Erica* "Springwood" also in the magazine mentioning my father as putting this on the market.

My plant of *Ranunculus arendsii* is coming up very weak this year. When can I move it? I could give it a shadier place or make up the soil with leaf-mould, peat and sand. Would that help? My *Geranium subcaulescens* is still doing quite well.

I only have a very small garden now but I am trying to take care of a few of the plants I brought from Kirkbride.

Yours sincerely,

F. A. SKELTON

Keswick.

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

Dear Mr. Mowat,

August 1962 was a memorable month for me, notable for two events. On the 27th it snowed here in Johannesburg for the first time in twenty-six years, about three inches, and—most important—I had a most pleasant surprise in a visit on the 20th from your Mrs. E. D. Wilson, County Representative for West Fife, who dropped in to see, I think, your only member here. I wonder if you can appreciate what Mrs. Wilson's visit meant to me? When I first joined the S.R.G.C. and received seeds I found that here expert advice was negative, and was once told to throw the seed away as it was impossible to grow Alpines here, so I have been on my own trying to create conditions suitable for Alpines. I know that many are not Alpines in the strict sense of the word, but they are mentioned in your *Journals* and in two books I have by Hills and Mansfield.

All my plants are grown from seed and I can only hope that the names are correct and that the hybrids are more or less true. So far none of my gardening friends can say my plants are wrongly named!

For instance, when my *Saxifragas* started to flower I noticed different shades of colour and have had to guess which were best.

*Kabschia* is a mysterious word to me!

I have about thirty different kinds, and what I hope is a good cross section. I have *S. pectinata*, *S. cochlearis*, *S. aizoides*, *S. mutata*, *S. altissima*—this one looks most interesting—*S. aizoon lutea*, and on to a number of named varieties, like "Sir James Bremmer," "Marshal Joffre" and "Clare Isle." I keep them fairly dry for the winter and I noticed that some turn a lovely bronze colour.

Gentians ! There is magic in this word ! I have got about fourteen different kinds growing well and have flowered five of them so far. They are *G. gracilipes*, *purdomii*, *suedermanii* (?), a gem with the name of "Lozan"—this one flowered particularly well—and *G. verna*, which flowered (three plants in a pan with one flower each) exactly on time for our Transvaal Horticultural Society's Flower Show, and was awarded the Jubilee Trophy for the best exhibit on show ; there were about 1000 entries. What a thrill ! Thank goodness one of the judges had just returned from a trip to the U.K. and had seen Gentians in flower !

My biggest success in germinating Gentians has been with *G. acaulis*. I must have about 150 plants in 4 in. pots and have steeled my heart to friends who want a plant ; I am scared I might give away the one that will flower ! Is this terribly mean of me ?

*Mertensia alpina* flowered well, as did *M. japonica rivulus*, but *Leontopodium alpinum* is slow and took an early frost badly, but *L. sibericum* and *L. stracheyii* are doing well and I hope will flower.

I have three seedlings of dwarf Rhododendron ; they are slow, but look good—names were lost.

*Talinum spinescens* and *T. okanoganense* have at last germinated and are growing well ; I am hoping to be able to compare them with a photograph I have.

*Androsace geraniifolia* has just flowered, and *A. carnea* is growing well, but no signs of flower.

My biggest problem here, I think, is the very dry atmosphere—we last had rain in April—it is now September and no sign of rain yet ; and another job is to winter these plants. I know a dormant period is good, but some plants refuse to go dormant or only go semi-dormant, because, I suppose, of our usually very mild and warm winters.

Lewisiads were such a problem ; I withheld water for winter, and when I started to water a number rotted off ; those that flowered were a sight to behold with their lovely flowers. I have six different species, but *L. tweedyi* has not flowered yet ; *L. heckneri* is my best so far.

Summer heat and a blazing sun is another problem and all my plants are growing in pots in a shady house which started as a 12 ft. × 12 ft. affair and is now 30 ft. × 12 ft., and covered with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wire mesh as a safeguard against hail storms, but I can't continue to 'live' in pots. A few years ago I planted an *Acacia baileyana* for shade, and next year will start to plant direct into the garden under this tree and other likely cool spots and see how my plants respond.

You can imagine how many pots I have in my shady house ; the place is practically full, row upon row of pots six or seven in a line. There must be at least five to six hundred, and they are watered two and three times a day in hot weather ; the clay pots just seem to suck the water out.

I have ramondas growing sideways in a large seed tray turned on its side, and they are growing quite well, but slowly.



*Photo—R. G. Emmet*

Fig. 19—*Primula minima* (good form) near the Drei Zinnen



*Photo—H. Eslemont*

Fig. 20—*Chrysanthemum alpinum* near the Zamboni Hut

*Cyananthus lobatus* has flowered but the plants are very straggly. *Saussurea pygmaea*, *Silene acaulis* and a few different species of *Potentilla* are making good progress, but I have not had any luck with *Aquilegia jonesii*—no germination at all ; but I have at least six strong-growing seedlings of *Castilleja hololeuca* which I hope will flower for me.

I have a few different *Sempervivums* and in a pot of *S. ruthenicum* I see that there is a stranger ; it is no larger than a hazel nut, and almost a dark brown. I wonder what it is ?

I could go on like this for pages and pages, but felt that I just had to let you know how thrilled I am about Mrs. Wilson's visit ; the personal contact does make a very big difference.

My wife, who does the watering of my pots, says that I am quite wrong in saying that there are five to six hundred pots ; she reckons it should read thousands !

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HALL

41 Leicester Road,  
Kensington East,  
Johannesburg,  
South Africa.

1st September 1962.

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## Plant Notes

### CREPIS AUREA

COMMON throughout the Alps, and extending at least as far east as Slovenia, it is surprising that this attractive alpine is seldom seen in rock gardens, or in the catalogues of nurserymen. It grows in short turf at fairly high altitudes, and seems to prefer a rich, turfy mixture, rather than scree, at home. In effect, it is a miniature dandelion three to five inches high, with flowers of a deep, tawny orange. The flowering period is mid-summer, and the unusual colour makes a welcome change from the plethora of pink and mauve at this season. Warning : a conspicuous tally is necessary, otherwise it is almost certain to be weeded out as a dandelion when not in flower ! The plant brought home last summer has set a small quantity of seed, which will be available for the next distribution.

Peeblesshire.

C. E. D.

### DAPHNE CNEORUM

THE DISCUSSION in daphnes at the Conference touched on the value of rock on the shoots of *D. cneorum*, and the illustration for *Incarvillea* sp. *SSW* shows in the background a good example of this phenomenon, and fig. 22 shows the other side of the same plant. Large rocks were

placed over the rather straggly shoots of this daphne, so that just the tips projected beyond the stone. The result is a mass of growth, fairly smothered in bloom surrounding the rocks and the plant seems in the best of condition.

Midlothian.

HENRY TOD

#### HYPOCHAERIS LANATA

THIS IS rather a striking plant introduced by Mrs. Tweedie from Patagonia and one which has settled down well in this country. It forms tufts of rather tough, narrow greyish-green leathery leaves from which rise the flower-stems to some 4 to 6 inches. The flowers are a creamy white speckled with rich brown. In some cases the brown appears as regular radial brown streaks, as will be seen in the flowers on the left of the group shown in the illustration. It has stood up well to last winter's very severe conditions and looks like being a reliable and attractive addition to the plant list (see fig. 23).

Midlothian.

HENRY TOD

#### INCARVILLEA SP. SSW

THIS INCARVILLEA was sent back from Nepal as *I. grandiflora* ? *young-husbandii* and, as far as I know, has not yet been definitely named. It forms a very prostrate rosette of leaves, the terminal leaflet being large and the laterals being much reduced. The flowers are carried on very short stems and lie neatly in the centre of the leaf rosette. It is free-flowering and comes well from seed which is formed rather sparingly compared with most incarvilleas. All the plants of this species have come through last winter's severe frosts unharmed, although I believe that elsewhere the winter caused serious casualties in the genus (see fig. 24).

Midlothian.

HENRY TOD

#### LEPTOSPERMUM SCOPARIUM NANUM

*Leptospermum scoparium nanum* is a native of Australia. It forms a very attractive, small bushy, leafy shrub and the flowers which are borne in profusion almost conceal the foliage.

The white petals, flushed pink at the base, reveal the pink sepals in between. A little judicious pruning keeps the plant in good shape.

Leptospermums, in Scotland, are probably best grown in the cold Alpine House in a light sandy loam and in winter the posts should be plunged and kept on the dry side. Two plants were lost in winter before this practice was adopted.

Propagation is by half ripened cuttings. As this plant flowers in July, it has not yet been exhibited by me. (See fig. 25).

H. ESSELMONT

## LEWISIAS

WHEN at a Club Show some years ago I first saw lewisias I was captivated by them. I at once decided that some day when I had acquired more knowledge I must grow them. The plants I saw in shows, and in some members' gardens, looked so robust and sturdy that surely they must be quite easy to grow.

This, however, did not seem to be the case with me when at last I did venture to buy a few plants. I had heard that they did not like water lying in their leaves and were best grown tilted at an angle or else tucked horizontally into the crevices of a rock wall. And certainly I have seen wonderful specimens, quite old, grown in this way.

One after the other they all seemed to sicken and die. (However they produce those handsome plants seen at our shows beats me). Some died fairly early in life, others reached the flowering stage and then they too, after the first few flowers had opened, gradually began to turn yellow till ultimately they died. I kept on trying, following the various suggestions given from time to time, but always with much the same results.

Will some kind and successful member please tell me what are the fundamental requirements of lewisias and what I can do to grow good plants that will last at least a few years ?

D. J. B.

[*Editor's note* : We have every sympathy with the writer. We still regard the lewisia genus as a whole as anything but easy and reliable.]

## MECONOPSIS GRANDIS, PRAIN

IT WOULD be most interesting to me to know who has grown the above meconopsis. It appeared in our garden as a chance seedling (so I thought). The colour is burgundy red, the golden stamens show up well against this colour, and it is truly perennial. I have had this plant for about seven years : it would still be growing happily under the name of 'chance seedling' if two S.R.G.C. members had not visited the garden when this meconopsis was in flower. Neither had seen this plant and they suggested I should send a specimen to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for identification. The plant was named as *Meconopsis grandis* Prain. I can only suppose that seed of this plant came to me amongst other meconopsis seed, as I did grow as many species as I could procure. It was not a plant I pricked out. All pans of unwanted seedlings and soil from these pans I put out in a woodland bed, and it was in this bed I found this plant growing. This is such a lovely and easy meconopsis, the colour blending so well with other grandis forms, that I find it difficult to understand why it is not better known. Pitlochry.

M. R. S.

SAPONARIA PUMILA (syn. *Silene pumilio*)

THIS INTERESTING plant was collected at about 6000 ft. in Carinthia. According to Farrer, it is to be found on granitic alps in the Southern

Dolomites and other eastern ranges, but never west of the Brenner. From a dense, flat cushion of narrow, pale green leaves, the deep pink, campion-like flowers emerge. These are almost stemless, and enormous for the size of the plant—an inch or more in diameter. It is a lime hater. Cultivation is said to be difficult, but it is certainly worth an effort. In this respect, all that can be reported is that our plant survived the winter under a cloche, produced one flower in June, and looks healthy at the time of writing. It would be interesting to know if any other members have collected *S. pumila*, and what success they have had in growing it.

Peeblesshire.

C. E. D.

### SENECIO CANDICANS

THIS IS a plant which has been raised from seed sent by Mrs. Tweedie from Patagonia in one of her earlier collections. It is not a plant for the small rock garden, as it grows to some twelve to eighteen inches across and perhaps as much high. The foliage is large and is an intense silvery white, but the flowers—which are formed on a stem rising about six inches above the foliage—are rather small yellow “buttons” of no particular value. The interesting point is that the plant in the illustration was exposed to very severe wind, frost and storm generally during the hard winter of '61-'62 and by the spring was in a sadly tattered state. The photograph was taken in June, by which time it had recovered to the condition shown. It is evidently completely hardy and a tough plant, and one which is of great value for its very fine foliage (see fig. 26).

Midlothian.

HENRY TOD

### TARAXACUM OFFICINALE !

I WONDER if any of our members cultivate this member of the family compositae. It has fine strong tufts of toothed leaves and quite beautiful large golden yellow flowers on stalks about four to six inches long. It is, I believe, cultivated in Japan, where there is said to be a white form. Cultivation is of the easiest, as it thrives in almost any soil in sun or shade.

Its strong tap root should make good material for root cuttings, though I have not personally tried this form of propagation, as seed is very freely set and germinates well.

If it were “Rare and Difficult” I am sure we would go to great trouble to try to grow it.

Perthshire.

J. O. KER

[*Editor's Note* : Mr. Ker says of *Taraxacum officinale* that it is not rare, but we defy him to say he has seen it in any nurseryman's catalogue. Possibly this is not to be wondered at when one considers how easily the **Common Dandelion** grows in most gardens. Healthy specimens are always easy to obtain from even non-specialist gardens.]



**KILMACOLM WEEKEND**  
**Corrections to Report**

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MR. W. G. MACKENZIE draws attention to the following errors in the report of his lecture on pages 58-61 of *Journal No. 30* (April 1962).  
 P. 59, line 6 : Transpose *Penstemon pinifolius* for *P. davidsonii*.

line 15 : Spelling—*Polemonium pulcherrimum*—not *pulchellum*.

line 20 : *Calceolaria colvillei* should have read *C. fothergillii*—the point under discussion was not only the new plant introductions by Mrs. Tweedie but the possibility of improved and hardier strains to those now in cultivation.

line 37 : Spelling—*Anacyclus maroccanus*—not *mauritanicus*.

line 39 : *Narcissus citrinus* should be shown as *N. bulbocodium* var. *citrinus*.

P. 60, line 22 : *Glaucidium palmatum*—not a choice yellow, but a pale mauve flower.

line 25 : *Orphanidesia gaultherioides*—not Japanese but Transcaucasus. The point I was discussing was the similarity in foliage between it and *Epigaea asiatica*.

line 37 : Spelling—*Haastia pulvinaris*—not *pulvinervis*.

P. 61, line 2 : *Crocus speciosus* was discussed as a typical autumn crocus—not as a recent introduction.

lines 10 and 11 : Spelling—*Iris histrioides major*—not *histrio*, and *Tulipa fosteriana*—not *fosteri*.

line 19 : *Ramonda serbica* and *nathaliae* were discussed—not *reginae-amaliae* as I am not aware of such a plant.

line 28 : Spelling—*Narcissus* 'Picarillo'—not 'Piccaninny.'

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PROFESSOR PONTECORVO makes the following corrections to his lecture as reported on pages 63-68 of *Journal No. 30* (April 1962).

“The last three paragraphs on p. 64 and the first on p. 65 are so full of misinterpretations of what I believe I said, that in the interests of the readers some at least should be rectified.

*Ranunculus pyrenaicus*, *Phyteuma hemisphericum* and *Sedum anacampseros* have not a disjunct distribution, and are not limited to the Pyrenees : my photographs were all from the western Alps, where all three are widespread. According to reputable Floras, *Bulbocodium vernum* is present in the Pyrenees, the western Alps, most of the Carpathians and the Caucasus, but not in most of the eastern Alps nor, I have been told by a local botanist, in the Tatras.

*Orchis sambucina*, a very widespread species, is found in most southern, central and northern Europe, except for the extreme north. *Pinus mughus* has a very wide range, including the Carpathians: my photographs were taken there, hence, perhaps, the confusion.

The *Sempervivum grandiflorum* shown was from Macugnaga—where it is endemic—and not from Arolla, where, I believe, it is not to be found.

Finally, of the three extreme endemisms illustrated, *Aethionema thomasianum* and *Astragalus alopecurus* are exclusive to the Cogne Valley (Gran Paradiso) and *Dianthus carthusianorum* dwarf form is typical of the Val d'Anniviers. Because it is not known elsewhere, I was asked to supply seed to the alpine garden at the Lauteret. This very dwarf form, which Mr. W. Buchanan and I have now growing in our gardens, maintains its characteristic in cultivation.

I hope you may be able to bring to the notice of the readers these corrections, both for their own sake and mine."

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## The American Rock Garden Society

Probably most members are aware of the existence in the U.S.A. of a Society comparable with our own. Some members may have wished to join this Society, but have been deterred by the apparent difficulty of transmitting their subscription.

We understand that this difficulty is not insuperable. Permission has to be obtained from the Exchange Control in the first place and evidence has to be supplied of the existence of the Society and its membership fees. Having secured sanction, the member obtains a draft from his Bank and forwards it to the Society. In practice it would probably be best first to consult one's Bank, which could supply advice and the appropriate forms.

The annual subscription is 3½ dollars, or 10 dollars for three years if paid in advance, and the Secretary, who will send further particulars, is Edgar L. Totten, 1220 Everett Way, Hendersonville, North Carolina U.S.A.

In addition to its *Quarterly Bulletin*, the American Society has a Seed Exchange in operation.

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## Show Reports

### DUMFRIES

IN AN EXCEPTIONALLY late year when we had five entries at closing date and even considered cancelling the Show, it was a very creditable effort by our members that we should have a Show of 280 entries and a very high standard indeed. Our judges were Miss King, Barnbarroch Nursery, Mr. A. Evans, R.B.G., Edinburgh, and Mr. M. Macdonald, C.R.I. Gardens, Dumfries, and their awards met with general approval.

The following were the main awards: Forrest Medal to a well-flowered *Primula allionii* shown by H. Esslemont, Aberdeen, runner-up *Primula* 'Blairside Yellow' shown by Messrs. King & Paton; Walmsley Cup to *Cassiope lycopodioides*, *Helleborus niger* and *Draba dedeana*, shown by myself; Lewis Trophy (Section II) to Mr. Wm. McGinlay for *Andromeda polifolia nana*, and Bronze Medal also to Mr. McGinlay.

The Trade awards were a Large Gold Medal to Messrs. Longmuir & Adamson, and Gold Medals to Messrs. Ponton, Edinburgh, and King & Paton, Dalbeattie. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Crichton Royal, Dumfries, for a fine tabel display of primulas, habereleas, ramondas and saxifrages, etc., and to myself for a table display of sempervivum species.

Plants worthy of note in Section I were: *Dionysia curviflora*, shown by Dr. James Davidson, and *Draba bryoides*, *Narcissus scaberulus*, a very dainty flower of a lovely colour, *Primula tayloriana*, *Convolvulus cneorum*, *Saxifraga andersonii*, and many fine plants of *Sax. oppositifolia* in its several forms. In the primula classes *Pp. aureata*, *gracilipes*, *frondosa*, *fauriae*, and *marginata* were prominent. Bulbous plants were, as is usual at Dumfries, well represented, among them being *Narcissus calcicola*, *N. cyclamineus*, *bulbocodium* and tulips *biflora*, *pulchella*, *humilis*, *kaufmanniana* vars. 'Gaiety' and 'Gluck.' Among ericaceae *Rhododendron* x 'Racil' and *Arcterica nana* were noted. Among dwarf conifers were *Cryptomeria globosa nana*, *Cedrus libani sargentii*, *Pinus parviflora glauca*, and *Abies balsamea hudsonica*.

In Section III, where the standard was higher than it has been for some time, many plants would have been more than capable of holding their own in Section I, and several of the exhibitors here will be welcomed in Section I next year.

On the Trade stands Messrs. Longmuir & Adamson had *Pernettya mucronata alba*, *P.* 'Bell's Seedling,' *Salix repens*, *S. wehrhahnii*, *Helleborus corsicus*, and *Camellia* x 'Coquette.' Messrs. Ponton showed plants of the rare *Tecophilea cyanocrocus*, *Tulipa kaufmanniana* 'Ancilla,' *Iris reticulata* 'Harmony' and *Salix grahamii*. Messrs. King & Paton had an excellent plant of *Prim.* 'Blairside Yellow' and good specimens of *Forsythia* x 'Lynwood,' *Corylopsis pauciflora*, *C. spicata*, and *Sax. oppositifolia* "Wetterhorn," and in a grand display of dwarf conifers *Juniperus chinensis* "expansa" and *oblonga*, *Microcachrys tetragona* and *Juniperus sabina* "variegata."

I would like to take this opportunity of saying "Thank you" to my Show Committee and to Dr. Gibson and James Young for their help throughout both days at the Secretary's table, and to all others who helped to make the Show a success.

N. M. B., G.C.

## GLASGOW

THE GLASGOW SHOW was held in the McLellan Galleries on 11th and 12th April 1961 and was honoured by the presence of the Lord Provost, Mrs. Roberts, who opened it.

The judges, to whom we are greatly indebted, were Messrs. Evans, Livingstone and Mowat.

Like the Shows at Dumfries and Aberdeen, we suffered from damage to plants by frost. A mild winter and early spring had induced liberal and precocious flowering. Then came collapse. The rhododendrons 'were in flushing when blighting was nearest' and this section had to be cancelled. This was the more regrettable since there had been a very good entry.

Entries in Section II had been too meagre, but an appeal to members was well rewarded. Not a few ewe-lambs were brought out that proved to be quite considerable sheep. Numerically the entries were above average. There was a wide range of plants, many of which were of good quality. The Bronze Medal and the James A. Wilson Challenge Trophy for most points in Section II were awarded to Miss Margaret Thomson, Milngavie. This entry included good specimens of *Daphne retusa*, *Hacquetia epipactis*, *Helichrysum marginatum* and *Sedum dasycyllum*.

In Section I a thinness here and there was offset by the variety of plants shown. Mr. Wm. Urie had conspicuous success by gaining the three top awards in the Section. He was awarded the Dr. Wm. Buchanan Memorial Rose Bowl and a Silver Medal for *Rhodo. williamsianum*, *Daphne rupestris*, *Phyllodoce aleutica*, *Pleione formosana*, *Primula rosea* and *Schizocodon soldanelloides magnus (macrophyllum)*.

Mr. Edward Darling was a close second with *Andromeda polifolia nana*, *Polygala chamaebuxus purpurea*, *Primula rosea*, *Lathyrus vernus albus*, *Sanguinaria canadensis fl. pl.* and *Uvularia grandiflora*, all well-flowered and vigorous.

In the Three-pan Class Mr. Urie gained the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl with large, well-flowered pans of *Cassiope lycopodioides*, *Daphne collina* and *Phyllodoce empetriformis*. This daphne won the George Forrest Memorial Medal for the most meritorious plant in the Show.

Mr. John Archibald, winner of the Crawford Challenge Cup for most points in Section I (including Classes 1 and 2) showed *Celsia dumulosa*, *Chaenomeles japonica* and *Soldanella sp. (?)* in Class 2. Dr.

M. E. Gibson, who gained Third Prize, presented a finely-flowered *Vaccinium nummularia* and an equally floriferous *Veronica tetrasticha* which had received the Forrest Medal at Dumfries.

Other items of note were *Orchis sambucina*, shown by Dr. Dean, *Lewisia brachcalyx* and *L. cotyledon*, shown by Dr. M. E. Gibson, and *Haberlea rhodopensis virginalis*, shown by Mr. Archibald.

Lewisias were thinly represented owing to the early date, but good exhibits were tabled by Mr. and Mrs. Darling, Mr. Archibald and Dr. M. E. Gibson. Miniature narcissi were scarce but good, notably *N. bulbocodium*, shown by Mrs. C. Allan and Mrs. W. Collis Brown. The latter showed a fine pan of *N. rupicola*.

Sedums and sempervivums were well represented, but some were out of character. The ericaceae were helped out by good plants of *Cassiope fastigiata*, *C. mertensiana gracilis*, and the newer *C. x* "Edinburgh."

Mrs. W. Collis Brown had First Prize for her miniature garden and a bowl of cut flowers (rock plants).

Section III—a varied and interesting display, not for Competition—included a small group of Cacti and Succulents. A strikingly robust *Cereus peruvianus* was shown by Mr. John Scott, Carluke.

In Section IV there was a fine chromatic display of azaleas, polyanthus and primulas. Especially worthy were azaleas shown by Miss C. K. Woodward (1st), Mrs. Taggart (2nd), and a fine plant of *Prim. "Barrowby Gem"* shown by Mr. and Mrs. Darling.

Nobody could ignore the arresting beauty of Dr. Dean's greenhouse plant, the Kangaroo Thorn (*Acacia armata*) with its fine form and its dark green foliage which made a wonderful contrast to the rich display of golden flowers.

Certificates of Merit were deservedly awarded to Mrs. MacDonald, Bearsden, and Mr. Alex. Watt, Alexandria, for Non-Competitive displays. Mrs. MacDonald's was a finely balanced group of greenhouse plants, cyclamens, cinerarias and primulas. Mr. Watt showed good specimens of *Ilex crenata* and a varied group of dwarf conifers.

Trade exhibits were fewer than usual but invaluable as part of the floral display. An unusual feature was a very fine exhibit mounted by the Scottish Orchid Society. This aroused much interest and was awarded a Gold Medal. A Large Gold Medal was awarded to Wm. B. Boyd, South Arthurlie, Barrhead, for a well set up stand of acers, azaleas, aquilegias, cytusus, fritillaries and primulas. To Edrom Nurseries went a Gold Medal for a beautiful range of acers, azaleas, anemones, tulipa species and primulas. At this stand, and at Mr. Boyd's, too, much interest was aroused by the dwarf *Fritillaria citrina*.

Knockdolian Gardens, Girvan, were also awarded a Gold Medal. The saxifrages, erythroniums and primulas, attractive as they undoubtedly were, had to yield to the arresting brilliance of the *Pleione formosana* and *P. pricei*, which caused a traffic jam at times.

The composts of Grant of West Calder proved irresistible to many. Further interest was maintained by the versatile collection of books on Gardening presented by John Smith & Sons (Glasgow), by the bright and varied flower paintings of high quality shown by Miss Daisy Anderson, who is one of our members, and the colourful display of jewellery laid out by Floral Handicrafts.

W. H. M., G.C.

### DUNDEE

THE DUNDEE SHOW was held in the Marryat Hall on Wednesday and Thursday, 18th and 19th April and, as was to be expected with such a late season, the number of entries was down, but the quality of the plants was high. While the smaller entry was disappointing, it was noticeable that the extra room enabled the visitors to observe the plants more closely, which led to many questions and enquiries about them.

The Show was opened by Major-General Murray-Lyon, who is a very welcome visitor to this section, and the speeches from the platform were models of their kind, short, to the point and entertaining.

The George Forrest Medal was awarded to *Primula* 'Linda Pope,' (fig. 27), exhibited by Dr. H. Robertson of Aberdeen, a well-known variety, but seldom in such a state of perfection. The Alexander Caird Trophy for the six-pan class also went to Aberdeen, this time to Mr. H. Esslemont. His exhibit was particularly noteworthy for *Primula auricula* 'albo cincta,' *Draba mollissima*, and *Kalmiopsis*. The L. C. Middleton Trophy for the most points in Section I went to Mr. D. Dorward of Monikie, who showed outstanding plants of *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Rhodohypoxis baurii* and *Pleione pricei*. The class for conifers was won by two beautiful plants, *Picea abies clanbrasiliansa* and *Juniperus* 'Bonom Isle,' exhibited by Mr. J. H. Rorie. A beautiful pan of double *Hepatica triloba* and a very fine *Salix* were outstanding features of Mrs. Pattullo's entry, and Major-General and Mrs. Murray-Lyon set a high standard in the primula three-pan class. *Pp. gracilipes* and *marginata* 'Linda Pope' were noteworthy.

Competition was keen in Class 31 (3 pans *Sedum*, *Semp.*, etc.) and Classes 32, 33 (dwarf conifers), in which Mr. J. Y. Carstairs had most attractive entries: he was also first with a fine *Iris reticulata* 'J. S. Dijt' and *Tulipa praestans* 'Fusilier.'

It is difficult not to make these reports sound like a prize list, but it is frustrating for the less knowledgeable not to know where they can get advice on how to grow favourite plants by consulting successful local growers. Judging from the results in the novice section at Dundee, there are several coming plantmen in this area, and many of the exhibits would have done well in the open classes and a feature was the universal high quality of the exhibits. The Bronze Medal for most points in Section II was won by Mr. W. Japp of Monifieth, who showed

*Ranunculus* 'Molten Gold' and *Juniperus stricta* (?) in such good order that they would have graced any section. In the same category were pans of *Sax. oppositifolia* and *Rhodo. pemakoense*, shown by Mr. A. Watson and Mrs. I. S. Anderson respectively.

An exhibit by the local branch of the Floral Art Club was much appreciated by the visitors and it is hoped that this may become a permanent feature of future Shows, although it was obvious that they also had been restricted by the late season. Another innovation for Dundee was the showing of coloured slides of gardens, with the emphasis on the flexibility of construction in rock gardens, with commentaries by local members. A Large Gold Medal awarded to Colonel Stitt was well earned as the only trade exhibitor with hardy plants able to produce a stand in this bad season, although the variety of the plants and the riot of colour showed no diminution from previous exhibits. Another trade award was given to Mr. R. Webster for his stand of cacti, another well received 'first time.'

As I was unaware that I should have to write this report, and had no notes to help me, I hope any omissions or errors will be forgiven.

J. A. H.

### ABERDEEN

THE ABERDEEN SHOW was held as usual in the Music Hall, this time on the 3rd and 4th of May, where, although weather conditions had been very poor and the promise of good plants was not very great, we were all very agreeably surprised to find that once again we had some really excellent exhibits. The standard of plant shown was generally speaking very good indeed and there was general comment to this effect by judges and others.

The Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee met at our Show for the first time and as a Committee they expressed their satisfaction at finding so much material of such high standard for their consideration and approval. At the opening of the Show our President, Dr. Tincker, was our speaker and a short vote of thanks was given by Sir George Taylor of the R.H.S., who visited our Show with the Committee.

Jack Drake secured the "Forrest" with his splendidly floriferous *Cassiope* x "Muirhead" (fig. 28), which was the envy of all. Harold Esslemont, J. D. Crosland, Dr. Hamish Robertson and Mrs. Elder were among the prize-winners, and this year a newcomer, Mr. J. B. Duff, had a really wonderful entry which brought him the Bronze Medal for the highest aggregate in Section II. Mr. Duff is to be complimented on his enthusiasm in what has been a very short acquaintanceship with rock plants and with the S.R.G.C. It is gratifying to us all to see that his efforts have won him such success.

The Cruickshank Botanic Garden again staged a first class exhibit, thanks to Professor Wetherley and to Mr. Sutherland. Trade exhibits were by Messrs. Drake, Edrom, MacMurtrie and Ponton.

The attendance at the Show on both days was a big disappointment, and in consequence the financial outcome left much to be desired. This sort of disappointment is the order of the day at present, I know, but as a Show Secretary I do appeal to members and their friends to make a bold effort to support the local Shows, be they in Aberdeen or elsewhere. All Shows are in need of the utmost support, and only by patronising them can members be assured that they will continue as a local means of fostering an interest in the Club and its activities.

W. M.

*Cassiope* x "Muirhead" (Jack Drake Nurseries), (fig. 28), *Ranzania japonica* (Crosland), and *Anchusa caespitosa* (Esslemont), (fig. 29), were probably the three best plants in the Show. The first was a worthy winner of the Forrest Medal, while the third was awarded the Forrest Medal in Edinburgh the following week. These plants were closely followed by many others of a high standard of cultivation.

The three-pan class for the Aberdeen Bronze Medal (Esslemont) contained no outstanding single plant, although there was a fine pan of *Cyathodes colensoi* (Reid). In the rare or difficult plant class a nice specimen of *Eritrichium elongatum* (Crosland), grown from seed, was shown. This plant is similar in habit to the better known *Eritrichium nanum*, but comes from North America, and the reason for its name is evident when it is in flower, the delightful blue flowers being carried on relatively long sprays. *Trillium rivale* (Crosland) was another interesting plant grown from seed by the exhibitor. Ericaceous plants were well represented, two in particular—*Vaccinium nummularia* (Reid) and *Rhodo. glaucophyllum* (Robertson)—being completely covered in flowers.

In the 'beginners' section two very fine plants were shown in the androsace class, *Androsace imbricata* (Duff) and *Androsace cylindrica* (Dyas). Both these plants were so outstanding in this class that the first prize was awarded equally to both. Other noteworthy plants in this section were *Leucogenes grandiceps* (Duff), *Picea abies gregoriana* (Gray), and *Primula* x 'Christine' (Gill).

The Trade stands were as always a source of attraction to members. Jack Drake (Large Gold Medal), in addition to the magnificent specimen of *Cassiope* x 'Muirhead' which was awarded the Forrest Medal showed a very well-flowered pot of *Soldanella montana* (fig. 36). Edrom (Large Gold Medal) showed the compact form of *Primula gracilipes* in addition to many bulbous plants such as *Erythronium revolutum* 'White Beauty.' This latter plant was also exhibited by Ponton (Gold Medal) along with such plants as *Calochortus uniflorus*. Our own local member, Mrs. McMurtrie, had a fine display of hybrid primulas, including "Perle Van Bothrop," a very strikingly coloured *Juliae* hybrid.



It is always a pleasure to acknowledge the fine display of plants exhibited by the Cruickshank Botanic Garden (Certificate of Merit), so well staged by our local member, Mr. Sutherland, who, together with Dr. Tincker and Mr. J. L. Mowat, adjudicated.

The main prize winners were : Forrest Medal—Jack Drake, Inshriach ; Walker of Portlethen and the Aberdeen Bronze Medal—Mr. Esslemont ; Bronze Medal—Mr. Duff.

H. A. R.  
(for Show Secretary)

### EDINBURGH

THE LAST Show, for the time being at least at the Music Hall, George Street, was graciously opened by Miss Gillian Knight of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Rising costs having made disturbing inroads into Club funds, it becomes imperative that in future less expensive accommodation be used for this event. At the time of going to press the proposal for 1963 is that the Show will be held at T.A. Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street.

The shadows of a long winter were apparent in the empty spaces reflecting a smaller entry of plants in many classes, particularly in the novices section, but to the discerning plantsman as well as to the more casual lover of flowers there was ample evidence of skilful cultivation to invite admiration and provoke discussion. A Show is of short duration, involving a concentration of effort by all participating members, judges, and officials responsible for its organisation, but less apparent as one takes in the beauty of some lovely plant may be the years of care which have brought it to such state of perfection.

Pride of place as the best plant in the Show, and awarded the George Forrest Medal, was taken by the rare *Anchusa caespitosa*, an exceptional specimen of the true prostrate form endemic to the cliffs of Crete, exhibited by Mr. H. Esslemont, Aberdeen (fig. 29). This superb plant was one of the six different species or hybrids, not more than two of one genus, which gained the K. C. Corsar Challenge Trophy for the same grower—an entry which also included the following : *Lewisia tweedyi* 'pink form,' *Lithospermum oleifolium*, *Narcissus juncifolius*, *Primula auricula* "balbisii," and *Androsace arachnoidea* "superba." Mr. John Archibald, Wishaw, came second in this class, his entry including a very good *Haberlea rhodopensis*.

The Carnethy Medal was won by Mr. J. D. Crosland, Torphins, Aberdeenshire, for three plants of distinct genera—the Japanese woodland *Ranzania japonica*, *Androsace imbricata*, and *Paraquilegia grandiflora*. The charming, rarely seen, *Scilla adlumii* was included in the entry of Mrs. J. S. Aitchison, Edinburgh, awarded second in this class.

Competition was keen in the formidable '3 Plants, new, rare, or difficult in cultivation, distinct.' the Elsie Harvey Memorial Trophy being awarded to Mr. Esslemont for the Patagonian *Nardophyllum*

*bryoides*, *Carduncellus rhapsodioides*, and the white New Zealand forget-me-not, *Myosotis eximea*. The not-to-be-forgotten *Eritrichium nanum* was a feature of Major-General Murray-Lyon's entry, and the remote Patagonian, *Nassauvia revoluta* (fig. 31) and *Ourisio ruellioides*, were specimens to excite the expert shown by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey. Still for the experts to appraise and appreciate were *Tristagma australe* shown by Mrs. J. D. Tweedie, and *Dionysia curviflora* by Dr. and Mrs. Davidson.

For the highest aggregate points in Section I Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Aitken of Cramond, whose plants made a notable contribution to the section, were winners of the Reid Rose Bowl. *Saxifragas media*, *stribnyi* "zollikofferi," and *exarata*, shown by Mr. and Mrs. Baillie, Longniddry, were noteworthy in classes otherwise not well represented. *Primula aureata*, obviously proving a garden-worthy plant more widely grown now, took first three places in the single pan class (asiatic), respectively by Mr. Crosland, Mrs. Maule, Balerno, and Mr. and Mrs. Baillie; and was also included in the only three pan entry, by Mrs. J. W. Galloway, Edinburgh. First prize in the single pan (European) went to a robust *Primula auricula albo-cincta* collected in Yugoslavia and shown by Dr. and Mrs. Davidson.

A substantial, well-flowered specimen of the Japanese woodland *Glaucidium palmatum* (fig. 32) exhibited by Mr. J. R. Terris arrested the eye, as also did *Fritillaria pyrenaica* shown by Major-General Murray-Lyon. The season obviously did not favour gentians, Mrs. J. W. Galloway gaining first of only two entries. The gay lewisias lent colour to the scene, *Lewisia* "Golden West," shown by Mr. Terris, Kirkcaldy, and the less amenable *Lewisia tweedyi* by Mr. K. C. Corsar gaining firsts in their respective classes.

'Three pans *Sempervivums*' was a class well represented by five entries, *S. ciliosum borisii*, *S. x* "Spitz", and *S. arachnoideum*, well grown and shown by Mr. and Mrs. Baillie, gaining first place. In the two pan dwarf rhododendron class Mrs. Neilson's *R. pemakoense* and Kurume Azalea took first, but *R. chamaethomsonii* and *fastigiatum* shown by Mr. and Mrs. Aitken also caused the onlooker to pause. In the single pan class an arresting sheet of "Pink Drift" gained first prize for Mrs. B. B. Cormack, followed by the contrasting rich blue of *R. scintillans* shown by Mr. C. G. McGregor. *Cassiope lycopodioides*, shown by Mrs. Winifred Robertson, gained approval of the judges' award.

In Class 63—3 Pans rock plants, distinct, species or hybrids, grown from seed—the A. O. Curle Memorial Trophy was awarded to Mr. Esslemont for *Eritrichium argenteum*, *Androsace imbricata*, and *Calceolaria darwinii*, closely followed by Major-General Murray-Lyon's *Chrysanthemum alpinum*, *Primula auricula albo-cincta*, and a small but well flowered *Eritrichium nanum*, and by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey's charming *Aquilegia viridiflora*, *Primula scotica*, and a panful of seedlings of the still rare *Oxalis laciniata*. Miniature gardens to provide flower and/or

foliage throughout the year, stimulating in design and proportion, were submitted by five entrants, the artistry displayed by Mrs. Aitchison gaining the award of the Boonslie Cup.

Coming to Class 66 thanks are due to seven competitors whose colour combinations made such a pleasing diversion to the plants shown more formally in their pots and pans. The Kilbryde Cup was awarded to Mrs. B. B. Cormack for the entry adjudged best.

The Henry Archibald Rose Bowl, for Class 67, was awarded to Mrs. R. C. Tucker, Edinburgh, and the same lady is to be congratulated upon winning the Bronze Medal for most points in Section II. Well-grown Sedums and Sempervivums by Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. McAlpine, and a good Scolopendrium by Mrs. E. Taylor, were among the best in a section otherwise disappointing in its limited number of entries.

Edinburgh Show is fortunate to have the generous support of the Royal Botanic Garden, whose stand of primulas, androsaces, sempervivums and dwarf conifers, etc., provided much for the amateur to study and appreciate. It was here that the rare *Primula forrestii* was on display and was awarded the R. E. Cooper Bhutan Drinking Cup as the best primula in the Show (see fig. 33).

All present on Tuesday evening (8th May) expressed their great appreciation of Mr. Roy Elliott's illustrated address on 'Rare Alpines and Rock Plants'—based upon a unique set of pictures of plants obviously at home in his Midland garden and alpine house. His slides were a delight to be enjoyed; his observations on methods of control, intriguing to the enthusiast. Highlights were the views of his tufa wall, six feet high, accommodating some five hundred plants and protected overhead from unseasonal rains and the industrial pollutions of the area by a glass awning, but otherwise providing open ground exposure to the plants.

The usual first class Trade Stands of rock garden plants were provided by the regular supporters of our Club Shows—Messrs. Jack Drake, J. R. Ponton, Edrom Nurseries, and Lt.-Colonel Stitt, further supported by Cortachy Gardens, Kirriemuir, with a comprehensive display of narcissus varieties. Greenhouses, garden furniture, frames and equipment in variety were on display by Messrs. Mackenzie & Moncur, Ltd., Edinburgh. The judges, to whom members were indebted on this occasion, were Dr. H. Tod, Messrs. J. L. Mowat, A. Evans, A. Duguid, J. Robb and M. M. Macdonald.

J. D. CROSLAND

### DUNFERMLINE

IN MANY ways Dunfermline Show, held as usual in the Music Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, on 25th-26th May, proved itself the outstanding Club Show of the season. Where other Shows suffered a decline in entries due to the prolonged inclemency of the season, entries at Dunfermline were up by 100 and, with the exception of certain saxi-

frages which refused to open their flowers in the cold weather, most of these entries were staged. Competition was keen and no one competitor scored a runaway victory. Attendance by the public, too, appeared to be better than that of previous years.

The Show was declared open in a most delightful and amusing speech by Mrs. Drysdale, a keen Club member and wife of the Vice-President of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust. The premier award, the George Forrest Memorial Medal, went to a magnificent large plant of *Cypripedium calceolus* (fig. 35) shown by Mrs. Boyd-Harvey, the Mrs. W. B. Robertson Cup went also to Mrs. Boyd-Harvey for three pans—the *Cypripedium*, *Calceolaria darwinii* and *Oxalis laciniata*. The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy for most points in Section I was won by Mr. H. Esslemont, Aberdeen, while for the Institute of Quarrying Quaich (most points in Section IV) there was a tie between Mr. Gordon Hill and Mrs. A. W. Wilson; the Bronze Medal in Section II was won by Miss Milburn, Aberdour. Best plant in Section II was judged to be *Andromeda polifolia nana* shown by R. R. Genderson of Dollar, and the best in Section IV—*Menziesii ciliicalyx* by Mrs. A. W. Wilson.

Mr. H. Esslemont was runner-up in the 3 pan class with a magnificent *Lewisia x trevosiana*, *Anemone obtusiloba patula*, and *Linum elegans*, while Dr. H. Robertson had an exquisite *Senecio uniflora*, *Primula gambelliana*, and a fine plant of *Ramonda*. In Class 2 we were at last privileged to see Mr. Esslemont's *Carduncellus rhapontioides* in flower—a worthy 1st of 6 entries—after seeing it in bud at earlier Shows. Out of 7 entries in Class 3, Dr. Robertson's *Dryas octopetala* was placed 1st, while 1st in Class 4 went to a *Dianthus subacaulis* shown by Mr. and Mrs. Aitken. Primulas in Class 5 were interesting, Dr. Robertson being 1st with a *Primula reidii williamsii* and Mr. Esslemont 2nd with a *P. redolens*. Mr. Crosland's *Androsace arachnoidea superba* was 1st in Class 6, closely followed by Mr. Gordon Hill with a good *A. sarmentosa*.

Owing to the extremely backward season saxifrages were neither so good nor so plentiful as usual and an easy 1st went to Mr. and Mrs. Baillie for *S. cebenensis*. Lewisias on the other hand were quite good, 1st and 2nd going to forms of *L. howellii* and 3rd to a most attractive plant of *L. phyllellia*. Class 9 brought out that ever-recurring problem of judges having to decide whether to judge sedums (and sempervivums) as flowering or foliage plants. First prize went to *Sedum ternatum*, 2nd to *S. pilosum*, and 3rd to *S. spathulifolium* 'Capa Blanca.'

In Class 13 was a really magnificently budded plant of *Wahlenbergia serpyllifolia* just on the point of opening by Mr. J. Y. Carstairs; and Class 16 showed the effect of the cold, dull morning in several very fine *Oxalis spp.* whose flowers were tightly closed. A fine specimen of *Salix grahamii* (?) was noteworthy in Class 20, and in the dwarf conifer class (No. 21) 1st prize went to *Cedrus sargentii pendula*, the exhibitor of which was also 1st in Class 22 with an outstanding *Daphne*



*Photo — J. D. Crosland*

Fig. 21—*Cyclamen neapolitanum*  
(Forrest Medal at North Berwick Show, September 1961)



*Photo — H. Tod*

Fig. 22—*Daphne cneorum* (see page 121)



*Photo — H. Tod*

Fig. 23—*Hypochaeris lanata* (see page 122)



*Photo — H. Tod*

Fig. 24—*Incarvillea* sp. SSW (see page 122)



*Photo — H. Esslemont*

Fig. 25—*Leptospermum scoparium nanum*



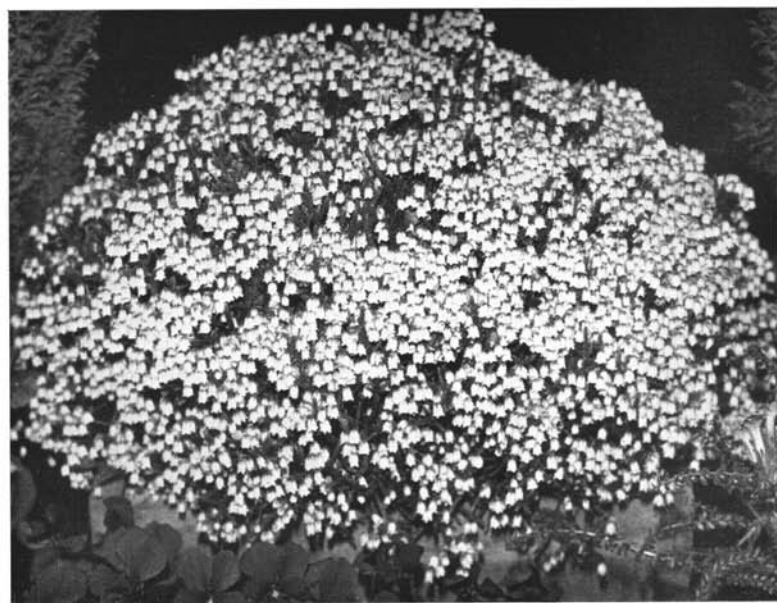
*Photo — H. Tod*

Fig. 26—*Senecio candicans* (see page 124)



*Photo — H. Esslemont*

Fig. 27—*Primula marginata* 'Linda Pope' (see page 130)  
(Forrest Medal, Dundee 1962)



*Photo — H. Esslemont*

Fig. 28—*Cassiope* "Muirhead" (see page 131)  
(Forrest Medal at Aberdeen)





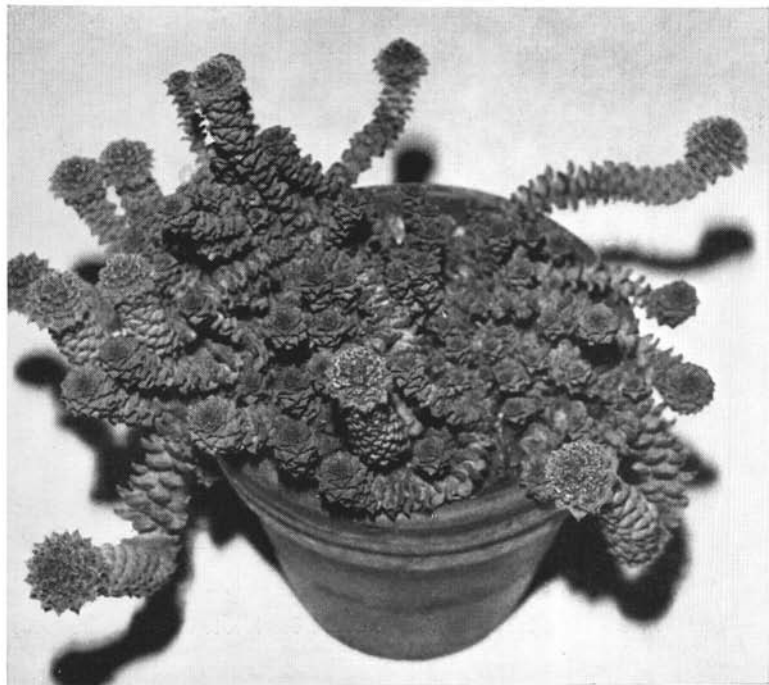
*Photo — H. Esslemont*

Fig. 29—*Anchusa caespitosa* (see page 132 & 133)  
(Forrest Medal at Edinburgh 1962, Cultural Certificate at Aberdeen 1962)



*Photo — H. Esslemont*

Fig. 30—*Primula* x 'Pandora,' Forrest Medal at Penicuik, 1962  
(see page 50)



*Photo — R. Elliott*

Fig. 31—*Nassauvia revoluta* (see page 134)



*Photo — D. Murphy*

Fig. 32—*Glaucidium palmatum* at Edinburgh Show (see page 134)

Photo — D. Murphy  
Fig. 33—*Primula forrestii* at Edinburgh Show (see page 135)

Photo — D. Murphy  
Fig. 34—*Primula chionantha* at Edinburgh





Fig. 35—*Cypripedium calceolus* (see page 136)  
(Forrest Medal at Dumfermline)

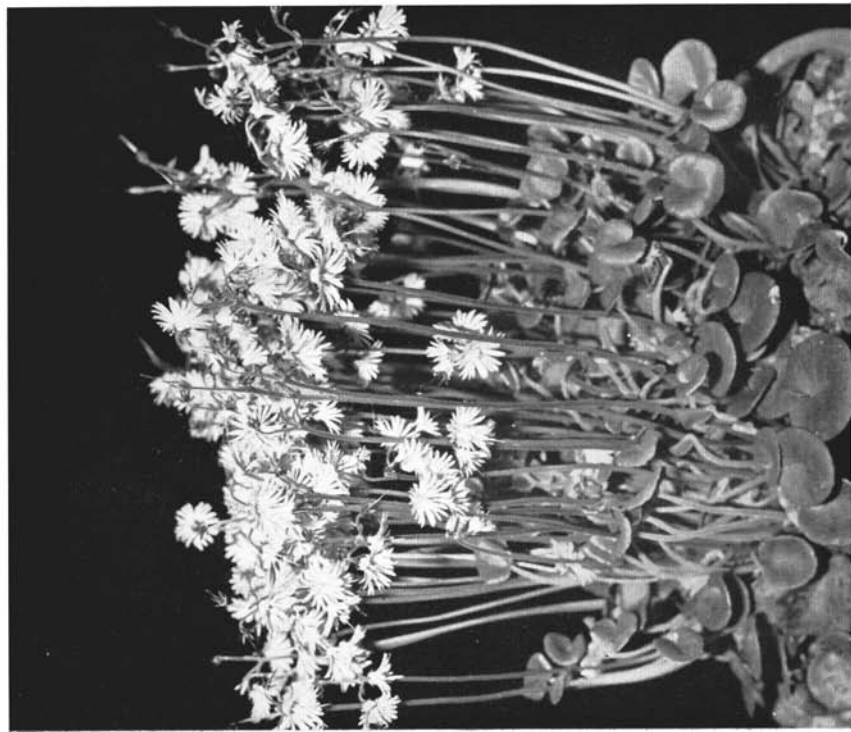


Photo — R. Elliott  
Fig. 36—*Soldanella montana* (F.C.C. form shown by J. Drake at

*collina*, and 1st in Class 23 with *Potentilla verna*. A very neat plant of *Andromeda polifolia nana* caught the eye in Class 38, while Class 50 provoked much admiring comment for the 1st prize entry—three excellently presented and perfectly grown specimens of sempervivum.

The classes for miniature gardens were well supported and the entries were of a generally high standard, while in the non-competitive section some interesting exhibits of cacti were on view and also an interesting oxalis labelled *O. patagonica*. This plant, in addition to its all-over silk hairiness, would appear to keep its flowers open without the need of warmth or sunlight, a point in which it seems to differ from the very similar looking *O. enneaphylla*, a plant which is always so disappointing if the weather happens to be dull.

The section for school-children totalled 613 entries, 140 of which were miniature gardens. These showed a very marked improvement on those of previous years and in many cases showed great imagination. They ranged over a wide field of differing designs from very straightforward vegetable plots in miniature, flower gardens, and ingenious little ornamental gardens to quite well thought out rock gardens.

To the Show Secretary and her active and able team of assistants must go our thanks for a highly successful Show, which has set a high standard to be maintained or surpassed next year.

J. L. M.

## Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee

GLASGOW—10th APRIL 1962

### AWARDS TO PLANTS

#### FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE

To *Cassiope lycopodioides* as a hardy flowering plant for the Rock Garden and Alpine House. Exhibited by N. M. Brown, Esq., High Gables, Hardthorn Road, Dumfries.

To *Primula sonchifolia* as a hardy flowering plant for the Rock Garden and Alpine House. Exhibited by Jack Drake, Esq., Inshriach Nursery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire.

#### AWARD OF MERIT

To *Pinguicula grandiflora* as a hardy flowering plant for the Alpine House. Exhibited by The Curator, University Botanic Garden, St. Andrews.

#### CERTIFICATE OF PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION

To *Leucogenes leontopodium* as a hardy foliage plant for the Rock Garden and Alpine House. Exhibited by Jack Drake, Esq.

## ABERDEEN—3rd MAY 1962

## AWARDS TO PLANTS

## FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE

To *Cassiope* x 'Muirhead' as a flowering plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by Messrs. J. Drake, Inshriach Nursery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire.

To *Cassiope* x 'Muirhead' as a flowering plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by Dr. Hamish Robertson, Fairlie Hope, Cults, Aberdeen.

## AWARD OF MERIT

To *Cyathodes colensoi* as a foliage plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by A. D. Reid, Esq., 7 Woodburn Place, Aberdeen.

To *Primula tsariensis* "porrecta" as a hardy flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay, Keillour Castle, Methven, Perthshire.

## CERTIFICATE OF PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION

To *Nardophyllum bryoides* as a hardy flowering plant for the rock garden and alpine house.

## AWARDS TO EXHIBITORS

## CULTURAL COMMENDATION

To A. D. Reid, Esq., 7 Woodburn Place, Aberdeen, for *Vaccinium nummularia*.

To H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for *Anchusa caespitosa*.

To Messrs. Jack Drake, Inshriach Nursery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, for *Cassiope* x 'Muirhead.'

To J. D. Crosland, Esq., "Treetops," Torphins, Aberdeenshire, for *Ranzania japonica*.

## American Primrose Society

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

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## Group Activities

### EAST LoTHIAN

THE 1961-62 season opened in October with a flower arrangement competition judged by Mrs. Cormack, who afterwards gave a demonstration showing the use of foliage and late-flowering plants in unusual containers. In November, Mrs. Boyd-Harvey gave an illustrated talk on "End-of-season Renovations in the Rock Garden." In December, Mrs. Younger of Baro showed us some most beautiful pictures of the mountains, plants and antiquities of Greece. These had been lent to her by Mr. Anthony Huxley, who had been leader of the party. The sunshine of Greece fully compensated members for the hazards of their icy journey.

In February, Mr. J. T. Aitken showed pictures of the new garden he has made at Cramond. He had planned his entertaining talk for those who are beginning a garden, but there was much of great interest to more experienced gardeners who already have established rock gardens.

The Bring and Buy Sale in March at Grainfoot was, as usual, most enjoyable, as well as financially successful. East Lothian is one of those Groups which not only has to meet all the usual group expenses, but must also cover the cost of a Show. It is the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baillie in giving us the use of their boathouse and playroom which makes this possible.

Some very lovely gardens were visited during the spring and early summer. They were a delight and inspiration to those who accepted the kind hospitality of Lady Joicey, Miss Dorothy Pape. Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick, Dr. and Mrs. Davidson, and Miss Christian Nisbet.

Winter meetings in 1962-63 will be held on the 6th of each month (except January and February).

Saturday 6th October at 3 p.m., at Greywalls Hotel, Gullane. "To the Rocky Mountains in search of Plants": Dr. Henry Tod. Tea 3/6d.

Tuesday 6th November at 7.45 p.m., at the Unionist Rooms, Haddington. A Social Evening. Coffee, Conversation and Competitions, followed by a showing on the screen of members' own coloured slides.

Thursday 6th December at 7.45 p.m., at the Hope Rooms, North Berwick. "My Garden": Mr. Stewart Mitchell. Tea after the meeting, 1/-.

Wednesday 6th March at 7.45 p.m., at the Unionist Rooms, Haddington. "Patagonia Revisited": Mrs. David Tweedie. Tea after the meeting, 1/-.

L. CHRISTIANA BOYD-HARVEY,  
*Group Convener.*

## FIFE—EAST

THE WINTER season opened on 10th November with a Discussion Evening at which various ideas and suggestions towards sustained interest in our group activities were thoroughly aired. Thanks to full notes of the proceedings taken by Miss A. E. Duncan it was later easy to analyse the feeling of members and make an attempt to put the various proposals into practice. On 15th December Mr. Cyril Barnes gave a very interesting, and at the same time highly entertaining, talk on "How not to do it"—an extremely useful talk.

In 1962, on 19th January, our President Dr. Tod gave, at the request of many members, a repeat of his lecture "The Cultivation of Rock Plants—basic principles," to a keenly interested audience. This was followed in February by an interesting and beautifully illustrated talk on "Bulbs for the Rock Garden" by Mr. A. Evans, and in March by Mr. Harold Esslemont, who gave an absorbing talk, illustrated with magnificent slides, on "The Dolomites and their Flowers."

April 12th saw our ever popular "Judging Competition," with all its fun, instruction, and argument, and in May our annual Coffee Evening was organised by our ladies and its usual successful and enjoyable evening.

On Saturday 12th May Fife and Perthshire members met together in a visit to University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews. The get-together was greatly enjoyed and many ended the day with informal visits to other gardens of St. Andrews, including The Haining. On the evening of 31st May we visited the gardens of Mr. W. Bruce, Mr. C. G. Halley, Mrs. Jack, and Mr. Rutherford, all very interesting gardens in St. Andrews.

On the evening of 6th June we visited two larger very attractive gardens in St. Andrews—those of Mr. J. Noble, Wayside, and Mr. J. Weir, The Haining—where many interesting plants were to be seen.

Wednesday 13th June saw members converging on Cupar to visit three gardens there—those of Mr. W. H. Bassett, Denhurst, Mr. S. H. Chalmers, Millbank, and Mr. T. G. Wilkie, Elsmere. It would be very difficult to find three more distinctly contrasting gardens, each of them full of their own particular interest and equally enjoyable—in spite of showers an unforgettable evening.

Unfortunately this year's extremely cold weather made garden visits almost as much an endurance test as a pleasure, but in spite of this the large attendances proved the interest shown.

J. L. M., G.C.

## FIFE—WEST

ON THURSDAY 18th January Mr. F. E. O'Riordan, Kirkcaldy, enthralled us with most colourful slides of "Alpine Plants in their Natural Habitat" on his visit to Upper Engadine. We saw some wonderful mountain scenery and some lovely "close-ups" of plants which made one



wish it were possible to grow them as beautifully and naturally in our own gardens.

On Thursday 15th February we were delighted to welcome our President, Dr. Henry Tod. He showed us many lovely slides in his talk on "Adventuring with Plants" and we heard with intense interest how he cultivated the plants and some of the problems they raised. We took full advantage of question time, which would have been prolonged if time had permitted.

On Thursday 15th March Mr. R. R. Henderson, Dollar, showed us magnificent slides of the laying out of his garden built on the hillside of the Ochils. It made a wonderful setting for shrubs and rock plants, which had plenty of room to spread to give sheets of colour. When he has completed the alteration of part of his garden, we have an invitation to pay it a visit and we look forward to it with great interest.

On Thursday 19th April we heard Mr. Alfred Evans' talk on "Bulbs for the Rock Garden" with most colourful slides of some unusual and lovely bulbs. He told us of the structure and growth of bulbs and corms and how they should be treated after flowering.

Question time again was fully taken advantage of.

We were delighted to welcome some new members and pleased to see that the attendance was very much improved and hope it will be maintained next season.

E. D. WILSON,  
*Assistant Group Convener.*

### GLASGOW and DISTRICT

Monday 1st October : "Propagation of Alpines—with some illustrations," by Miss E. M. H. King, Barnbarroch House, Dalbeattie.

Monday 5th November : "Bulbs for the Rock Garden," by Alfred Evans, Esq., Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

Monday 3rd December : "A few of the many rare Alpines in my Garden," by W. C. Buchanan, Esq., Bearsden.

Monday 7th January : "Shooting Stars—with Camera in the West," by Messrs. Boyd, Caldwell and MacBeth.

Monday 4th February : "Birkenbog all the Year Round," by Captain W. Collis Brown, Milngavie.

Monday 4th March : "The Camera tells my Story," by Professor G. Pontecorvo, Glasgow.

Monday 1st April : "Preparation and Choice of Plants for Shows," by David Livingstone, Esq., Bearsden.

Meetings will be held in the Y.M.C.A., 70 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, C.2, at 7.30 p.m.

### OUTINGS TO GARDENS

Saturday 27th April : To "Bystone," Busby (Mr. and Mrs. W. W. MacFarlane), and "Whincroft," Eaglesham (Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Wagstaff), and thereafter to Boyd's Nursery, Barrhead. Bus leaves St. Enoch Square 2 p.m.

Saturday 8th June : To University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, and Maryfield Nurseries, Leslie, Fife. Bus leaves St. Enoch Square at 9 a.m.

Booking Forms for above outings may be obtained from Mrs. H. D. Slack, 6 Wardlaw Road, Bearsden, Tel. BEArsden 0820. Forms to be completed and returned to Mrs. Slack not later than 4th December 1962.

GLASGOW SHOW DATES : 9th and 10th April 1963. Show Secretary—  
R. J. C. Biggart, Esq., Melvaig, Kilmacolm.

### NORTH PERTHSHIRE

WE HELD three meetings this season in Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry.

Monday 6th November 1961 :

"Plant Hunting in the Dolomites," by James R. Aitken, Esq., Perth. Mr. Aitken's knowledge and love of the plants he photographed delighted us. We were brought back to Scotland from the Dolomites to be shown our native plants growing in the Scottish Highlands.

Monday 4th December 1961 :

Owing to a snowstorm which paralysed Pitlochry for twenty-four hours our speaker was unable to come to us, but by good luck would be able to come to our next meeting instead. Seven members braved the storm and we showed slides of our own gardens and plants.

Monday 5th March 1962 :

"Shrubs for the Small Rock Garden," by A. Evans, Esq., Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Mr. Evans showed us slides of shrubs, to grow in sun, also others for shade. Hints on their cultivation was eagerly asked for, and expertly given.

The garden visits were confined to our own local members' gardens.  
Thursday 10th May 1962 :

Two gardens were visited situated close to each other. Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Green, Morven, and Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Raeside, Kinnesswood. Both of these gardens were good examples of how many plants can be well grown in the small rock garden. The weather was unfortunately very cold, but Mrs. Raeside's kind hospitality was enjoyed by us all and lengthened our discussions by some time.

Thursday 17th May 1962 :

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Kislingbury, Bricket Cottage, were our host and hostess. This garden is only five years old and already is beautifully

laid out and plants are growing well. It is on a southern slope and sun-loving plants are exceptionally good. There was much of interest to see and talk about.

#### PROGRAMME 1962/63.

Meetings will be held in Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry, at 7.30 p.m. on the following dates :—

Monday 12th November 1962 : "Heathers," by Dr. James Davidson, West Linton.

Monday 10th December 1962 : "Members' Transparency Night." All members with 2×2 colour slides of gardening interest are invited to take part.

Monday 11th March 1963 : "Some Favourites—Old and not so old," by J. L. Mowat, Esq., St. Andrews.

Monday 8th April 1963 : "Sale of Plants," also a discussion on these. Colour slides will be shown of the plants if available.

Thursday 27th June 1963 : Garden Visit. A visit to Mr. Jack Drake, Inshriach Alpine Plant Nursery, Aviemore, has been arranged.

A syllabus will be posted to all members of North Perthshire Group. Any other members who are interested in our winter programme and wish to attend will be very welcome. A syllabus will be sent on request.

### NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

ON TUESDAY 13th March, the Group welcomed yet another visit from Mr. Stewart Mitchell, who gave a lecture on "The Dolomites." This was illustrated with his fine coloured slides and left all the members wishing that they could follow in his footsteps.

All the lectures of the 1961-62 season were well attended ; the average number being 38 present.

On Tuesday 17th April the Group visited Swinton House, Duns, the home of Canon and Mrs. A. E. Swinton, and later the Group Convener's garden at Grindon Corner. Unhappily, there was a very cold wind and the late season did not provide a great deal of colour in the gardens. The rock garden at Swinton House was very attractive and a lovely plant of *Primula altaica* remains in the memory. The greenhouses also provided a great deal of pleasure. Canon Swinton kindly showed the members the many interesting pictures in the house and Mrs. Swinton had a display of her beautiful patchwork.

At Grindon Corner the daffodil bed containing many different varieties was coming into bloom and there were many *kabschia saxifrage*s flowering in the stone troughs. *Pulsatilla* "Budapesth," a large silvery pale blue form raised from S.R.G.C. seed, was greatly admired on the rock beds, but the early dwarf rhododendrons had all been frosted.

On Friday 4th May there was much better weather for a visit to Mrs. W. A. Mactaggart's garden at Bewlie House, Lilliesleaf. This was a delightful garden in a lovely situation. The display of daffodils on the drive and in the walled garden was magnificent and a very showy plant of *Doronicum cordatum* was notable in the charming little rock garden in front of the house.

The members then went on to Hawick to see Mr. and Mrs. K. J. P. Laing's garden at Viewfield. This garden is familiar to many of the members, who never tire of its attractions. It is on a steep bank so that it provides a lovely vista down to the swimming pool and the rock garden with its little waterfall and pool.

Thursday 15th May saw a longer day in pleasant weather. In the morning the Group visited Mr. and Mrs. J. Ellerington's new garden at Rothley Lodge, Hartburn. This garden in the making provided a great deal of interest and instruction and it is going to be an outstanding one in a few years' time. The house and garden are ideally situated in a wood above a stream. In front of the house, quantities of natural rock have been uncovered and planted and already provides a colourful picture. A large number of rhododendron species have been planted in the wood that slopes steeply to the river.

In the afternoon the party continued to Corbridge and visited Mr. R. B. Cooke, V.M.H., at Kilbryde. This well-known garden is always full of treasures and the members spent a long time examining the many rare primulas, flourishing cassiopes and rhododendrons. Not least among the plants of interest was the prostrate willow with little blue pussies, which Mr. Cooke found in the Isle of Raasay in the Hebrides. This is a cross between *Salix aurita* and *S. herbacea*, which he named *S. x "marguerita"* after his sister.

The garden visits were somewhat further afield this year, so were not quite so well attended as in 1961, but there was a minimum of 20 members at each meeting.

Thirteen members went straight on from Kilbryde to Hawkshead in Lancashire, where they stayed for two nights and visited six gardens in Westmorland and Cumberland. In spite of cold, showery weather, this little tour was a great success and enjoyed by everyone.

The local Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 20th June at the Blue Bell Hotel, Belford.

A visit to the gardens at Howick Hall has been arranged for Wednesday 17th October, by kind permission of Earl Grey and Lady Howick. It is hoped that there will then be the attraction of autumn colour.

Four lectures have been arranged for the 1962-63 winter season. Tuesday 30th October—Dr. J. Davidson : "Wanderings in Search of Alpines."

Thursday 8th November—Dr. H. Tod, F.R.S.E. : "Colour Early and Late in the Rock Garden."

Tuesday 4th December—Mr. Jack Drake : “More Plants at Inshriach.”

Tuesday 19th March 1963—Mr. D. Livingstone : “Saxifrages.”

D. C. PAPE, G.C.

### NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

MEETINGS will be held at 7 p.m. in Room 5, Y.W.C.A. Club, Saville Place (off Northumberland Street), Newcastle, as follows :—

Friday 21st September : Members' Night. You are invited to bring 2 in. × 2 in. transparencies as a talking point. This will be a general get-together, and to aid the function a Bring and Buy Sale will be held.

Friday 19th October : Mr. Roy Elliott, the Editor of the A.G.S. *Bulletin*, will relate his experiences on “An Alpine Journey.”

Friday 16th November : Mr. C. Graham, A.G.S. local Secretary, West Riding, will dilate upon “Scree, Bogs, and Water-Gardening.”

Friday 14th December : Mr. Michael Upward, Secretary of the A.G.S., will reminisce about Wisley, and in particular its Rock Garden.

Arrangements are being made for a fortnight's Plant-Hunting Holiday in the Dolomites next July-August, flying direct from Newcastle ; anyone interested is invited to write to me as soon as maybe.

For the avoidance of doubt, the hieroglyphics under my name mean Group Convener (a recently adopted title) Scottish Rock Garden Club, and Honorary Local Secretary, Alpine Garden Society, so now you know !

With a view to providing points for discussion, it is requested that members should bring plants and other exhibits for inspection and be prepared to take part in the ensuing discussion. Plants, seeds and even cuttings for sale in aid of local funds are acceptable at all meetings.

Friends and prospective members will be most welcome.

F. CYRIL BARNES, G.C.

## Book Review

“ALPENPFLANZEN IM GARTEN” (Alpine Plants in the Garden), by Wilhelm KRIECHBAUM. Pp. 218, with five colour plates and 98 illustrations in black and white. Published by Paul Parey, Hamburg and Berlin, price unstated, but probably about 36/-.

This excellently produced publication of over 200 quarto pages is certainly one which all lovers of rock-garden plants would delight to have in an English translation. Even in its original German it is not too difficult to find one's way about it and to obtain a lot of useful information and pleasure with the aid of a German pocket dictionary to hand when browsing through it.

The 'puff' on the dust cover says that "the purpose of the book is to make accessible to all lovers of alpine plants the 'paradise of alpine flora,' and to provide advice that will obviate failure in cultivation." The author emphasises that the successful growing of rock plants in a garden cannot be dependent on collecting these plants from their natural habitats—legal protection apart—because mountain conditions are necessarily quite different from those in most gardens. The reader is therefore first made acquainted with the conditions of growth relating to each plant, and then follows advice about the best selections for particular conditions in the gardens where they are to be grown, where the plants may be obtained, and how they should be grown—whether in independent groups or in the rock garden proper. He stresses that a rock garden must not try to be an imitation of Zug Spitze (Germany's highest mountain) or Mont Blanc, but should combine the best conditions obtainable of light, soil, and layout to ensure healthy plant growth.

The main part of the book—the first 170 pages—consists chiefly of a description of suitable plants, not only mountain plants, but also many of those from the steppes and plains which are equally attractive in a garden. The use of a number of easily memorised symbols (explained on p. 82 before the general index) makes it easy for the reader to find his way quickly and gives the book a very concise form, while the book's systematic arrangement makes it a useful work of reference. After a few pages on soils and composts, page 43 introduces an interesting section where the author lists the natural soils of alpinists as divided into groups by Kerner—basic soils, soils with moderate humus, soils rich in humus, acid, peaty soils and gravelly soils.

Page 170 introduces a number of lists of plants for various conditions—carpeting plants, evergreen, perennial and woody plants, peat lovers, shade lovers, aquatics, etc. Pages 193 and 194 are devoted to lists of nurserymen who can supply seeds or plants, grouping them under such headings as grasses and ferns, bulbs and corms, conifers, etc., and then after a two-page list of rock garden literature come indices—botanical, German and general.

The author is director of the Alpine Garden at Rannach, Germany, and as such is thoroughly conversant with his subject while the book is beautifully produced and reflects great credit on the publishers.

J. L. MOWAT

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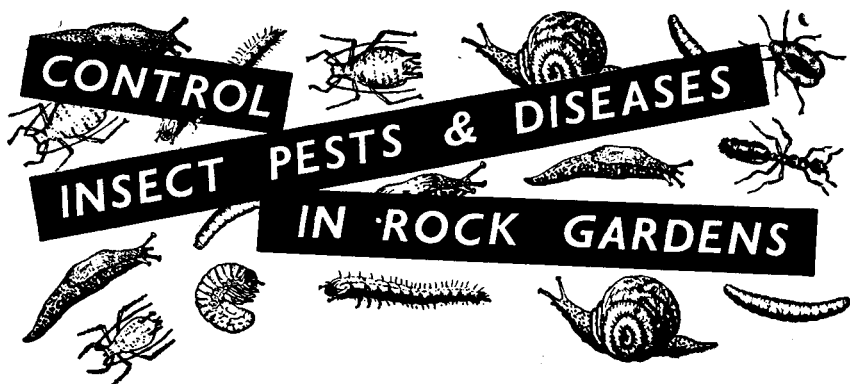
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