

The Journal
OF
The Scottish
Rock Garden Club

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



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Editor's Notes

SURELY it must be beyond any doubt that no editor could find words which would suitably, and at the same time acceptably, describe the weather which members, in most of Scotland at least, have had to experience since the issue of the last *Journal*. It must be a very long time indeed since any member can remember such a long-continued spell of cold, sunless days as persisted through the months of May, June and July this year, or can have seen their gardens so bedraggled and woeful-looking in what ought to have been the height of summer.

Yet our Shows were all reasonably satisfactory both in the number of entries staged and in the standard of plants exhibited. Some Shows in fact showed a marked improvement on the corresponding Shows of last year, and in none of them was there any cause for pessimism. As a matter of fact it was decidedly encouraging to see how widely the honours were distributed and to note the number of new or comparatively new names appearing on prize tickets attached to extremely meritorious plants. So long as this continues and new competitors keep coming forward one must feel that the Club is in quite a healthy state. And all this in spite of the lamentations heard in certain quarters that the ordinary member has no chance against "the experts"! This has been well disproved at several of our Shows this year.

In "Notes from Scotland" in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of 12th June Dr. H. Tod wrote that 'the standard of exhibits at S.R.G.C. Shows has been rising steadily, and that it is most encouraging to see how the small band of enthusiasts who have done so much to raise the standard of entries are now being hotly chased by a number of other members.' Already the article on "Forrest Medal Plants" in the April *Journal*, so industriously compiled by Mr. Barnes and Dr. Tod, is out of date with the addition of new names to those of both plants and exhibitors.

This feeling of satisfaction engendered by the results of this year's Shows leads us to another cause for satisfaction and gratitude, which, though perhaps applying more particularly to the editor personally, should be shared by all members. It will be seen in the following pages that the great majority of this issue's articles have been contributed by authors whose names are either completely new to readers or have seldom appeared previously in the *Journal*. For this we are extremely grateful and tender to them all our very sincere thanks. At the same

time we feel it would be a tragic loss to the Club as a whole if those contributors who have long been so loyal to the *Journal* were to feel that they can now afford to ease off and were to allow themselves to drop out from the *Journal's* pages.

Striking an even more personal note we wish to express our very warm thanks to those many overseas members—and we really mean ‘many’—who are so kind and encouraging with their interesting and friendly letters and their booklets and pamphlets describing what is going on concerning plants and rock-gardening, etc., in their various home localities. A Show Schedule received from Canada and another from America make wonderful comparisons with our own Show Schedules and help to show what an affinity of interests lovers of rock-gardening have the world over.

Apropos of what a member writes in later pages regarding the desirability of some to try to preserve our wild flora, it is interesting to note that we have recently received from some very kind American members a variety of publications and folders which are in a way connected with the same subject in America. One such, issued monthly by the Commissioners of Cleveland Metropolitan Parks, is entitled ‘‘The Emerald Necklace.’’ It describes some of the more interesting plants (and animals) to be seen in nature reserves and on country walks month by month in the vicinity of Cleveland. Another describes the setting and plant life of ‘‘Muir Woods,’’ a few miles north of San Francisco and a national monument to John Muir—a noted naturalist and writer.

Something which should be of great interest and a help to members is contained in a note received from the Ministry of Agriculture and given in more detail a few pages later in this issue of the *Journal*. This note gives information regarding a recently published booklet entitled ‘‘Chemicals for the Garden,’’ which lists the chemicals that have been officially approved for use as weedkillers and insecticides in the garden.

Over recent years there has been an overwhelming flood of various chemicals (some of them extremely dangerous in use) poured on to the market supposedly for the help of gardeners and farmers in their continuous fight against weeds and insect pests. This flood of chemicals was accompanied by a bewildering outpouring of advisory literature, which did little to simplify matters for the average amateur gardeners, and by extensive advertising campaigns urging their use for this, that

and the next trouble. Experience soon showed that many of these chemicals had been put on the market without sufficient testing as to their immediate and long-term effects and sometimes with insufficient instructions in their use. In certain cases some of these effects soon proved themselves extremely harmful and certain of the more dangerous chemicals have had to be withdrawn.

The list of approved chemicals is revised and published annually and gives the user of chemicals information as to their toxicity and tells us the precautions which ought to be taken in their use. Used properly and as they are intended to be, the great majority of these chemicals have a place of great usefulness in modern gardening when labour is annually becoming more scarce and more costly.

Some Club members have spoken or written suggesting that the Club should try to organise a competition for black and white photographs. This, they suggest, might prove a very welcome source of material for illustrations for the *Journal* as well as being in itself an exceedingly interesting competition. In view of the prohibitive cost of colour printing and of the growing tendency of members to switch over to colour photography this suggestion would appear to be a very worth-while idea. We would be glad to hear what members think about it and to be given some idea of how many might take part in such a competition if it were decided to introduce it.

Last year in response to a suggestion made by a few members we tried out the addition of two full-page colour plates as well as the usual four half-page plates. The response from members, however, was not at all encouraging and the experiment added very considerably to printing costs. In this issue, therefore, we have reverted to the more usual four half-page colour plates, from which our Christmas Cards will be made. A notice concerning Christmas Cards appears on page 300. Information regarding the Club Seed Distribution and the Discussion Weekend at Dunblane appeared on pages 206 and 207 of the April *Journal*. Copies of "Dwarf Conifers" are still available though there still appears to be a steady demand for them and the reprinted edition seems likely to be in short supply before long.

St. Andrews, July 1965.

Club Christmas Cards

THE Club Christmas Cards this year will be copies of the four colour plates (figs. 57, 58, 59 and 60) in this *Journal*. 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 the figure numbers when ordering, which should be as soon as possible to the Hon. Treasurer : D. Elder, Esq., Jessamine, 37 Kirkhill Road, Penicuik, Midlothian, enclosing the necessary remittance. The price including envelopes is 10/- per dozen, post paid. Costs of production and postage of the *Journal* can be offset to some extent by your support and participation in this Christmas Card scheme.

Please send your orders as EARLY as possible.

Slide Library

IN ADDITION to the list of some 800 colour slides (2 ins. \times 2 ins.) available for lecturers, a supplementary one will be issued in October. These lists may be obtained from the Honorary Curator : Mrs. C. E. Davidson, Linton Muir, West Linton, Peeblesshire.

Discussion Weekend, Dunblane

MEMBERS are reminded of the Discussion Weekend and Late Autumn Show to be held at 'Hotel Dunblane' on Saturday and Sunday, 9th-10th October 1965.

Full particulars of Weekend and Schedule of the Show appeared on pp. 207 and 208 of the April *Journal*. Applicants for accommodation should remember to state that they are members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

Seed Exchange 1965 - 66

SINCE TAKING over the duties of Seed Distribution Manager and consequently a considerable correspondence with members of the S.R.G.C., I have found the enthusiasm of the large numbers of seed raisers most exhilarating—in particular overseas members who have no access to nurseries or even seedsmen's catalogues due to remoteness, customs regulations or currency prohibitions, and whose only contacts are seed lists such as ours.

It is hoped that again there will be generous donations of seed. There is a great demand for the more uncommon alpine and shrubs—successful growers please note—but at the same time there are always beginners and ‘Beginners Collections’ are very popular.

Seed collected ‘wild’ was also very popular ; please give the locality of such seed.

Seeds, or lists of ‘seed to follow’, should reach me by the first week in November—**late arrivals delay publication.**

Clean seed, labelled clearly in seed-proof packets or envelopes, or wrapped in tissue paper before packing, speeds the work of the distribution.

Seed lists will be sent to all **OVERSEAS MEMBERS** and **HOME DONORS**. Other **HOME MEMBERS** may obtain a seed list by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to :—

Miss JOYCE HALLEY,
16 Abercrombie Street,
Barnhill,
Dundee.

Officially Approved Garden Chemicals

IN THE revised edition of the booklet “Chemicals for the Gardener” the Agricultural Departments of the U.K. issue a warning about the misuse of chemicals in gardens. The booklet gives advice on their safe use ; which preparations to use ; and how and when to use them.

“Chemicals for the Gardener” is obtainable from any H.M.S.O. bookshop, price 1s 3d, by post 1s 7d, or through booksellers.

The Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme is concerned with the efficiency of proprietary agricultural chemicals for use by commercial growers and gardeners. Approval is given when the Agricultural Departments are satisfied that those claims on labels of products which relate to insect pests, diseases or weed control, the dosage rate, and the crops on which products can be used without damage, are based on experimental and practical experience. Although the Approval Scheme itself does not deal directly with operator and consumer safety requirements for crop protection chemicals, nor with the precautions needed to protect wild life, approval cannot be given to a product containing a new chemical or to a new use for an existing chemical unless it has first been cleared under the Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme which deals with these aspects. The labels of

products approved under the Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme always include any recommendations made under the Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme to ensure the safe use of chemicals.

A list of approved products for commercial use is published annually and copies of the current list can be obtained free from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Publications), Tolcarne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, or any of the Ministry's regional or divisional offices. Copies are also available at the main offices of the Agriculture Departments in Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The list of products approved for garden use is included in the booklet "Chemicals for the Gardener" and the edition published now is a revision of that first published in May 1963 (press notice M.A.F.F. 8/5/63-3 refers).

The review by the Advisory Committee on Toxic Chemicals used in Agriculture and Food Storage (now known as the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and Other Toxic Chemicals) of the uses of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides was announced in press notice M.A.F.F. 1/8/62-3; the Report on the Organochlorine Pesticides in press notice M.A.F.F. 24/3/64-5 and restrictions on the use of aldrin, dieldrin and other persistent organochlorine pesticides in press notice M.A.F.F. 1/1/65-2.

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 Lawrence Hochheimer, Ridge Farms Road, Norwalk, Connecticut 06850 U.S.A.

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

A New Zealand Alpine Garden

By A. W. ANDERSON, A.H.R.I.H.(N.Z.)

“IN MAKING a rock garden, large or small, we are trying to create an illusion—i.e., trying to give the impression that the rocks are the visible outcrops of a great natural mass beneath. We do not, however, now follow the old advice to bury the rocks to such an extent that nine-tenths of their bulk is beneath the soil like ice-bergs in the sea ! Perfection, perhaps ! but forbiddingly expensive.” Thus does Mr. W. K. Aslet, of the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, put in a nutshell the central idea governing the construction of the modern rock garden. You will notice the sole aim is to produce an outcrop which has the authentic air of being the outer edge of a solid inward core of rock, and no other type is given any consideration.

The basic idea of the rocky outcrop that could be adapted to any site, large or small, was first made popular by Symons-Jeune more than 30 years ago. His *Natural Rock Gardening*, now in its third edition, has been the authority on the subject ever since its appearance, and should still be consulted by all who are interested in the construction of the modern rock garden. So it has come to be accepted that the rocky outcrop is the only sort of rock garden worthy of the name, and we get the impression that anything else can be little more than a rickle of stones, no matter how much you may try to dignify it by calling it a rock garden. Symons-Jeune points out that “Most of us love Nature in some form, whether we recognise it or not. Many of us love mountains and forests, rocks and open spaces—but hate a rockery. Many, on the other hand, love ‘the little people of the hills’, as Farrer called the alpine flowers, and ignore the setting, provided the plant grows well. Yet each from a different point of view is acknowledging a distinct appeal of Nature. A common factor can be found in the natural rock garden”. I agree with every word but prefer to think that the natural rock garden and the rocky outcrop need not necessarily be the same.

A MORaine GARDEN

Just what these authorities would say if they could see my alpine garden at Lake Tekapo I really cannot imagine, because I have gone against all the accepted ideas and attempted to make a real moraine garden. Away back before the Kaiser’s War, when rock gardening was in its infancy, Farrer advocated what he called a “moraine” as

the ideal method of cultivating alpiners. But his was really a scree and had nothing in common with the true moraine, that jumbled mass of rocks and debris left behind by a retreating glacier. That is the sort of garden I am attempting to make, and although it fits my alpine site perfectly I have to admit that such a garden would be difficult to construct so as to appear convincing in more sophisticated surroundings.

The same idea can, of course, be modified in what is coming to be called the "rock bed", which may be defined as a level site or sloping bank where the rocks are disposed as naturally as possible. In the moraine garden they may be left lying anywhere, on the surface, just as the glacier might have left them. In the more artificial atmosphere of a town garden they have to be placed with greater care, and in this case are likely to be more effective when the greater part of their depth is buried in the soil.

AN UNUSUAL SITE

Lake Tekapo is near the centre of the South Island and some 65 miles from our home in Timaru, and about half-way between the city and Mount Cook. It lies in the Mackenzie Country, a great alpine valley discovered by a Gaelic-speaking sheep-stealer about a century ago, an area that shows abundant traces of having suffered severely during the last ice age. Geologists tell us that glaciers have advanced and retreated across the Mackenzie Country several times, and their traces can still be seen in terraces, moraines and erratic boulders all over the place. One of the last of them retreated some 17,000 years ago, leaving the great moraine that dams back the water which forms Lake Tekapo. Our cottage is on this moraine.

When I began thinking of making an alpine garden I was full of ideas about rocky outcrops, and the more I thought about it the more I came to see that any such work that would do justice to its surroundings—nearly 2,500 feet above sea-level, with mountains all round and rising to snowy peaks of about 8,000 feet at the head of the lake—would be difficult to achieve and hideously expensive.

When it came to the actual planning I realised that our land is, in fact, part of the old moraine where one might expect to find erratic boulders rather than a rocky outcrop. So I decided to throw aside all preconceived ideas and grasp the gifts offered by the gods. This, of course, meant collecting such erratic boulders as were in the neighbourhood, and in making a real moraine garden with these great

rocks lying around anyhow, just as if they had all been left there by the glacier.

This simplified the problem enormously, because it at once fitted the garden into the landscape. Erratic boulders may be found anywhere, and in the Mackenzie Country you see them everywhere, lying about the countryside just as if they had dropped off a transporter yesterday. They have all been left by melting ice and do not necessarily have any connection with their surroundings or with each other. As it turned out, the placing of the big rocks was a great deal more haphazard than I had intended, because the countryman who did the job was one of those independent types who quite obviously thought I was mad and that what he was doing was a complete waste of time, even although he was being paid £5 an hour for doing it. So there was very little of the usual measuring and checking. The rocks were brought there, and there they remained, and this, perhaps, may be the best way to place erratic boulders (see figs. 61 and 63).

By the very nature of things these great boulders looked, at first, as if they had come down with the last shower, but instead of losing anything of their bulk by burying them in the ground to give an air of stability I left them on the surface and let their sheer size do that. A rock the size of a bag of manure may quite easily appear to have been dropped in the wrong place, but if it is the size of a dining table you are quite prepared to believe that it is still lying where the glacier left it. Once the big rocks are in position it is easy to accept the smaller ones and the whole scene can be given an air of permanence by skilful planting. I found that shrubs and giant tussocks were most effective for this purpose besides providing natural shelter for the smaller plants.

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Dionysia curviflora and demavendica

By S. G. LILLEY

IN WRITING these notes, let me first of all give a word of warning, never take too literally the advice on cultivation of a difficult plant, given in all good faith by one who perhaps grows that same difficult plant successfully. So often success in cultivation is due partly to local conditions as well as the grower's skill, and I would ask all those who read these notes not to accept suggestions or advice I give on the cultivation of *Dionysia* as being something that must be followed rigidly, but to treat them as suggestions on which to base their own cultivation, bearing in mind their own local conditions.

Dionysia curviflora I grow in my 12 ft. \times 9 ft. unheated alpine house with maximum ventilation, windows are open throughout the whole year, wide open during the summer and partly during the winter. They are only completely closed during one or two rare days when the air is still and moisture-laden, for it is then, in the Midlands, that we have to beware of smog, industrial pollution trapped by the moisture and all too often deposited on our plants with disastrous results. My garden is a sheltered one and the alpine house faces North and South with a light belt of deciduous trees on the south side that give adequate shade during the high summer.

So much for the conditions, now cultivation. I shall only deal with pot cultivation, because although I have grown *Dionysia curviflora* out of doors, and kept them alive for several years, compared to the pot grown plants they are poor things. My experience is that the plant is not fussy as to precise compost ingredients. I once carried out an experiment in which twelve small, identically sized plants were potted up into different soil mixtures, ranging from John Innes No. 2 without any addition, to, by various degrees, John Innes No. 2 with 75% fine grit. One batch of six I gave normal John Innes, the other I gave a lime-free compost. In each case, bottom drainage and top dressing were identical. All the plants grew well and more or less at a uniform rate, but those in the pure John Innes were obviously lush and always in danger of damping off. Those in the 25/75 mixture grew hard and sturdy but died one very hot summer day, due not to lack of nutrients in the mixture, but to the inability of the mixture to hold moisture and my own inability to give water when it was needed. The plants seemed quite happy in the lime or lime-free mixture and as a result of the experiment I decided that 60% John Innes No. 2 with

40% fine grit gave me a compost with good nutrient properties, ample drainage, and a compost moreover that would retain sufficient moisture to keep the plants going during my long hours away from home.

Assuming that one starts with a sixpenny-sized plant, it is wise not to attempt repotting until the plant covers at least three-quarters of the surface area of the pot ; the root system is very fine and meagre, and overpotting is invariably fatal ; rather than risk breaking such fine roots I break away the top of the pot level with the surface of the soil, crack the sides of the pot to allow the roots to escape and then pot on into a larger-sized pot. In other words, a pot within a pot. A full pot is used rather than a half pot, mainly to take advantage of the extra depth to use ample top dressing and bottom drainage. Although bottom drainage is essential, this need not be overdone, half-inch to three-quarters is ample. Top dressing is vital, the plant grows from a central root stock and spreads outwards, creeping over the surface, hugging every contour but very rarely rooting down. Flattish pieces of tufa wedged under the mat are very much to the plants' liking and as the plant grows, so should more tufa be added. My oldest plant, a venerable eighteen years, is now some ten inches across and in the manner of *Gypsophila aretioides caucasica*, hard as a rock. It has been potted on four times, each time by potting one pot inside the other. This, as with all my plants, is plunged to the rim in sand as a safeguard against drying out during the long hours they are unattended.

Watering has, to me, been rather a puzzle. We have been told that not one spot of water must touch the foliage and for a number of years I was most careful to follow this advice, but now, during the growing season from April until October, I literally pour water on them and even though the foliage is saturated, the plants thrive on the treatment and I have far less trouble with those annoying brown patches that so often appear to mar the look of a healthy cushion. I may be wrong, but it is my personal opinion that the brown patches are caused through lack of water and consequent burning of the foliage. During the winter months watering is practically discontinued other than to keep the sand in which the pots are plunged, moist.

Dionysia curviflora is a plant of the high mountains and will not tolerate a stagnant atmosphere ; the air must be kept moving. I have a small greenhouse with poor ventilation situated not fifteen feet from my alpine house in which I find it quite impossible to grow a decent *Dionysia*. I can only assume it is because of the lack of ventilation.

The recently introduced *Dionysia demavendica* responds to exactly the same treatment, and here again it was somewhat of a surprise to find that one could literally pour water on. A surprise because unlike *D. curviflora*, which makes a hard flattish mat, *D. demavendica* makes a loose, soft dome of hairy-leaved rosettes. My plant, raised from seed from Admiral Furse's first collection, is now a good eight inches across, so big in fact that I have been suspected of putting several plants together in the one pot. I can assure all those who have seen it that it is only one plant which has grown rapidly bar for one setback when a two-inch patch was scorched on a particularly hot day. Up till then I had been careful to ensure that no water lay on the foliage, but because of this scorching I threw caution to the winds and soaked the whole plant, again with most beneficial results.

Propagation of both species is carried out by detaching one or more rosettes, gently cleaning off up to three-quarters of an inch of stem and inserting into a mixture of 50% coarse sand and 50% crushed pumice. The tray containing the cuttings is kept in my small greenhouse with no top covering. In other words the cuttings are not kept in a closed atmosphere as is normal. The mixture is kept well watered between the cuttings but not on the cuttings and I find that May is the best time to take them. Do not disturb until there is evident signs of growth.

One point I have forgotten ; should any brown patches appear on your plants, it is far better to remove the dead foliage with a pair of tweezers and wedge a piece of tufa into the resulting hole than to leave it. Whether it is taken out or left in, the new growth will eventually grow over the patch, but recovering is far more rapid if it is removed.

Having expounded my theories and methods, it is inevitable that one day someone will say to me, "Oh, Mr. Lilley, I followed the advice you gave in your *Dionysia* article, and lost all my plants". I can only repeat, please remember that most of you who read this article live in Scotland and there is a marked difference between conditions there and where the experience was gained for these observations. (See fig. 62).

The Cultivation of Native Wild Plants

By W. V. MILLAR

WHY SHOULD not greater attention be specifically devoted to the creation of gardens comprising specimens of native trees and plants of the British Isles ?

Are we not increasingly in danger of losing many of them through the use of herbicides on our roadsides, pastures and even on our moorlands ?

Let us, therefore, form Collections here and there through our country to ensure that they are preserved before it is too late.

It will be asked in reply where and by whom, and what plants, trees and shrubs should be catered for ?

As regards location, there are several considerations :—

1. The terrain must be as suitable as possible. A neutral or slightly acid soil should be the aim. Plants and shrubs which prefer lime can have the areas in which they are to be accommodated suitably prepared more easily than can be done for those preferring an acid soil where lime predominates. If one can get an area which is part acid and part lime, that would be of course ideal.
2. There should be some shelter. A windswept, open area would be very difficult, and although one would envisage having native trees it would be some time, if they are not already *in situ*, before these would be sufficiently established to form shelter belts.
3. A stream would be desirable and from this ponds and a small lake to accommodate bog and water plants.
4. The "gardens" might with advantage be situated conveniently near to large centres of population, as to some extent the object of such gardens would be educational. It would be hoped that schools would take advantage of wild plants being congregated in such a way for nature study lessons.

Ease of access is not so important nowadays when so many people have cars and bus tours can so easily be arranged at relatively low cost. Part of a public park or of a green belt might be allotted.

As to who should be responsible for the inauguration and maintenance of such projects, I would suggest that local Committees of nominated members of garden societies (Royal Horticultural Society, Alpine Garden Society, Scottish Rock Garden Club, etc.), National Trust, Societies for the Preservation of the Countryside, together with

some representatives of the Local Authorities concerned, might be asked to co-operate.

Many members of these organisations have their hands already filled, no doubt, in looking after their own gardens and in various other ways, and it would perhaps be impossible for them to take on further commitments, but there are members of the Garden Societies who have either no gardens at all or very small gardens, and some of these would no doubt welcome the opportunity to help to get and keep such projects going.

An immense number of wild plants could be incorporated. The following are a few. A comprehensive list would be impossible in this article :—

Trees : ash, beech, birch, holly, maple, arbutus, various pines, taxus, salix, juniper, etc.

Shrubs : various veronicas, calluna, daboecia, erica, rosa, vaccinium, etc.

Hedgerow, pasture and moorland plants : Foxglove, primroses, violet, scabious, strawberry, aconites, antirrhinum, anemone, allium, arum, orchids, ferns, campanula, chrysanthemum, various bulbous plants such as daffodils and crocuses etc. etc.

Alpine and rock plants : ajuga, cyclamen, draba, dryas, epilobium, gentian, sedum, saxifrage, thyme, etc., etc.

Dwarf shrubs and shrubby relatives of common plants : dwarf dogwood, various dwarf willows, junipers and pines, etc.

The above list is only an indication of the wide field of trees and plants which would be available for such an adventure. Many of those which would find a place in such a wild plant garden are already in our present gardens. It would be hoped that the majority of the plants to furnish such public gardens would be gifts from members of our Garden Societies. Some could be purchased from nurserymen. It should be necessary in very few cases to go out and dig up comparatively rare plants to bring them in to such collections, and this would be the least desirable method of acquisition.

The advantage of having our native wild plants collected into such centres would be so that we could go and see them living in as far as possible their own natural conditions and many of us would no doubt be surprised to discover how many of them which we cossetted with top dressing and other modern gardening aids grow in the wild without any such special care.

Perhaps we pamper some of our plants too much !



Photo—H. Eslemont

Fig. 57—*Papaver rhaeticum*, Drei Zinnen



Photo—J. D. Crosland

Fig. 58—*Rhododendron ferrugineum*, Arosa

We should probably be further surprised to learn that many of them grow wild in Great Britain when we assumed that we had to go abroad to find them growing in their natural habitat.

One would like to see plants labelled in such a garden showing the principal area of the British Isles where the plant may be found, but this might be unwise, as it might encourage expeditions by collectors and many plants which are scarce enough now might through this become non-existent in the wild.

I finish by quoting the last paragraphs of *Wild Flowers in the Garden* by Walter T. Ingwersen :—

“The instinct to make gardens seems to be born in the British Race and in these days when we are all poor and our fine old gardens have fallen upon evil days we must do our gardening on a smaller scale and without a staff of trained gardeners.

We may find interesting and peaceful relaxation and health-giving occupation by trying our hands in making a garden with our British Wild Flowers.”

Indeed, this quotation might have been used as a text for this dissertation.

Club Journals

READING through the Club *Journals* I find one plea which is repeated by Presidents and Editors over the years—a request for contributions from Members ; an appeal not to leave the work of providing information or advice only to the faithful few. Why is it that apparently the “rank and file” do not respond ? I suggest one reason is the very excellence and high standard of the articles. What can we possibly offer—those of us who lack possibly both knowledge and experience ? There we have two clues to what we might do : (a) send in any question we should ask if we could attend Meetings, and lacked not the courage when question time came round ; (b) having taken advantage of the annual seed offer, have a go at raising plants and report results as a “Thank you” token to the Organisers. Assuming that the expert Members would reply or comment in subsequent *Journals*, might we then have such an exchange of views and news that new contacts would be established, and fresh life given to the Membership of the Club as a whole ?

“CIRTEM”

Plant hunting in the High Siskiyou

By LINCOLN FOSTER, Connecticut

DURING JULY of 1964, my wife, Timmy, and I made a plant collecting trip into sections of Western United States under the auspices of the Root Glen Foundation.

This Foundation was established in 1963 in Clinton, New York, to maintain and enhance, in the seven acre glen, the plantings which had been carried out over the years by four generations of the Root family. A small stream, coursing over its red shale bed in the bottom of the glen, is crossed and recrossed by red shale paths which wind down and through the wooded slopes. Here are fine old trees of many species and great rolling sweeps of *Vinca minor*. Openings are planted with wide variety of bulbs, shrubs, and herbaceous material, much of it native to the region. In a depression on the south facing slope of the glen, where springs keep the soil moist, is a Primrose bowl, filled chiefly with candelabra species and hybrids. This is a feature especially enjoyed by the many visitors who have always been welcome to walk through the cool glen. Generations of students of Hamilton College, just across the way, have sought out the glen for its quiet and solitude and as a strolling ground with their girls on party weekends.

Recently new plantings have been completed in the hemlock enclosure near the entrance to the glen, where for many years the Root family had maintained a vegetable garden and nursery beds. These new plantings include two extensive raised beds for alpiners and two long borders which contain a collection of shrubs and Lilies, and of Iris developed by Edward Root. Also included is a large assortment of the Saunders Peonies, developed in Clinton by A. P. Saunders while he was on the faculty of Hamilton College, presented to the Glen by his daughter, Miss Silvia Saunders.

The four generations of the Root family have been closely connected with Hamilton College, including Elihu Root, one time U.S. Secretary of State.

One of the purposes of the Root Glen Foundation is to encourage the introduction of native American plants into horticulture. It was to further this aspect of the work that my wife and I were persuaded to undertake a plant exploration and collecting trip during the summer of 1964.

We decided on the Siskiyou Mountains in Southern Oregon and the Bitter Root Mountains in Montana as two areas promising a

diversity of material. Neither, so far as we knew, had been very thoroughly botanized. We did not, however, expect to discover much that was completely new, but rather to collect plants already known to botanists, but not introduced generally into cultivation.

We were prepared to rough it for a few days at a time, once we got into the mountains, but we discovered that in both areas we were able to base in town and, by getting an early start, drive into the mountains for a fairly full day of exploring and return with our collections for sorting and packing at night. Only occasionally did we have to spend the night in camp in the mountains.

It was the Siskiyou first. For getting into the high mountains the first two weeks in July had been set by Boyd Kline of Medford, Oregon, as about the right time. We had picked the Siskiyou largely because of correspondence with Boyd, whom we had never met except through an exchange of letters. He and a fellow employee in the Postal Service in Southern Oregon, Lawrence Crocker, had started the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery. Here were two men who knew and loved the mountains and the plants there. They were to choose the sites and make the plans. Where they led, we would follow. How much wiser to be guided thus by those who know the country than to arrive cold and fumble around in a vast, unknown mountainous area, hoping to strike productive sites.

When word of our trip leaked out, the expedition became something of a caravan with West Coast members of the American Rock Garden Society joining the party, plus the Society's Emeritus President, Harold Epstein, and his wife Esta.

Our first foray was a two day expedition into a section known as the Red Buttes and the Copper Buttes. We camped at Cook and Green, a forested saddle between the two buttes. This was our introduction to many plants we had never previously seen, at least in the wild. This was *Lewisia* country, and it was here that I became acquainted with *Phlox adsurgens* in its native haunts, a plant which I and other gardeners have found difficult in Eastern United States. Here in open shade of lofty evergreen trees it formed vast carpets; indeed, we slept among *Phlox adsurgens*.

New plants came so thick and fast during those two gorgeous days that my head was spinning with names, pack baskets filled rapidly with collections, and roll after roll of film clicked through my camera. It was a breathtaking introduction to the Siskiyou flora.

It was 7 a.m. before we finished breakfast and headed from our

Medford Motel for the high Siskiyou. The Epsteins were ahead in Boyd's Volkswagon and Timmy and I in another VW driven by Lawrence Crocker. We were glad of the chance to ride with Lawrence as we had had little opportunity to get to know him during the earlier excursions. He and Boyd are almost exact opposites. Boyd : cheerful, optimistic, outgoing ; square built and solid. At 45 or so he has the build and carriage of a high school or college quarterback ; round faced, fresh complexion, snub-nosed, thick, blondish hair going a bit thin on the crown. Lawrence : nervous, cautious, pessimistic to an extreme degree, very shy and retiring, modest to the point of agony ; slight, grey, with faded blue eyes. He is very knowing about many things, but you have to pry his knowledge out of him. We thoroughly enjoyed riding with him, though he foretold all kinds of disasters around every curve. He was always obviously pleased when they didn't happen, but immediately thought up a new one.

After leaving Medford, we drove down the valley of the Applegate River and turned up into the mountains on the twisting, dirt road along Beaver Creek. This is a logging road and is kept in repair by the logging companies permitted to cut in the National Forest. As forewarned by Lawrence, we met several huge trucks loaded down with enormous logs. These are rather terrifying as they come down the narrow, precipitous, tortuous dirt roads like an avalanche. The drivers are paid by the trip and try to make as many as possible during the day. You are usually warned of their approach by the screeching of their brakes and the roaring of the stones thrown aside by their wheels. It is then up to you to try to find a place wide enough in the road so they can get by without pushing you over the edge.

The route up the mountain was heavily forested and precipitous. By now, however, we were getting used to travelling over roads so narrow that the outer wheels appear to be riding on air above unrailed drop-offs, and our stomachs no longer clenched tight as we rounded a curve and seemingly headed straight out into space. The little Volkswagens used by Lawrence and Boyd are miraculous on the steep, stony slopes ; never faltering or boiling over as most American cars do, and sure-footed as burros.

This road carried us up to the ridge at Dutchman's Peak, about 7,000 feet , on which there is a fire tower manned by the Forest Service. Here roads head roughly east and west along the ridge, with Mount Shasta's snowy cone visible far to the south in California. We stopped at this point briefly as a great cloud bank crept across the sky and a

cold wind sprang up, carrying spits of rain and sleet. There were still huge snowdrifts on the slopes, and what ground was bare was so recently uncovered that the plants were still very wintery looking. In bloom was a small yellow Violet, and *Spraguea* was pushing buds.

It was too cold and raw to linger long, as we had not brought heavy clothing because during the past week, even in the mountains, we had shed sweaters and jackets. Before heading south-west along the road which snakes along the ridge in and out of Oregon and California, we inquired of the ranger whether the road to Mud Springs Flat was passable. We were told that most of the snow was out but that the logging companies had raised hell with the road and we might get lost in the maze of logging trails or blocked by downed trees. We decided to try our luck, though Lawrence was most lugubrious about the whole situation. The road dipped below the peak into a beautiful mountain meadow, rimmed with high, craggy rocks on the upper side of the road which ran along below the ridge. Here on the south facing slope the snow had melted and thick grass was spangled with early flowers: *Dodecatheon alpinum*, *Erythronium grandiflorum*, *Anemone drummondii*, *Fritillaria recurva*, unidentified Buttercups, Delphiniums, Penstemons and many others. Despite the cold and sleety rain we could not resist getting out of the cars and wandering through the meadow, where the soil was a heavy clay mixed with rocks of various sizes. We scrambled briefly up on to the crags above the road, where Boyd located *Epilobium obcordatum*, not yet in flower. We were pretty miserable and cold, however, and we soon retreated back to the shelter of the cars and pushed on toward Mud Springs Flat and Alex Hole.

The road became increasingly rough where the lumbering operations had torn it up. In a few places we had to wrestle small logs and tree-tops out of the way, but mostly we just hung on and bounced and floundered through mud holes and over the downed trees where lumbermen had just left the tops lying across the road. Because VWs are akin to mountain goats, we got through without having to resort to the axes and shovels we were provided with in case of need.

In one spot where a small stream crossed the road we spotted a handsome, tall *Polemonium* growing on the wet bank among heavy brush, *Polemonium carneum*, an especially tall specimen with big, flesh-colored blossoms suffused with rose.

Shortly afterwards we drove through a beautiful forest of huge trees, mostly Douglas Fir with some magnificent specimens of Incense

Cedar, about ten feet through and very tall with fluted boles, yellow with feathery lichen. These were fire scarred at the base from an old burn, which may have explained why they had not been lumbered, for not far beyond the forest became an absolute shambles.

The road vanished completely where the lumber "cats" had cut up the slopes getting out the logs. The big trees were nothing but stumps and lopped off tops, the smaller ones knocked every which way. Nothing looked familiar to either Boyd or Lawrence as we wound our way through the jumble of down trees, stumps and torn up earth, hoping to locate the remnants of the road into Mud Springs Flat. After many a false start up tracks that ended in a jack-straw pile of down timber or on the edge of a precipice, Lawrence finally located what he thought might be the right road. We started up it, not very hopefully, but eventually came out onto a recognizable dirt road. Lawrence was like a kid, he was so pleased with himself for having gotten us out of that horrid mess. Of course, his next remark was that we would be sure to find the road blocked with snow further up. It wasn't, though hard-packed drifts were many feet high in places beside the road, and it was sloppy going because of the melt water.

Suddenly we came out of the forest on to an upland scree extending to both sides of the road, perhaps ten acres in extent. Though surrounded by mature pines and firs, there was no indication of tree seedlings. The whole scree was an almost solid carpet of the dwarf, grey-leaved, sky-blue flowered *Lupinus lyalli* and the pink and white Pussy Paws, *Spraguea umbellata*. It was like one of those heavenly, pastel colored Chinese carpets—only many acres in size. An incredible sight. There were two or three more such openings, each with the same combination of plants, some with the Lupine dominant, others with *Spraguea*. We drove slowly through this gorgeous landscape and soon turned off on a short spur on the north slope. Here an open scree, with Lupine not yet in flower, was surrounded by a grove of weather-beaten Alpine Fir and Mountain Hemlock. Near the lower edge of the scree, above the steep drop-off of the forested north escarpment, was a small oval bog in a sloping hollow running back into the wooded hillside. Here a peaty duff, ranging from a few inches at the muddy edges to about two feet deep in the middle, was laced by clear, rushing streams, issuing from springs beneath the trees. Through the crystalline water was visible the pure, light colored shingle, mostly of quartz crystals, on which the peat had accumulated.

In the saturated soils of the margs were flowering *Caltha biflora* ;

tiny, white *Viola macloskeyi* ; small, white flowered *Lewisia nevadensis* and *Lewisia triphylla* ; a dwarf Buttercup, and others not yet in flower. The deeper peat soils were densely glowing with an especially fine, deep rose *Kalmia polifolia* var. *microphylla*.

Though it was a long time since breakfast and we were all famished, we hated to take time off for a picnic lunch. We each grabbed a sandwich and some fruit and wandered about in this fairyland munching and looking, our teeth chattering and our knees shaking with cold. Suddenly the clouds rolled away, the sky became delphinium blue, the sun shone down upon us and we were warm.

We finally tore ourselves away from this lovely garden and started on towards Alex Hole, which Boyd described as the most beautiful spot he knew in the Siskiyou. He had been there only once before, and then, later in the summer. Even he was uncertain we would get through, as the snow lies very late in the deeply shaded road near the Hole. He hoped, however, to get near enough so we could walk in.

En route we drove through meadow after meadow of the Lupine-Pussy Paw carpet, some with grey, craggy rocks rising from them. These rocks, and especially the deeper pockets, were marvellously planted with *Lewisia*, *Manzanita* shrubs, rock ferns, and scarlet *Castilleja*. In the gravelly meadows we found the parasitic Owl Clover, *Orthocarpus*, rather like a *Castilleja* only shorter and fatter, and a gorgeous smoky pink instead of brilliant red. This is a wide-spread western genus of annual plants with many species.

We stopped briefly to explore on the rocks and to admire the spectacular views : Mount Shasta to the south, raising her snowy pinnacle from among a tumbled mass of lesser mountains ; and to the north-west, the back side of Copper Butte, which we had climbed a few days earlier, with the reddish crags of the Red Buttes glowing beyond. In one place among the rocks we found a huge plant of *Lewisia cotyledon* var. *howellii*, with wavy leaves almost 10 inches long. The many-rosetted plant was fully three feet across and a bouquet of rose and pink flowers on 18 inch stems. It was growing in a pocket full of *Manzanita* duff. We collected a few offsets, each a spectacular plant in itself.

Beyond this stretch rose the dark mass of towering Fir, Hemlock and Cedar. We plunged into its dark heart where the snow lay thick in the dense shade. The drifts crept out toward the road and, just as we turned down toward the spur leading to Alex Hole, swept across like a white wall.

We left the cars in a small meadow among the trees, scrambled over the drifts and skidded down the sharp drop to the top of the rocky escarpment which encloses Alex Hole. From the top of the cliff at the head of the Hole, we could look down about 300 feet into the green meadow below, where islands of grey rock rose from the brilliant green turf. On the outcrops grew contorted Pines and slender Alpine Fir and dark twisted bush *Arctostaphylos*. Even from that height we could see the rosy haze of *Lewisia* clumps.

Alex Hole is a great horseshoe open to the north-east, enclosed on three sides with great, broken cliffs of schist on which grow mats of flowers inaccessible to nibbling deer. Thin threads of water slip and fall down the face of these cliffs from the highlands above and join the seepage springs at the base to form a small artery of streams which trickle and percolate through the deep peaty duff overlying the gravelly moraine on the floor of the Hole, saturated at this season of melting snow but quite dry later in the summer. The high cliffs cut off the wind, and the circle was brimming with sunlight and bird song. We plunged down a narrow slot in the escarpment, which though steep was not difficult, only breathtaking.

Then how we wandered in enchantment! Boyd and Lawrence raced ahead to the rocky outcrops, while Timmy and I were held by the wonderful variety of flowers which spangled the thick, short turf of the moist meadow. Here were many of the same plants we had seen at Mud Springs Flat, with the addition of *Dodecatheon alpinum*, a greater assortment of Violets, and my first sight of *Hesperochiron pumilus*. As we slowly threaded our course among the waterways to the rocky islands beyond, we heard Boyd give a whoop of joy. I suspected that he might have found what was the grail he sought: a white *Lewisia leana*. He had never discovered one, nor, so far as he knew, had anyone else. When we reached him, he was down on his knees photographing the white *L. leana*.

We were like pointers in a field full of quail. The rocky outcrops and the surrounding cliffs were a paradise of *Lewisias*, both *L. cotyledon* and *L. leana* in profusion. There were various shades of pink and copper *Cotyledons* and a number of the rare, crystalline white form. We dug a few, prying them with difficulty from the narrow cracks where the fleshy roots were jammed.

We also found a few more of the white *L. leana*. This species normally has small, deep magenta-pink flowers, a cluster of several on stems rising from the rosette of succulent, reddish-green, fat, quill-

like leaves of about two inches long. It is truly enchanting in the white form, the pearly blossoms nodding and trembling on slender, upright stems. We also found some lovely soft pink forms, much better in colour than the type.

One of the rock islands was especially rich in natural hybrids between *L. cotyledon* and *L. leana*. These have leaves intermediate between the broadly spatulate leaves of the former and the slender, fleshy fingers of the latter, with flowers intermediate in size between the two. The color of these hybrids we found ranged from a deep, glowing pink, through a delicate shade of apple blossom.

We could have spent days in Alex Hole searching for unusual color forms. The rock islands and surrounding cliffs as far as the eye could see were rosy pink with Lewisias. Here also were *Phlox diffusa*, Penstemons, Eriogonums, rock ferns and others which the pressure of passing time and our excitement over the Lewisias did not permit us to study or collect.

As it was getting late and we had a two hour drive over the ghastly roads, we finally pried ourselves loose, and after a heart pounding, breathtaking scramble, climbed back to where we had left the cars. The drive back was not as bad as we had anticipated, as we now knew where we were going and also that the road was passable. Even Lawrence was optimistic ! We didn't linger, however, as clouds were blowing in over Dutchman's Peak in steamy streamers and Mount Shasta had retired into a heavy overcast.

An Alpine Bog Garden

By M. R. STUART

ON THE moors, among the hills, one often finds a tiny spring which seeps out of the ground and for a few square feet forms a perfect little bog garden carpeted with sphagnum moss, on and through which grow many interesting and beautiful plants. Like most gardeners, I imagine, I have coveted this oasis and wished it were possible to transport it to my own garden, but alas, being unable to collect the spring along with the plants, most attempts to reproduce the green carpet of moss failed even in the dampest corners of the garden. The moss slowly but surely turned brown and died.

When we moved to our present garden, which has a small stream

running through it, my thoughts kept returning to the moorland spring, but nothing was done about it until I was given some seedlings of *Pinguicula grandiflora*. These plants flowered in a pan which was sunk at the edge of the water and were so lovely that a bog garden became really essential in order that more could be grown and in a more natural setting.

Pools had meantime been made in the stream and the banks planted with primulas. The pools were made by damming the stream, the flow of which is controlled and consequently never floods. But one dam was built about an inch too high with the result that the earth banks of the pool permitted a slight but constant seepage which kept one small area permanently wet. This was only a tiny piece of ground four feet by eight inches wide. I thought if I kept putting in sphagnum moss into the wet ground it would gradually build up. The moss was very slow to die, but inevitably it did go brown, though I kept adding more hopefully to the area which, by this time, was like a very soggy pudding, quite unlike the porous substratum of my highland spring. But, recalling the silvery specks of mica around the spring, I had a bright idea and poured quarter of a bushel of vermiculite on top of my bog. Within a few weeks the moss started to show a little fresh green. After this, fresh moss tucked in soon took hold. I planted *Pinguicula grandiflora*, also *P. vulgaris*, *Sedum villosum*, *Saxifraga stellaris*, *Trientalis europaea* and *Drosera rotundifolia*. This year there are self-sown seedlings of all the above plants in this tiny strip. The bog is now being enlarged intentionally ! A quarter of a hundred-weight of peat and half a bushel of vermiculite has been worked into the wet soil, well stamped down and left till the surface was dark and damp. Sphagnum moss, taken in small handfuls, growing points upright, has been inserted in the new part. As a precaution against blackbirds, wire netting covers all. It is too early yet to say if the moss will grow away quickly, but it will be left till next Spring when I hope I can plant more small moisture-loving alpiners.

To conclude, it would seem that the use of vermiculite may be of help in growing as naturally as possible those plants which require a damp, retentive, but not stagnant growing medium.

That Damp Shady Corner

By D. M. MURRAY-LYON

I HAVE on a number of occasions been asked to advise on what to do with a damp shady corner, because "nothing will grow there." Of course, if sun-loving alpinists are planted there, they will not survive long. There are, however, lots of woodland and other shade-loving plants which will flourish.

In my garden in Perthshire I have what is known as The Big Peat Bank. It is about 10 yards in length and about 6 feet high. Above the part I am describing the bank continues steeply upwards for another 12 feet or so. This upper part is covered with Rhododendrons and other shrubs and by large ferns, etc. The lower part of the bank has been roughly terraced, using both peat blocks and rocks; the latter are essential as stepping stones if for no other purpose. The soil is the usual peaty leaf-mouldy mixture used for ericaceae, and other plants with similar tastes. The bank faces north-west, is sheltered from the morning sun, and in the afternoon and evening gets only dappled sunshine passing through birch trees.

I do not propose describing the whole bank with its inhabitants. I will confine myself to one sector to illustrate what can be done in a comparatively small area.

The part I propose describing is the central sector, and fairly typical of the whole bank. This sector is about 6 feet in length with a steepish slope of 9 feet rising to nearly 6 feet above the path at the bottom. The slope continues down below the path, so even the foot of the bank I am describing is well drained. This sector contains a number of quite common plants and a few not so common. No cloches or other artificial aids to shelter are used, but a few plants which do not like getting their hair wet in winter are accommodated in small caves or under rock overhangs. Petiolarid primulas flourish here, *Pp. aureata*, *scapeosa* and *edgeworthii* in caves, *bhutanica* (now to be called *whitei*) and *gracilipes* in vertical peat walls. *Pp. cawdoriana*, *nutans* and *clarkei* grow on the flat, but well drained of course.

On what might be called the main shelf or terrace, about 12 to 18 inches in width, and about 4 feet up where they are fairly near eye level, are a number of the smaller plants.

Here side by side are *Harrimanella stellariana*, a neat little Cassiope-like plant from Japan, and *Gaultheria nummularioides minuta*, the smallest of its family. Beside them grows a dainty little woodlander

of the *Ranunculus* family which, as its name implies, is rather like a thalictrum—*Isopyrum thalictroides*. It is six inches high and has small white flowers.

Nearby is a Snobs' Corner for some 'Rare and Difficult' ones. Here *Cassiope hypnoides*, a tiny plant of a tiny species, is slowly increasing in the company of *Diapensia lapponica*, which is growing both on the flat and in the vertical face of a peat block. Beside them is *Pinguicula grandiflora*, larger and I find more easily managed than our native pinguiculas. Its flowers are large and almost a royal purple. In the peat blocks too *Mitchella repens*, the American Partridge Berry, tiny and prostrate with glossy leaves of a yellowish green, and pink flowers followed by red berries.

Also on this shelf is *Orphanidesia gaultherioides*, which to look at is rather like a dwarf creeping rhododendron with rose-coloured flowers. It is a bit thrawn, but now seems to have settled down happily and it has flowered for the last three years. Sunlight seems to be anathema to it, and leaf-mould its joy. Beside it is *Omphalogramma vinciflorum* with its lovely violet-purple flowers almost two inches across borne on six- or seven-inch stiff stems arising from a tuft of largish leaves. It comes from Western China and has a reputation for being difficult. This is not so, however, in the Highlands at least, if given shade and plenty of leaf-mould. After ripening its seeds it dies down, and disappears, except for the tip of a resting bud, till rather late in the following spring.

Flowing down over a three foot cliff in a swathe nearly a yard wide is *Linnaea borealis* var. *americana* which just now, early in July, is covered with its twin pink flowers. Below it on the flat are *Viola cucullata alba*, a strong-growing American with good-sized flowers freely produced, and *Tanakaea radicans*, a small Japanese carpenter with dark green, sharply toothed leaves and spiraea-like plumes of white flowers about four inches high.

Another plant from Japan which seeds itself happily around without being a nuisance is a really tiny white violet. I think it is probably the smallest of all violets, is a good perennial and goes under the name *Viola yakusimana*.

Ramondas and Haberleas in variety grow in groups both in peat blocks and wedged between rocks. Most books say they require lime; don't believe it! They do like to be planted horizontally in a vertical wall, though. One of the most beautiful colour forms of Ramonda, I think, is *R. pyrenaica (myconi)* var. "Wisley Rose".

Of the Haberleas, *H. ferdinandi-coburgi* is not often seen in gardens, and it is rather striking with its larger and more open flowers of lilac with a white throat speckled with gold.

Two families of sub-shrubs which are really good value throughout the year are *Shortia* and *Schizocodon*. They have lovely foliage all the year round, but their display of autumn colour is particularly striking. In addition, in spring they have most attractive flowers of white or pink. The ones growing in this part of the bank are *Shortia uniflora* and *S. x intertexta* var. "Wimborne", which has particularly attractively veined and coloured leaves. The *Schizocodon* is *S. macrophyllus*, with large bronzey leaves and fringed rose-pink flowers.

Higher up the bank is *Galax aphylla*, a North American with large shiny leaves edged with red and bunches of small white flowers on six-inch stems; it retires below ground for the winter.

Quite at home, too much so for a small bank as they run all over the place, are *Pyrola asarinifolia* and its variety *incarnata*, the former with white and the latter with red flowers. The red form was collected in the Rocky Mountains and sent to me some years ago by one of our Canadian members. These *Pyrolas*, although wanderers, are not menaces, as they are quite easy to pull out if they go where they are not wanted. Another wanderer, but easy to pull out if it gets into places 'it didn't ought', is *Rubus arcticus*, dwarf and neat with red raspberry flowers. Pretty, and useful for naturalizing in shady spots, but not in a small area with smaller and rarer plants are *Oxalis oregana* and *O. acetosella rosea* and the Oak Fern (*Polypodium dryopteris*).

In parts of the bank not here described are many other plants which might provide alternatives for a small bank. Some of these are: *Primula fauriae*, a Japanese *farinosa* but with golden farina, *P. farinosa* itself, *P. warshenewskiana*, most attractive in spite of its name; it resembles *P. clarkei* and is a 'good doer'. *Jeffersonia dubia* (syn. *Plagiorhegma*) has bluey-mauve anemone-like flowers on slender stems. The flowers are usually out before the leaves have fully developed. The leaves are borne on wiry stems and are more or less kidney-shaped and when young have a bronzey sheen. Eventual height is nine or ten inches. To the non-botanical eye it might be an anemone, but the botanists have put it into the Berberis family. The 'Blue Buttercup' *Anemone obtusiloba patula* is another plant which might be considered, but remember it has a spread of up to 18 inches.

Two Scottish natives which also do well are *Salix herbacea* and the Holly Fern (*Aspidium lonchitis*). *Blechnum penna-marina*, a smallish fern, fills a crack in a rock.

Myrtus nummularia, in spite of what you might read about its not being hardy, does well here and now covers a space a foot and a half square. It forms a prostrate mat of wiry stems with small round leaves and white flowers followed by pink berries. In the bottom part alongside the path are *Rhazania japonica* and some Erythroniums.

If more ground cover spreaders are wanted, there are *Gaultheria miqueliana*, *Cornus canadensis*, *Maianthemum bifolium* and *Hutchinsia alpina*. To finish up with is a real little gem—*Calceolaria tenella*. This I find does best on a vertical peat block or rough rock. It is a tiny creeper with dainty yellow pouches speckled with red, carried in threes or fours on slender three-inch stems.

There are, of course, many more plants suitable for such a position, but I have mentioned most of those I grow on this particular bank, and they are quite enough to be going on with, I think.

Bogs and Bog Plants

By KEITH WADE

(Reprinted by kind permission from the May number of *The Canadian Primula and Alpine Society Bulletin*).

AT THE close of the last great ice age much of the Vancouver Lower Mainland area and coastal Vancouver Island lay submerged under the sea, pressed down by the enormous weight of the overlying ice. As the great continental glaciers slowly receded about 15,000 years ago, a gradual process of land uplift took place until much of the submerged land eventually became dry coastal areas again. The presence of the glaciers that once covered this area is now evidenced by the great quantities of small stones and large rocks to be found in our soil, the remains of glacial debris that melted out of the retreating ice. In areas such as Point Grey, large quantities of marine shells are to be found underlying the glacial debris, or "till", indicating that areas now one hundred feet above sea-level were at one time submerged.

It is believed that a shift of vegetation took place during the ice-age, along with the shift of climate. As the ice pushed southwards, the increasingly rigorous climate eliminated the temperate climate vegetation in a wide band in front of the glaciers, while in its place an arctic tundra vegetation flourished. This band of arctic vegetation "tra-

velled" south in front of the glaciers over a period of thousands of years, reaching its southernmost limits in southern Washington. Similarly, when the glaciers receded the arctic vegetation "followed" the retreat, the temperate climate vegetation gradually taking over from the arctic species again as the climate warmed.

In peat bogs, however, the story is different. The retreating glaciers left behind them many shallow basin-like areas which, because of poor drainage and high coastal rainfall, gradually became wet peat bogs. These bogs, along with the rest of the area, were at first colonized by arctic vegetation. Unlike the situation in other areas, however, the temperate vegetation that succeeded the arctic plants could not compete successfully with them in bog areas. The end result of this phenomenon is that to this day bogs remain isolated areas inhabited mainly by arctic and sub-arctic species. Fittingly enough, these plants are known as arctic or glacial relicts, and the bog plant communities as relict populations.

This rather fascinating history of the bog species makes them particularly interesting plants from many points of view. First of all, the fact that in nature they seldom grow outside bogs does not mean so much that they are unsuited to conditions outside bogs, but rather that they cannot compete with the temperate climate plants found growing there. As therefore might be expected, many of these interesting plants will live quite well under normal garden conditions, providing that they do not have to compete with other plants for light, moisture, and other factors. Most bogs, however, are very acidic and very poor in nutrients, and with this in mind it should not be expected that bog plants could survive in very rich or very alkaline conditions. Finally, not all plants to be found in bogs are arctic relicts—in some areas fair numbers of temperate zone plants have succeeded in adapting to bog conditions, and may make up a sizeable percentage of the total number of species present. Such is the case with the local gentians, especially *Gentiana sceptrum*.

Many of the prettiest bog plants are shrubs of the heather family, the Ericaceae. The members of this group generally require large amounts of available iron, and this is to be found only under acidic conditions. Many interesting plants of the blueberry (*Vaccinium*) group belong to the Ericaceae. Two of the most interesting members are true arctic relict species, the Bog Blueberry, *Vaccinium uliginosum*, and the tiny evergreen bilberry, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, one of the most attractive species. The shiny-leaved evergreen *V. ovatum* is a

southern plant which occasionally invades bogs, but thrives far better outside them. Two other bog blueberries that are interesting, but definitely not as attractive as the preceding species from a garden view-point, are the broad-leaved *Vaccinium ovalifolium*, WHICH BEARS PINK FLOWERS before the leaves open, and the pubescent-stemmed "Velvet-leaf blueberry", *Vaccinium myrtilloides*, a sub-arctic relict of very scattered occurrence. The dainty bog cranberry, *Oxycoccus quadripetalus*, is a minute-leaved creeping plant bearing small bright pink flowers with sharply recurved petals, almost resembling a tiny fuchsia in appearance. It is of very common occurrence in lower mainland bogs and is certainly one of the choicest species. Other very familiar local bog plants of this family include Labrador Tea, *Ledum groenlandicum*, known for the beverage brewed from the previous year's inflorescences, and Swamp Laurel, *Kalmia polifolia*, with its beautiful pink flowers and tiny anther pouches. Bog Rosemary, *Andromeda polifolia*, is much like *Kalmia* but has smaller bell-shaped flowers and is much less common. In Northern British Columbia another arctic relict belonging to this group is very common in bogs. The Leatherleaf, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, is a small shrub with long one-sided racemes of narrow white flowers.

Other interesting groups of bog plants include the carnivorous plants, two genera of which are quite common in peat bogs in South-western British Columbia. The Sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, has small round leaves covered with gland-tipped hairs. The sticky hairs trap small insects which are subsequently digested by protein-digesting enzymes secreted by certain cells within the leaf. Another local species of Sundew has long narrow leaves which function similarly to those of the preceding species. The Butterwort, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, is another carnivorous species commonly associated with, but by no means restricted to, bogs. It appears to prefer much less acidic conditions than the Sundew. The Butterwort has a single purple violet-like flower and several flat basal leaves with upturned edges. Colorless sticky mucilage is secreted by glands that are distributed in large numbers over the upper surface of the leaf. The mucilage serves to trap small insects, while the presence of the insect or other small organic body on the leaf apparently stimulates secretion of an acid liquid which dissolves the victim. The pitcher plants, (*Sarracenia*, *Darlingtonia*), belong to an extremely interesting group of carnivorous plants that are all bog species, but unfortunately none of them occur in British Columbia.

Gentians are represented in South-western B.C. bogs by several



Photo—H. Esslemont

Fig. 59—Alpine Meadow, Col Alto



Photo—Wm. Cairns

Fig. 60—*Daphne petraea*

species, none of which are glacial relicts. *Gentiana sceptrum* is a very well-known large blue gentian inhabiting many areas besides bogs, but especially abundant in boggy areas. *Gentiana douglasiana*, by contrast, is a little-known white annual gentian, apparently completely restricted to bogs. Its flowers, unlike those of most gentians, open completely until the petals are at right angles to the flower stalk. In South-western B.C. it is commonly found in bogs on the west coast of Vancouver Island, especially at Long Beach.

Two other rather striking bog plants of this area are the Northern Star-flower, *Trientalis arctica*, and the Cloudberry, *Rubus chamaemorus*. The former plant is a delicate member of the Primrose family, with fairly large white flowers, while the latter species is famous as an arctic relict. Cloudberry is found in vast numbers throughout the arctic tundra as one of the dominant species, but is also found among the Labrador Tea and *Kalmia* in many of our coastal bogs. It is a small plant about eight inches high with a single white flower resembling that of the common thimbleberry. In summer a solitary mealy salmon-colored berry follows the flower.

Many other plants are of course also found in our local bogs, not the least of which are the various bog members of the lily and orchid families. The most important of all bog plants, however, and the most widespread, are the various members of the genus *Sphagnum*, the true peat mosses.

About thirty species of this unusual genus exist in British Columbia, and their presence is mandatory for the very existence of the true bog. *Sphagnum* possesses several very remarkable characteristics. Each plant consists of a single-branched strand that grows almost continuously, while the lower portions die but do not decay. Each individual plant may thus be extremely long, although only the uppermost six inches or less is actually alive. The *Sphagnum* moss also secretes organic acids which help to create an environment much too acidic for decay organisms. Special hyaline cells in the leaves have the ability to absorb enormous quantities of water, a feature that gives to *Sphagnum* its peculiar spongy texture.

It is this plant which, by its growth characteristics, determines to a large measure the conditions under which the other bog species grow. The term bog is often loosely applied to refer to any wet marshy area, but in the context of this account I am referring to a bog only as a true *Sphagnum* bog, in which the *Sphagnum* moss provides the material in which all the other plant species grow.

Daphne Petraea

By H. ESSELMONT

IT WAS at Chelsea, in 1950, that *Daphne petraea* first cast its spell on me. The foliage of the magnificent specimen on Ingwersen's stand was almost entirely hidden by flowers. Its age was suggested as at least twenty years. A hasty calculation indicated that there might still be time and I ordered a small plant.

We all know that patience is a virtue, but daphnes are slow ! The only method I have found to encourage growth is to cut off all the flower buds as soon as they form. I was resolute and at the end of seven years had quite a shapely little plant. It caught the eye of the judges when it appeared in a three pan class at Edinburgh, only to be passed over in favour of one of its companions. 1960 was its tenth birthday. It was now a large shapely plant in an eight-inch pan. It had never been so well budded and promised to be an outstanding exhibit at the 1961 Conference Show.

Alas, my new alpine house was in course of construction at the time and along with a number of other plants the daphne was standing out of doors in a South border. The pan must have been allowed to dry out temporarily and the result was that none of the flower buds developed. Daphnes must never be allowed to become dry at the roots.

Two years later the plant looked very promising before an Edinburgh Show. It appeared to need its time and it was transferred to a friend's warm greenhouse for a week. The weather was hot and sunny and by the time the daphne appeared on the show bench, several of the top flowers had faded. It was admired, but rightly passed over for the premier award. It seldom pays to force alpiners.

In 1965, the daphne—now fifteen years old—was outgrowing its pan and repotting seemed advisable. This was when I committed the unforgivable error. In removing the soil, I uncovered too much of the grafted rootstock and in two months my daphne was dead ! I remembered the words of that wise gardener, Mr. E. B. Anderson : "You require two lifetimes for alpiners, the first to gain experience, the second to grow them".

Another experiment with *Daphne petraea* which was proceeding at the same time had a happier ending. Daphnes grown on their own roots are generally considered to be shy flowering. On a holiday visit to Monsieur Correvon's garden in Geneva, I saw a well-flowered specimen growing in a tufa wall. This is the natural habitat of the

plant which grows in cracks and crevices on the steep cliff of the Cima Tombea. To try to copy nature seemed worth a trial.

A small plant was secured from a nurseryman in 1958 and planted in a half-inch hole bored through a flattish piece of tufa. The tufa lump entirely covered a nine-inch pan filled with a leafy gritty mixture over good drainage.

The effect for the first few years was ridiculous and, as the plant was grossly overpotted, careful watering was necessary. The size of the piece of tufa must be determined by the size one expects one's daphne to be in ten-fifteen years' time. Remember annual growth of plants on their own roots is less than on grafted ones.

In three years' time this plant, which was illustrated in the 1961 Conference Report, had a few flowers and it has increased slowly and flowered freely every year since. The pan is plunged in sand in an alpine house, which ensures a consistently cool root run, and the plant is sprayed occasionally on hot summer evenings or put out on a rainy day.

As a seven-year-old it received the accolade at Perth. It should be at its best by 1971 !

I had an unusual experience a year ago when two daphnes were ravaged by bumble bees. It was a sunny week and there must have been a bees' nest near the alpine house. I came home one evening to find many of the flowers broken and unopened buds punctured at their base where the honey had been extracted. Several large bumble bees were lying, drunk with honey, at the base of the plants.

In a recent issue of the *Journal* there appeared an interesting analysis of plants which have gained Forrest Medals. I noticed with some surprise that *Daphne petraea* only appeared once in it.

A well-flowered Daphne can hold its own in any company and I hope that other members, profiting by my experience, will soon add to its honours.

How to win Prizes at Shows

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

By "VIDE"

NOW THAT the Show Season is behind us, and the Show Secretaries are lamenting, as usual, about the paucity of new exhibitors, a few words of advice and encouragement to those who would like to become the owners of a collection of Prize Tickets but, through backwardness, ignorance, or just not having what they consider the proper plants, are hesitant about plunging into the arena, might not be out of place. That there are many such there is no doubt. Anyone who has visited Shows is bound to have noticed the number of serious-visaged persons who are to be seen conscientiously studying not the exhibits but the prize cards accompanying them. Obviously frustrated potential competitors, mute Mitchells, embryo Esslemonts, budding Boyd-Harveys ! Given proper direction and encouragement these are the people who, in years to come, might well fill the tables, clear the boards, and sweep away the "Forrests". It is to them that this slight offering is proffered.

Now to be a successful exhibitor three things are necessary : Money, Time, and Assiduity ; in that order. If you have no money, you need a lot more time. And if you have neither time nor money, you need a heck of a lot of assiduity. There have, of course, been brave men who succeeded without the first two near necessities. But they were cast in heroic mould, and probably would have got to the top in any walk of life. For the rest of us, who are neither better nor worse than our fellow men, a modicum of cash is so nearly essential that it is probably quicker in the end to wait until you have some than to start from scratch. Cutting down on cigarettes is, in my experience, seldom a satisfactory solution, and docking the house-keeping money is definitely a very short-term remedy. So I would advise that you acquire a moderate bank balance, and then you're ready to start.

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Now in the first place you have got to make up your mind whether, in fact, you actually do want to win prizes at Shows, or whether what you want is only a collection of Prize Tickets. If the latter—if all you want is to embellish your greenhouse or potting shed with these things, in the manner of those farmers who cover the walls of their byres with gaily coloured labels marked "First for Two Fat Bullocks" or "Highly

Commended for Friesian Cow and Follower", the matter is simplicity itself. Any person who has been in attendance at the finish of any of our Shows can pick up a dozen Prize Labels from the floor without trouble. An offer to assist at clearing up will almost certainly be accepted with alacrity. This does away with undignified scrabbling under tables, and enables one, as an "Official", to order small boys to "put that down". Quite a respectable collection can be built up in this manner in a comparatively short space of time and, if it should happen that another name than yours is on them, the developments of modern science can very soon cope with that. Almost any shop dealing in "Office Sundries" can supply. If attendance at Shows is awkward, or one does not fancy oneself as a "picker up of unconsidered trifles", the services of your local printer can be brought in. Given a sample, he can run off a quite sufficient supply for a modest fee, and, in the most unlikely event of his questioning you regarding them, it is easy to appoint yourself to minor officialdom for the nonce. He is unlikely to pursue the matter further. It is in the way of business for him, and he is (I hope) getting paid for it. Just one tip here. Don't have them all "Firsts". Some folk have suspicious natures.

Having acquired the tickets, all that is necessary is to display them. A few appropriate plants will, of course, assist, but if you have a ready imagination, these are not strictly necessary. To any inquisitive enquirer you can always explain how it came back from Glasgow (or Aberdeen or where have you) simply covered with woolly aphids, and, despite your efforts at resuscitation, went into a decline and died.

And, of course, if the plants you do have are, shall we say, not quite exhibition standard, a similar explanation will suffice. An elaboration on this is to have photographs of prize-winning plants displayed. These can be culled from old *Journals* and add, as someone has said, an element of verisimilitude to an otherwise bald tale. There is no need whatsoever to stretch the truth regarding them. The enthusiastic admirer can be told, "Yes, it *was* a good plant. Crosland has it now", which, whatever the implications, can be the truth.

However, it may be that you think this approach somewhat unethical. And, moreover, you may yearn to have your name appearing in the Club *Journals*, and may even aspire to your photograph in the local Press. This will be rather more difficult, in terms of the three essentials I have mentioned. If you must exhibit, you must have plants, and reasonably good plants at that. But plants can be acquired, and it's a poor gardener who can't keep at least some of them alive

for the necessary three months. And they needn't necessarily be all that good, if you go the right way about matters.

One of the first things (in fact, probably *the* first) is to get to know some of the judges. That isn't difficult. There aren't so many of them, and a few discreet enquiries will give you their names. Then cultivate the acquaintance of at least one. Ask his advice. Invite him along to see your plants. And, most important, see that your plants have something distinctive about them: a particular type of pot, or a slightly out-of-the-ordinary label. Nothing garish or flashy. Just enough to make your stuff recognisable.

Now you may object that knowing one judge (and him knowing your exhibits) isn't much use when there are invariably three judges there, but it is a well-known and easily proved fact that one man who knows what he wants will almost always get his way against a couple of waverers. You may also remind me that it isn't generally divulged which judges are at what Shows. A little investigation should get round that, and anyway judges are in short supply, and, if you've picked the right one, he's almost certain to be officiating at more than one Show. If he was at A last year, it's highly probable that he'll be at B and/or C this year. So that, if you go the right way about it, your chances are likely to be much greater than 50/50. In the (unlikely) event of no prizes being forthcoming, you've just been unlucky, and you should change your judge—or your brand of whisky.

Another method which is fairly certain to produce results is the "Plants for Shows" system. Here you look around and study the show reports, and you will find that, for some reason or other, certain classes are always poorly represented at certain Shows. If you concentrate on these, your chances of appearing in the prize lists are really good. And, after all, it's better, much better, to be second out of two entries than to be ninth out of ten. Your prize ticket won't say how many entries there were. Also, by giving these classes a boost, you'll earn the undying gratitude of some poor harassed Show Secretary.

If you find that some other competitors have the same idea as yourself, you have still a shot or two in your locker. If there are only one or two, an amicable agreement can usually be reached. A hint that you will be exhibiting at Dumfries, but not at Edinburgh or Aberdeen, will usually be taken. If not, more subtle methods must be used. You can let it be known, for instance, that this year your plants are so poor and unpromising that it's most unlikely that you'll

have anything to enter anywhere. This may make the other fellow just sufficiently less meticulous in his preparation. And when you walk off with the prizes, you can express amazement at the way that day or two of sunshine last week brought your stuff on. Or you can adopt the opposite approach, and spread the rumour that this time you have real world beaters, and that you don't think anything can stop you cleaning up all your classes at Dunfermline. It is then all Lombard Street to a *Citrus sinensis* that the other fellow will go to Aberdeen.

If you should have plants of different genera, enter for the 3 or 6 pan classes, but play safe by also entering them in their 1 pan classes. Then, by arriving at the last moment, you can quickly see what the competition is like, and enter them accordingly. It is considered good form, in this case, to apologise to the Show Secretary for being unable to bring the others.

In the preparation of the exhibits themselves much can be done. Faded flowers, in many cases, can be carefully cut off and fresh ones from another plant substituted. This calls for considerable sleight-of-hand, but the vast improvement in modern adhesives does make it much less difficult to produce an acceptable job, though it will be realised that this idea is more appropriate to one day Shows. Even pins and/or fine wire can be (and have been) brought into service. Leaves can be trimmed to a more acceptable shape and blemishes removed, though this of course is not applicable to all plants. *Primula marginata*, for instance, is hardly suitable for this treatment, though even here you might be able to pass it off as a *pubescens* seedling.

Now these are only a few ideas on the subject. The really keen exhibitor can, I am sure, think of many more. Well-meant advice can be proffered to competitors who are unsure as to which class their plants should go into. Then there's just the possibility that the judges may notice that a Caryophyllaceae is masquerading among the Plumaginaceae (though this is no more than an even chance).

You might also usefully study the effect on the equilibrium of an anxious entrant carrying his pet plant or plants into a Show, of the sudden crossing of his path by a small boy—or a large dog ; and note that accidents can happen to exhibits even on the Show benches. But these are crude stratagems only to be adopted in extreme circumstances.

Anyway, I think I have written enough to indicate that the collecting of prize tickets isn't just a matter of growing a few plants, and growing them better than other folk. There's much more to it than that.

But, by and large, the simple, well-tried method is probably the best in the end. Get money ; buy plants ; (the Shows are mostly in April and May, so you don't need to buy them till January, which means that somebody else has had to coax them through the winter) ; keep them the necessary three months ; exhibit them ; collect the prizes. Then throw them away and concentrate on your golf for the rest of the year. It's as easy as that—and almost infallible.

Pontresina 1965 - 66 ?

FIVE MEMBERS of the Club departed on this advertised tour on July 3rd with high hopes and a modicum of trepidation. The hopes were fulfilled to the utmost, whether it was the weather, the comfort of the journey, the excellence of the hotel or the sighting of plants. On this last and most important point it may be recorded that everything, duly noted beforehand as likely to be seeable, was seen with a day to spare, and that *Eritrichium nanum* and *Androsace alpina* can be trodden upon at the twentieth step from public transport.

These are but two of the species recorded in our visit. As many hundreds were noted as especially interesting.

Next year it is hoped to arrange a similar tour and members who are interested are asked to write without delay to the Hon. Publicity Manager in order that a consensus of opinion about dates may be taken. It should be stated that anything earlier than the last week in June is not a good risk in view of the altitude. The estimated cost all-in from Newcastle and return is likely to be £70-£75, depending upon mode and class of transport Basle to Pontresina, to the number of members co-operating and, of course, to the proximity of the high season when charges rise.

F. C. B.

THE Hon. Organiser has said that he had some trepidation when we departed from Newcastle airport. I certainly had none, for I knew that I was in good hands. On the flight the most memorable thing to me was the aerial view of Place Stanislas in Nancy (the most beautiful square in Europe) still illuminated at 2 a.m.

Pontresina is an ideal centre from which to see the high alpiners with the minimum of effort. As an elderly member of the S.R.G.C.,

I was once asked to speak to a local meeting. I chose the subject "Why climb for alpinists?" and showed slides that had been photographed below easy paths. I have never been invited to repeat my talk!

They say in Zermatt that six guides could take a cow to the top of the Matterhorn. I can assure you that four S.R.G.C. members could take another in a wheeled chair from Pontresina by public transport to see *Eritrichium nanum*, *Androsace alpina* and *Ranunculus glacialis*.

We admire the energy and example shown by our President and the Honorary Curator of the Slide Library. They climb and photograph plants that those less agile and more lazy cannot hope to see. But for those who are pedestrian and as alternatives prefer a two horse victoria, a railway train, a funicular railway or a teleferique may I advise Pontresina as a base when you can go from 6,000 to 11,000 ft.

P. J. W. KILPATRICK

Now for the ordinary S.R.G.C. member of the party. Here is how the meadows and valleys gave the impression of wandering in a huge natural garden.

To see a meadow completely pink with Snake weed (*Polygonum bistorta*), the pink made deeper by the blue *Phyteuma orbiculare* mingled among it, was indeed worth the journey. This was just beside the railway station, where building may soon cover up the site.

On the road up to the hotel every crevice in rock and wall was outlined in *Sempervivum arachnoideum*, nearly all in flower. There was one big rock which must have been planted. On it were lovely clumps of *Silene acaulis*, *Aster alpinus*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Papaver alpinum*, *Globularia cordifolia*, *Dianthus* and even *Linaria alpina*. Why look further for these lovely plants!

A path through the woods brought us to *Gentiana lutea* and *G. punctata*. Rather ugly plants much loved by ants! The ground cover was *Rhododendron ferrugineum* in patches, breaking the green of the bearberries and whortleberries, with its deep pink flowers. *Linnaea borealis* covered the dead wood and the different Pyrolias were in among the grass.

Up in the valleys the orchid *Nigritella* was a 'forbidden' plant. The natives dig up the roots for their vanilla flavouring. The blue of *Viola calcarata* was just as lovely as the blue of the gentians. There

was one bank of these gentians—either *verna* or *bavarica*—which looked like a bit of the sky fallen on to the earth. *Silene acaulis* grew like our wild thyme. There was a little bit of thyme here and there, but not in the least remarkable. Loveliest of all was the *Loiseleuria procumbens* (“Lousy Loo”, Davidson). It draped over the rocks like soft rose-coloured velvet. All over the lower reaches (6,000 ft.) and in the woods *Daphne striata* filled the air with its delightful perfume.

The walks were all easy. Thanks are due to the ‘Major’ that each day’s outing brought its own reward. One recalls a perfect summer day, on a high alpine meadow, made memorable by the bells from a herd of cows ringing like cathedral chimes away up in the mountain, the flocks of ibis on the hillsides, and the Marmots with their shrill warning whistle. The large natural scree at the base of a glacier covered with *Ranunculus glacialis*, *Geum reptans*, *Androsace alpina*, with patches of *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, and some deep purple primulas.

In Pontresina itself, the rock garden in Hotel Sarvatz had many plants we missed up the mountains, including a lovely plant of *Anemone narcissiflora* and one of *Gentiana purpurea*. There was a little silver-leaved cranesbill, a root of which I hope to get from our H.P.M.

There is a lot of talk about not being permitted to take a root of this and that. It is wonderful how many of these creep into one’s collection.

This was all very much worth while. Really ‘a dream come true’. If it can be worked, there is one person who would dearly like to go back next year. For those who can—GO !

L. M. DEAN

Plant Notes

CAMPANULA PLANIFLORA (NITIDA)

THE CAMPANULAS are a wide and diverse genus of plants, containing over 350 species, natives of the north temperate zone, of which there are many eminently suitable for the rock garden. It is strange but none the less a fact that the more erect species, unlike the prostrate rambling ones, have a tendency to be monocarpic or at most biennial and the subject of these notes, although reputed to be a sound perennial, never seems to bear this out in cultivation, or that is how it appears to me. Possibly I am at fault and a number of readers will bring forth proof that they have had plants of this species living and flowering for

many years, whereas I find the maximum is between 3 and 4 years. Whatever its faults it is an ideal plant either as a specimen in a pan or for the rock garden, where with its dwarf compact habit, only about 6 inches high and 8 inches across, it is certainly at home amongst other choice occupants.

It makes basal rosettes of sessile, narrow, ovate, deep glossy green leaves, margins crenulate, apex acute. The flowers are borne on a stout 6-inch leafy scape ; stem leaves lanceolate, clasping, both axillary and terminal, pedicels stout arching, calyx lobes ovate acute, entire. Corolla bell-shaped, five ovate acute lobes with pointed tip, pale blue. June-July. A native of N. America, it does well at least in W. Kent, with an average rainfall of 24 inches, in a leafy, well-drained soil in full sun, although it is an admirable plant for a sunny scree in districts where the annual rainfall is higher. As a pan plant, equal parts of loam, leaf-mould, peat and coarse sand is suitable with a fair supply of water while growing and flowering, dryish but not arid in winter. Propagation is by seed, which is set freely, sown soon as ripe, or careful division of the rosettes after flowering. There is an outstanding white variety which is even more beautiful than the type and, strange as it may seem, also much commoner ; the type plant is quite scarce these days. The illustration (fig. 64) shows a two-year-old plant of *C. planiflora* var. *alba* that was photographed as it displays well the habit and formation of this species, also size of flowers in relation to size of plant.

Kent. R. E. HEATH

CIRSIUM DRUMMONDII ACAULESCENS

THIS GREAT Rocky Mountain thistle was grown from seed collected in 1962 by Dr. Henry Tod at Antero Junction, Colorado, altitude 9,000 ft. It was sown in October of the same year, and germinated rather erratically. It was put out into rich scree during the early summer of 1963. For a long time it looked like a weed I had forgotten to pull up, and then, like *Saussurea stella*, it indicated that it was ready to flower by flattening its leaves on the ground, and at the same time a deep crimson flush was assumed by the mid-ribs of the leaves.

A few days before he went off to America again, Dr. Tod managed to come here to see it in the flower-bud stage, and take a colour transparency to show Dr. Worth who was with him on that seed collecting trip. Later, when it was photographed in flower on June 15th, the plant measured twenty-nine inches in diameter, of which

eight and a half inches were occupied by the hemispherical dome of flower-heads. In the morning when the individual florets open they are a soft powder blue, which fades to pale grey. Bumble bees visit the florets all day, undeterred by the vicious spears which tip the involucre bracts ; two of them can be seen in the photograph. I hope they will help to produce some viable seed for the Club Seed Distribution.

Nobody could describe this thistle as a pretty charmer, but it is magnificent and spectacular in a barbaric way. A friend has accused me of harbouring a particularly dangerous flying saucer from Outer Space (frontispiece).

L. CHRISTIANA BOYD-HARVEY

DAPHNE PETRAEA

THIS PLANT (see fig. 60) was first grown at Helensburgh in the open and is now about ten years old. Five years ago it was uprooted, potted and brought to Gifford. It was again planted in the open on a raised bed of soil suitable for rhododendrons. It has now survived five East Lothian winters, three of them severe, without any protection at all.

It is covered with flowers each Spring, increases in size each year, and does not seem to need any special attention.

Gifford.

H. L. PAUL

PEREZIA RECURVATA

THIS MEMBER of the Compositae family is in bloom here now, early July. It grows in the form of a mat of almost woody stems and is about 4 inches in height, including the flowers, which are sky blue on my plants ; the shade of blue is said, however, to be variable. The leaves are dark green, bristly and serrated, and the plant is evergreen. It is a native of Patagonia and the Falkland Islands and is perfectly hardy here. I have it growing in two situations, one in full sun in a soil with a lot of peat in it, the other in a less peaty soil and with part shade around mid-day. The plant in full sun flowers more freely than the one in part shade. Cuttings in summer strike fairly well.

Perthshire.

M-L.

PRIMULA REIDII WILLIAMSII

FOUND IN Nepal and introduced into Britain in 1952, this variant of *P. reidii* is slightly larger than the parent and not too difficult to grow.

The large campanulate bells of the specimen, which was awarded a First Class Certificate at Aberdeen in May 1965, were clear pale blue, gradually changing to white at the base, and the slender six-inch stems carried clusters of up to five bells per head. The plant had been wintered, plunged in sand, in an Alpine House, but had spent the previous summer in an open frame where it had produced a second crop of flowers, with the usual exquisite perfume. The compost used was one part loam, one part leaf-mould and two parts coarse sand. No water was applied from October until growth started rather late in the Spring, but the plunging sand never completely dried out except on the surface, so that the walls of the clay pot remained moist. (See fig. 65).

Aberdeen.

JOHN B. DUFF

PHACELIA PLATYCARPA

THIS VERY attractive and interesting North American plant is a member of a family (Hydrophyllaceae) consisting chiefly of more or less fleshy annuals. The phacelias themselves are most of them annuals, ranging in height from three or four inches up to two feet or more tall, but many of these annuals are beautiful in flower. It is doubtful if even those classed as perennials are very long-lived, some of them probably being more accurately monocarpic.

Phacelia platycarpa, whether it prove long- or short-lived, is a most attractive plant for trough or alpine-house in well-drained mixture, and is not likely to be liable to loss because it sets seed quite freely. In appearance it rather resembles a dwarf, acauline *Nemophila* with its two- to three-inch long, deeply toothed leaves and its mass of pale flowers about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across.

The flowers are not white but rather an extremely pale violet which is next door to white, with a network of deeper violet markings running through the petals. These flowers are poised on short stalks so that they only stand clear of the compact rosette of leaves. Like its shorter-lived relatives, its leaves are hairy and its flower stalks tend to be rather fleshy.

The introduction of some of this plant's dwarf perennial fellow species should prove a welcome addition to cultivation in this country if any member knows where seed can be obtained.

P. P.

SCENTED ROOTS

WHEN PRICKING off seedlings of *Primula scotica* I have noticed that a powerful and delicious scent is given off by the roots, resembling that of the spring leaves of the balsam poplar tree. It permeates the soil in the seed pan. The roots of *P. frondosa*, *P. gemmifera* var. *zambalensis* and *P. magellanica* have an identical perfume. It does not occur in *P. farinosa* nor in *P. decipiens*.

Does this root exudate perform any useful function for the plant, I wonder, perhaps repelling harmful soil organisms ?

I have heard of African marigolds being planted near narcissus bulbs and rose-trees to give protection against soil pests, and perhaps the strongly scented roots of *P. scotica* might turn out to be equally useful.

Thanks to the Seed Distribution, I have a large number of young plants of *P. scotica*, some of which I intend to try out hopefully, by planting near *P. clarkei* and other primulas which suffer from root troubles.

East Lothian.

L. CHRISTIANA BOYD-HARVEY

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A Hotel Garden

By F. C. BARNES

MEMBERS of the Club who find themselves in Pontresina district might care to hear about a garden which is well worth a visit. It is part of the grounds of the Hotel Sarvatz, in the main street of Pontresina : the grounds extend to some acres and are beautifully laid out and maintained. Near the hotel is a rock-garden in which the local plants vie with Himalayan plants in conditions which are apparently very much to their satisfaction. The late father of the present proprietor was very friendly with M. Correvon, who gave him many plants though regrettably not the secret of growing *Eritrichium nanum*, which is apparently difficult even at 6,000 ft. or so.

The rock-garden is a terrace of local stone, by no means large, but well and carefully planted with a multitude of good things. At the time of our visit *Geranium argenteum*, in quantity, was in flower near to *Iris sibirica*. Some fine *Incarvillea delavayi* shared quarters with *Gentiana asclepiadea* which, though not yet in flower, gave great promise. In the garden also were a number of species of which we will instance only *Eryngium alpinum*, which are absolutely protected by law from collectors in these parts. Members may comfort themselves with the knowledge that seed of this and many other plants is available in Pontresina at 1 Franc Swiss per packet.

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Review of the year

THE PAST year, as usual, has been a busy and active year for our Office-Bearers, Group Conveners and Show Secretaries. The membership has been increasing slowly but steadily. It has to be remembered that when our subscription was raised there was, as was to be expected, a considerable number of resignations. However, as I have already said, the increase is somewhat slow and we have not yet reached our original number.

We *must* have new members and I would ask everyone to try and recruit at least one new interested member. Our Group Conveners do great work in this respect, but the ordinary members might all help personally and so ease the burden of the Group Conveners. This could be done by introducing anyone who is, or might become interested in rock gardening to the Group meetings, where they will be welcomed. Possibly many who are interested in alpine plants are quite unaware of the benefits which can be derived from a Society such as ours and I think most people must admit that even with the increased subscription, what they get in return is good value.

The rise in subscription was of course due to the rapidly rising costs with which we are all unfortunately faced at the present time, and which still appear to be rising. After all, the interest and cultivation of our favourite plants helps us to get away from these difficult times for a little. We are strangely in need of a tonic ! It was felt that with our increased subscription some financial assistance might be given to the various groups, but alas, this has proved to be impossible at the present time.

The revision of the Constitution and Rules has now been completed by the Constitution & Rules Committee under the very able guidance of the Chairman, Mr. Stewart Mitchell, who has put a tremendous amount of work into this. We should be most grateful to him for all that he has done.

The Shows this year have been outstanding. I have visited them all and have been impressed by the high standard and quality of the exhibits at each Show. There were so many plants of real and unique interest, which was an additional pleasure. Although on the whole the entries for Section II were increased, it would be good to see a greater increase in this Section. After all, we have all been beginners, and still are ! But it is by this Section that our Shows will continue to thrive, so I would ask those who have not yet entered any plant at



Photo. — A. W. Anderson

Fig. 61 — Rocks and erratic boulders (see page 303)



Photo. — G. Finney

Fig. 62 — *Dionysia demavendica*,
Forrest Medal, Edinburgh



Photo. — *A. W. Anderson*
Fig. 63 — A New Zealand Alpine Garden
at Lake Tekapo (see page 303)



Photo. — *R. E. Heath*
Fig. 64 — *Campanula planifolia alba* (see page 336)



Photo. — H. Esslemont

Fig. 66 — *Paraquilegia anemonoides*,
Certificate of Merit, Dumfries



Photo. — H. Esslemont

Fig. 67 — *Draba mollissima*, Forrest Medal, Glasgow



Photo. — A. P. S., Aberdeen
Fig. 68 — *Kalmiopsis leachiana* 'M. le Piniec',
Forrest Medal, A.M. and C.C., Aberdeen



Photo. — A. P. S., Aberdeen
Fig. 69 — *Kalmiopsis leachiana* 'Umqua Valley Form',
F.C.C. and C.C., Aberdeen

a Show to enter this coming year. Do not be afraid of the pundits—you may become one !

The activities of the local Groups have been as great as ever in the majority of cases. The difficulties in running these Groups are not always fully realised. It is no light job, and it must not be forgotten what great efforts are required at times to finance themselves, and how highly successful these efforts are. All this involves a considerable amount of work and time, which is so freely given by those in charge. Unfortunately at present there are one or two Groups which are a little under the weather, but efforts are being made to rejuvenate them again.

With regard to the Seed Distribution, the Club is most fortunate in having the able services of Miss Joyce Halley. She has succeeded Mrs. Cormack, who spent four hard successful years as Honorary Seed Distribution Manager. Miss Halley's first year, which is always a difficult one, has been most successful and I am sure she will uphold the good tradition of this side of the work of the Club.

There is another change in the Honorary Curatorship of the Slide Library. Mrs. C. E. Davidson is now the Honorary Curator and a new supplementary list is to be published in the near future as there has been a considerable addition of new slides to the collection. Since the beginning of the year there has been a definite increase in applications by members for the loan of collections of slides.

Publicity is now in the hands of Mr. Cyril Barnes and we wish him all good fortune. He was the able editor of our News Sheet.

Finally, our thanks are due to all the Office-Bearers, Group Conveners, Show Secretaries and Judges for all the work they have done. They are the heart and soul of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

JAMES DAVIDSON

Show Reports

PENICUIK

THE TWELFTH Penicuik Show was held in Eastfield School, Penicuik, on 13th March 1965, for once on a really good day. The winter had posed some really tricky problems on the exhibitors for, although it had not, on the whole, been a particularly hard one, the very late hard frost, followed by a lot of snow, had made "timing" rather difficult.

Fortunately the bus strike did not particularly hit the number of exhibitors, which had risen by one-third, and quite possibly helped the local attendance and hence the "gate"—at any rate the hall was quite pleasantly full much of the time.

The Forrest Medal was awarded to *Primula marginata coerulea* "Holden Clough" shown by Mrs. Maule, the Midlothian Vase to *Cyclamen vernalis* shown by the Show Secretary, and the Midlothian Bowl for the highest number of points in either section was retained by Mr. Esslemont. Two Certificates of Merit were awarded, one to the Edrom Nurseries for a beautiful small plant of *Shortia galacifolia* and the other to Mr. Esslemont for a non-competitive exhibit of three *live* specimens of the three very tricky Raoulias, *R. eximia*, *R. buchanani* and *R. mammillaris*. There could be no argument about *these*, for they were all showing brilliantly green growing points. Another notable exhibit was a pan of *Pleione humilis* with this beautiful little orchid growing and flowering on a dead root of a tree—this was a very skilful example of potting and growing by Mr. Crosland of Torphins. Our third Aberdeen competitor, Mr. Duff, also scored with some quite notable plants.

On the whole, the bulbs were very good, though the classes for Narcissi and Tulips were rather thin, as were the Primula classes; those which did appear were good. The Crocuses, Irises and Cyclamen were quite outstanding and there were more entries in the Anemone Hepatica and Pulsatilla classes than I can ever recall seeing before. Mr. Esslemont had a very fine pan of *Anemone vernalis* (or is it *Pulsatilla* nowadays?) just at its peak and in a good form. The Kabschias have been most erratic this year and this was shown by the entries, which were much less evenly flowered this year than usual. Mr. Esslemont's fine pan of *S. lilacina*, for example, had quite large patches with no flowers or buds at all and this was quite characteristic (most of the writer's are hardly yet even showing signs of buds!)

The Edrom Nurseries were awarded a Gold Medal for their display of plants in pots and it included a number of rare plants, for example the very uncommon *Cassiope (Harrimanella) stelleriana* in flower, raised from Alaska seed by Mr. Duguid—this is a plant that I cannot recall ever having seen before. Two others that are not perhaps so rare but still uncommon are *Corydalis cheilanthifolia* and *C. ambigua*, the latter rather like a larger version of *C. cashmeriana*. Their exhibit contained a good range of Crocuses, Anemones and Narcissi and a plant in flower of the new Furse *Dionysia demavendica*.

Another interesting feature of the Show was the number of the new bulbous plants from the Bowles Expedition, including *Fritillarias*, *Cyclamen*, *Iris*es, *Merenderas* and one *Tulip*, *T. humilis*. Mrs. Simson Hall had a very good pan of a *Soldanella* sp. collected in the Dolomites, and Mr. Esslemont a fine pan of *Rhododendron repens* Rock 59174 which seemed, however, to be a rather different colour from its usual shade.

There was an extremely good attendance of members and, as usual, the teas provided by the ladies of the Penicuik Society were much appreciated. Their Bulb Show, incidentally, was quite exceptionally good this year, with a large entry and very close competition of high quality exhibits.

While the number of exhibitors was up in the Club's Show this year, the actual number of entries was down by about ten on last year, but this was more than compensated for by the fact that there were several members showing who had not shown, at any rate at Penicuik, before, and this is the most important point for the future of our Shows. The standard of exhibits was high, though it did not, perhaps, reach quite the heights it has once or twice in the past. This was, I am fairly sure, due mostly to the season, which has been difficult in many ways. For once in a way, however, the weather was kind, for it neither snowed, poured rain nor blew a gale !

HENRY TOD,
*Hon. Show Sec. and G.C.,
 Mid- and West Lothian.*

DUMFRIES

ALTHOUGH the above Show held on the 9th and 10th April did not come up to the numbers of the previous year's entry, it must be considered as one of our best efforts, as due to the lateness of the season, and the frosts of late March, it was altogether a most difficult year for most members to find an entry. Local enthusiasm for showing plants is definitely increasing, and it seems to be the general opinion that a slightly later Show would give more members a chance of finding more entries from their gardens. An effort is being made to give effect to this for next year's Show.

Although numbers were down to 320 the standard of the exhibits was very high indeed, and the judges—Dr. Mavis Paton, Dr. Henry Tod and Mr. John Ponton—had a very interesting task in picking out the winners in a very level entry.

Principal winners were—*Forrest Medal* : Mrs. Ellison Clark, Corra, Kirkgunzeon, with *Shortia uniflora* ; Runner-up : Dr. M. E. Gibson, Dalbeattie, with *Epigaea asiatica*. *Walmsley Cup* (Class I) : Mr. William McGinley, Dumfries. *Lewis Trophy* (Best in Section II) : Miss V. Young, Rockcliffe. *Bronze Medal* (most points in Section II) : Mrs. Hollet, Sedbergh, Yorkshire. *Certificates of Merit* : Mr. H. Esslemont, with *Paraquilegia anemonoides* (fig. 66) ; Dr. M. E. Gibson, with *Epigaea asiatica* ; Mr. Lea, Annan, with *Rhododendron chamaethomsonii* ; Mr. J. Ponton, with *Salix wehrhahnii*.

Dwarf Rhododendrons were again a wonderful display and are becoming more popular as exhibition plants with our local members. *Rhodo. chamaethomsonii* was particularly good in several exhibits, and much better than it has been seen at Dumfries previously. Pot Daffodils were also a very lovely feature and almost a full length of benching was needed to accommodate a splendid class of these. Class I and the Walmsley Cup was again won by William McGinley, Dumfries, with splendid pans of *Draba rigida*, *Lewisia tweedyi* "Pink Form," and *Androsace cylindrica*. Second was myself with *Draba eriocarpa*, *Lewisia tweedyi* and *Cassandra calyculata*. Class II for rare or difficult plants was won by Mr. H. Esslemont, Aberdeen, with a beautifully flowered *Paraquilegia anemonoides*(fig 66).

In the class for easy plants from the open garden, Mr. John Henderson, Dumfries, was the leader with *Primula marginata* "Pritchard's Variety," and in the Silver Foliage class Mrs. Ellison Clark won with *Leucogenes grandiceps*. Mr. McGinley led in cushions with *Draba rigida*, and in Kabschia saxifrages my own *Ss. x salamoni* and "Cranbourne" came out on top. In Asiatic Primulas the following were noted—*Pp. warshenewskiana*, *gracilipes*, *clarkei*, *aureata*, and Mr. Henderson showed a very lovely *P. griffithii*, and Mrs. Hollet, Sedbergh, a splendid specimen of *P. obtusifolia*. European Primulas were very strong and the following were on view. *Pp. marginata* "Holden Clough" (several good pans), "Highland Twilight," "Joan Hughes," *x bilecki*, and "Ethel Barker."

Anemones were very scarce this year and here the winner was Brigadier Hutchinson, Rockcliffe, with *Pulsatilla vulgaris* "Red Cloak," and Dr. Gibson was second with *Anemone vernalis*. Dwarf narcissi and tulips were not so numerous as usual, but included the following—*Nn. bulbocodium*, *calpicola*, *x cyclataz*, and *Tulipa australis* was shown by Major and Mrs. A. Walmsley, by whom it had been collected. Other bulbs collected by them in Portugal and shown in

the bulbous classes were *Arthericum boeticum*, *Fritillaria pinicola*, and a *Sisyrinchium* species. No Gentians were on view due to the late season. Class 27 was won by Mrs. Ellison Clark's Forrest Medal plant *Shortia uniflora*, second in this class being *Sanguinaria canadensis*, shown by Major and Mrs. Walmsley.

Dwarf Rhododendrons as previously stated really stole the show. Brigadier Hutchinson won the 2 pan class with *Rhodo. pumilum* and *Rhodo. keiskei*. Second was Mr. Lea, Annan, with *Rhodo. chamaethomsonii* and *Rhodo. pemakoense*, and Mrs. Jebb, Brooklands, was third with a beautifully flowered specimen of *Rhodo. x cilpinense* and *Rhodo. pemakoense*. In the class for 1 pan Rhododendron Mrs. Ellison Clark led with *Rhodo. chamaethomsonii*, second was Mrs. C. C. Clark with *Rhodo. ciliatum*, and Mr. J. D. Young, Dumfries, was third with *Rhodo. pemakoense*.

Ericaceous plants were very good indeed and included the following—*Phyllodoce caerulea*, *Cassiope lycopodioides*, *Cassiope fastigiata*, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* and *Epigaea asiatica* from Dr. Gibson. Dwarf shrub classes contained the following—*Salix x boydii*, *Forsythia viridissima* "Bronxensis," *Polygala chamaebuxus purpurea*, *Syringa microphylla*.

The entry in Section II was again pleasing, with some very promising members ready to step up to Section I. In Section II plants of note were—*Iberis s. 'Pygmaea'*, *Sax. ferdinandi-coburgii*, *Sax. cebennensis*, *Primula x forsteri*, *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, *Hepatica triloba*, *H. x media* 'Ballards' Var., *Polygala chamaebuxus rhodoptera*, and *Rh. impeditum*.

In cut narcissi Miss Templeton, Dumfries, and Major and Mrs. Walmsley were most successful, and in daffodils grown in pots the winner was Mrs. R. G. Smith, Dumfries, followed by myself and Miss Templeton. Trade stands were confined to Messrs. Longmuir & Adamson, Dumfries (Gold Medal) and Messrs. Ponton, Edinburgh (Large Gold Medal), and the Crichton Royal were awarded a Special Gold Medal for their table display of alpine in pans, a truly creditable exhibit shown for the last time under Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, who has now retired from the post of Head Gardener. On Longmuir & Adamson's stand the following plants were prominent: *Mahonia bealei*, *Rhodo.* "Elizabeth," *Pieris, floribunda*, *Bergenia stracheyii*, *Dentaria eriophylla*; and on Messrs. Ponton's stand—*Salix wehrhahnii*, *Acer palmatum dissectum viridis*, *Rhodo.* "Carmen," *Tulipa urumiensis*, *Tulipa praestans* "Fusilier," *Tulipa* "Kaufancilla," *Narcissus watieri*, *Narcissus juncifolius*, *Narcissus cyclamineus* "Beryl," *Narcissus triandrus* "Thalia."

The attendance at the Show showed a considerable increase on recent years, and I would like here to express my thanks to the Show Committee for their co-operation, and also to our Trade stands for their continued support, and finally to our exhibitors for the splendid response to our appeals for entries in a most difficult year.

N. M. BROWN

GLASGOW

THE GLASGOW SHOW was held in the McLellan Galleries on 13th and 14th April. The number of entries showed an increase over the previous year and the over-all quality of the exhibits was better. The Rhododendron Section was very well contested and the quality of a high standard. Again thanks are due to the National Trust for Scotland for their interest and support. Once more an exhibit by the members of the Scottish Orchid Society was a feature of the Show.

There were three very good entries in the six pan class which was won by Mr. Harold Esslemont, Aberdeen, gaining for him the Dr. William Buchanan Rose Bowl. One of his plants in this class, a magnificent specimen of *Draba mollissima*, was awarded the George Forrest Medal as being the best rock garden plant in the Show (fig. 67). Mr. Esslemont had three other outstanding plants in his six—*Ranunculus asiaticus*, a red buttercup which I was seeing for the first time and which at first glance I thought was a poppy—*Androsace imbricata*, one of the more difficult of this genus and which he grows to perfection, and *Primula* "Ethel Barker," a hybrid from *P. allionii*, which is rather less difficult than its parent and which with some care may be grown successfully in the rock garden. Second prize went to Mr. William Urie, Turnberry. Outstanding in his exhibit were *Lewisia tweedyi*, surely the best of the genus, a good form of *Primula marginata*, and the near-hardy orchid *Pleione limprichtii*. Mr. John Archibald, Wishaw, was third. Included in his six were the beautiful American shrub *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, *Saxifraga lilacina* and *Primula aureata*, both of which he grows to perfection.

The Henry Archibald Challenge Rose Bowl for three pans of rock plants was won by Mr. and Mrs. Alec Todd, Bearsden. Their outstanding plant was *Pleione limprichtii* in a five- or six-inch pan with thirty to forty flowers in perfect condition. Pleiones have become very popular and this species, the easiest of them, is the one I would recommend beginners to try. Mr. and Mrs. Todd also showed the compact form of *Epigaea repens* in good flower and condition. Dr.

M. E. Gibson, Dalbeattie, who was second, had fine plants of *Epigaea asiatica* and *Anemone vernalis*. Mr. William Urie gained third prize and his outstanding pan was the bulbous *Rhodohypoxis baurii* which has a very long flowering season. Perhaps I should say here how pleasing it is that members now seem to be growing and flowering the none too easy genus *Epigaea* so well. Elsewhere in the Show Mrs. Slack, Bearsden, gained a first prize with *E. repens*, which she had raised from Club seed. Altogether, then, there were three very good plants of the genus in the Show.

The William C. Buchanan Challenge Cup for three pans of rare, new or difficult plants was won for the second year by Mr. J. D. Crosland, Torphins, with good plants of *Corydalis ambigua* var. *yedoensis* which I could not recall having seen before, *Shortia uniflora* which with its beautifully coloured foliage is as decorative out of flower as in, and the very dwarf white *Trillium rivale*.

There were two exceptionally fine plants in the silver-grey foliage class. First prize went to Mr. William Urie with *Leucogynes leontopodium*, the "New Zealand Edelweiss," and the second to the rare *Raoulia mammillaris*, also from New Zealand, shown by Mr. J. D. Crosland. Saxifrages were in better order than usual at this Show and first prizes went to Mr. Crosland for *S. x boydii* and *S. retusa* and to Mr. John Archibald for *S. grisebachii* "Wisley var." The quality of primulas, both Asiatic and European, was very good and they made a welcome splash of colour on the benches. Mr. Neil Morris, Port Glasgow, gained a well-merited first with the none too easy *Pp. aureata* and *bhutanica* (syn. *whitei*) and a like award went to Mr. J. MacPhail, Greenock, for a fine specimen of *P. obtusifolia*. Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Todd took the premier award for three pans of European primulas with the fine hybrids *Pp.* "Mrs. J. H. Wilson," "Blue Wave" and "Blairside Yellow," all in top condition. The two pan class was won by the writer with two collected primulas, *P. auricula balbisii* from the Val Lunga, South Tyrol, a local variant of *P. auricula* which has no meal on its leaves or stems and has no scent, and *P. rubra*, collected at Kleine Scheidegg, Switzerland. He was also the recipient of first prize in the single pan class with the strong-growing red *pubescens* hybrid *P.* "Rufus."

A well-grown *Androsace imbricata* gained a first prize for Mrs. J. Dyas, Aberdeen, who demonstrated here that her skill in growing this rather difficult species is not far behind that of her redoubtable townsman Mr. Harold Esslemont. Praise indeed !

Soldanella carpathica again made an appearance and took first prize for Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Todd. Mrs. E. Clark, Kirkgunzeon, won two firsts with *Pulsatilla vulgaris rubra* and the Canadian Blood Root *Sanguinaria canadensis fl. pl.*, which is not very often seen on the show bench because of the fleeting duration of its double white flowers. Here Mrs. Clark had it at the peak of perfection.

The spring bulbs were all in very good order and I noted particularly Mr. James P. Moir's first prize *Narcissus juncifolius*, a tiny gem, and Mrs. W. McLean's *Narcissus nanus* and *N.* "Little Beauty," a hybrid with an almost white perianth and a pure yellow cup. Mrs. MacLean was also among the red tickets with a magnificent pan of *Scilla* "Spring Beauty."

Gentians were few and far between, but I thought the judges were a bit rough on Mr. J. McPhail in giving only second prize to his *G. verna*. Admittedly it had only one flower open, but it was well grown and well budded.

Mr. John Archibald gained a well deserved first with *Lewisia heckneri*, but Miss Margaret Thomson, Milngavie, ran him very close with a good plant of the more difficult *L. tweedyi*. Mrs. Clark won her class with a particularly fine *Shortia uniflora grandiflora* and Mr. John Archibald collected another red ticket with a beautifully flowered *Haberlea rhodopensis*. He also gained several firsts with sedums and sempervivums, which he grows superbly. Mr. James P. Moir took a first with the fine *Sempervivum* "Jubilee."

The writer won the class for one rhododendron with the free flowering scarlet *R. repens* x "Earl of Athlone," which was also given a Certificate of Merit. Brigadier Hutchinson also gained first prizes with rhododendrons and notable among them was a very well flowered *R. pumilum*, first named "Pink Baby" by the late F. Kingdon Ward when he sent it home from the Himalayas.

Other first prize plants noted particularly in Section I were Mrs. C. Clark's *Juniperus communis* "Echiniformis," Mrs. McLean's *Erica carnea* "Springwood" and *Phyllodoce coerulea*, and Mr. and Mrs. Todd's *Pleione limprichtii* and *P. formosanum*.

The Crawford Silver Challenge Cup awarded to the competitor gaining most first prizes in Section I, excluding Classes 1 and 2, was won by Mr. John Archibald, who richly earned the award as the quality of his plants throughout the Show was of a high order.

The James A. Wilson Trophy and Bronze Medal awarded to the competitor gaining most points in Section II (the so-called Novices

Section) were won by Mrs. May Lunn, Drymen, of whom we are bound to hear more in years to come. Among her first prize exhibits were three fine primulas, *Pp. forsteri*, x *bilekii* and *rosea*, a pale purple form of *Anemone pulsatilla* (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) and *Narcissus bulbocodium*. Mrs. K. L. Reed, Symington, Ayrshire, worthily took two first prizes with a very well grown *Saxifraga thessalica* and *Crocus sieberi* (how she managed to flower it so late is a mystery). Two first prizes went to Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Wagstaff, Eaglesham, for *Primula pubescens* "Mrs. J. H. Wilson" and *Narcissus bulbocodium*, and first prizes to Mr. J. McCreery, Clarkston, for a nice pot of *Tulipa praestans* "Fusilier," to Miss M. G. Nicolson for an unusually dark red sempervivum, and to Mrs. C. M. Clark for *Rhododendron ciliatum*.

There were only two Trade Exhibits this year, but both were of the high standard one has come to expect of the firms concerned. Jack Drake, Inshriach Alpine Plant Nursery, Aviemore, was awarded a Gold Medal for an exhibit of plants in pots. As usual one noted particularly well grown primulas. Among them were *Pp. obtusifolia*, one of the easier of a difficult section, *macrophylla*, none too easy but magnificent in flower and very well worth trying, and *griffithii* hybrids of the *Petiolaris* section, the members of which are first class exhibition plants. Also on this stand was a fairly recent introduction from Afghanistan, *Primula warshenewskiana*, a species I believe, but to me it looked intermediate between *P. clarkei* and *P. rosea*. In any case a fine little primula which I am told is proving to be a good rock garden plant. Also noted were *Douglasia laevigata*, *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, *Celmisia incana*, *Hepatica triloba rubra*, a very fine red form, *Ranzania japonica*, a Japanese woodland plant with pale mauve flowers, and *Doronicum cordatum*, well clad in its large yellow daisy-like flowers.

J. R. Ponton, The Gardens, Kirknewton, also received a Gold Medal for his built-up stand of rock garden plants. His plants were nicely set off against a background of dwarf shrubs, mostly the smaller maples. Amongst his dwarf rhododendrons was the very beautiful scarlet *R.* "Carmen," one of a number of scarlet or crimson hybrids of which *R.* "Elizabeth" is perhaps the best known. Mr. Ponton made good use of the many bulbous subjects available in April. Those of particular note were the fine little tulip, *T. pulchella humilis*, the dainty narcissi, *Nn. juncifolius*, *rupicola* and *watieri*, a little white gem, and what the writer regards as the best of the grape hyacinths, *Muscari tubergenianum*. Mention must also be made of *Pleione formosanum*, which created a great deal of interest and which, as noted earlier, is becoming very popular.

Another exhibit, a most unusual one, also created much interest. This was a model, beautifully constructed to scale, of the Inner Circle at Stonehenge. Its creator, Mr. John H. Huntley, Whitecraigs, had laid out his model as an early British rock garden and had placed in it four reptiles which had returned "to ascertain the use made of the rocks in which their remains had rested for so long." Mr. Huntley was awarded a first prize for a most worthy effort.

The William Urie Challenge Trophy awarded to the member of the S.R.G.C. who gains most points in the Rhododendron Section was handsomely won by the Gibson Family, Rhu, with many fine exhibits.

D. L.

EDINBURGH

THIS SHOW was held in the Music Hall, George Street, on April 20th and 21st in good, if rather cold weather. After last year's catastrophic fall in entries, it was a joy to see the benches well filled with exhibits, with a particularly good entry in Section II—in fact the total number of entries was nearly double last year's figures.

The Forrest Medal was awarded to *Dionysia demavendica* (fig. 62), shown by Mr. Esslemont, who also won the Corsar Trophy with a good "six" composed of *Helichrysum coralloides*, *Geum reptans*, *Androsace imbricata*, a very fine collected plant of *Primula auricula* and two Fritillarias, *olivieri* B.S.B.E. 1666, not in the best of character, and a collected *graeca* which was outstandingly good. The Carnethy Medal was won by Mr. J. D. Crosland with *Iris graeberiana*, *Orchis pallens* and *Ptilotrichum reverchonii*. The Elsie Harvey Trophy was won by Mr. Esslemont with the three "new, rare or difficult" *Raoulia eximia*, *R. mammillaris* and *Haastia pulvinaris*—the three "Vegetable Sheep" from New Zealand. The Reid Rose Bowl for the highest number of points in Section I was won by Mr. Terris of Kirkcaldy, and the Bronze Medal for the same in Section II by Mrs. Murdoch.

It was good to see the *Primula* classes well filled once more; the Asiatics were good and the others, i.e. European, etc., were very good indeed—it is many years since the writer has seen a comparable entry. There was a big entry as well in the *Anemone* and *Pulsatilla* classes—they have been very good this year—with some extremely fine plants, and the Bulb classes were extremely strong, the *Narcissi* and *Tulipa* entries being of particularly good quality. There were quite a number

of the new B.S.B.E. Fritillarias from Iran here and there in the Show ; they seem to be settling in quite well, as yet still in pots, and it remains to be seen how they will stand up to the rough and tumble of the open rock garden when the time comes. They are hardy enough, but winter wet may yet be their downfall.

While some of the gigantic pans of Sedums and Sempervivums that we used to see have gone, the entry in these classes was of a good quality and promised well for the future and one, to the writer, very strange feature was a good entry of "silvers". These are usually very good at the later Shows, but rather on the greenish side as early as this Show, but here were some really silvery ones—odd at a spring Show.

Perhaps the most striking classes were those for dwarf Rhododendrons. These were really outstanding and this has been a feature of all the previous Club Shows this year, even including the three "miniature group shows" at which the writer talked about the judging, etc. Needless to say, the Rhododendrons from these put in an appearance at the next "real" Show ! The Heaths also were extremely good and there were two very fine other members of the Ericaceae shown, *Chamaedaphne (Cassandra) calyculata* from Mrs. Maule, and *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* from Major and Mrs. Walmsley—both these were awarded Certificates of Merit. Others in the same order were the numerous Cassiopes which were also in excellent form—one, in Section II, shown by Mr. Gibb, just missed being "on" for the Show ; if all the buds had been open it would have been very high in the honours classes.

There was a good entry of dwarf conifers and the classes for Primroses, Auriculas and "doubles" were well supported—to the great pleasure of the writer.

One of the most encouraging features of this Show was the considerable increase in entries in Section II and the Junior Section, and the very high standard of many of the exhibits in that section. A professional colleague of the writer's commented that several of the Primula entries would have beaten the prize-winning entries in the same classes in Section I—and this was undoubtedly the case.

We were glad to have a set of photographs from Mr. B. O. Mulligan of various North American habitats, and from Dr. H. S. Wachter of plants photographed in their native haunts. Both these sets were very fine and aroused a lot of interest in the visitors to the Show.

The Trade supported us well as usual with very colourful stands.

A Large Gold Medal was awarded to Messrs. Jack Drake for an exhibit of rock garden plants in pots and a notable plant of *Primula dryadifolia* on this stand won the R. E. Cooper Bhutan Drinking Cup for the best species *Primula* in the Show. For the rest, they showed a wide range of plants which included fine *Primulas* and *Cassiopeas*. A Large Gold Medal for a built-up rock garden was awarded to Ponton's Nurseries for a very broad mixture of plants ranging from bulbs to rhododendrons, by way of anemones and primulas. A Gold Medal in the same category was awarded to a very promising newcomer, Grovemount Alpine Nurseries of Auchterarder, who had a small stand with a good selection of interesting plants, and a Large Gold Medal was awarded to Messrs. Dobbies Ltd. for a lovely display of *Narcissi* which aroused a lot of interest. They also showed a range of container-grown shrubs, etc.—a modern trend which bids fair to start a revolution in garden development.

William Brown (Bookseller) Ltd. showed us a very comprehensive range of gardening books and James Thomson Ltd. a selection of the chips, stone and paving that they have to offer.

The Show was opened by Mr. E. G. Smart, the new President of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, who also distributed the Show Trophies after a very apposite speech. The Club owes a great debt to the Show Secretary, Mrs. McLeod, for the enormous amount of work she put in, especially in "beating up" entries to such good effect ; and effort which, coupled with the enthusiasm of the members, undoubtedly saved the Edinburgh Show from a repetition of last year's calamity. The "gate" too was nearly double last year's, there being a steady flow of visitors. The evening lecture on "Plants from the Benches" was given by Mr. David Livingstone in his usual excellent way ; it was both entertaining and instructive and was much appreciated by those attending—and the admission fee helped appreciably towards the Show expenses.

Altogether, as Dr. Davidson, our new President, said at the opening, the Edinburgh Show "staged a come-back" and was more like its old self and everyone seemed to enjoy it greatly.

HENRY TOD

PERTH

THIS SHOW was held in the Public Hall, Scone, on 30th April and 1st May, and although the entries were down on the outstanding show in 1963, it was regarded by the experts as a very satisfactory show.

The inclement weather immediately previous reduced the number of entries from exhibitors in North Perthshire, and the absence of two well-known exhibitors from Aberdeen (with the exception of one plant mentioned later) reduced the number of exhibits, particularly of the more rare and unusual plants.

The George Forrest Medal was awarded to a wonderful plant of *Daphne petraea*, shown by Mr. H. Esslemont, Aberdeen, grown on its own roots. The plant was covered in bloom and must have measured nearly four inches across.

The outstanding exhibitor in the Show was Mr. J. B. Duff, Aberdeen, who in addition to winning the two principal trophies had 14 firsts as well as other awards. All his entries were of an exceptionally high standard. He won the Alexander Caird Trophy for 6 pans with a fine entry of *Cassiope* x "Muirhead," *Lewisia tweedyi*, *Anemone obtusiloba patula*, *Saxifraga grisebachii* "Wisley var.," *Primula leucophylla* and *Polemonium mellitum*. Mr. Duff also won the Dundas Quaich for 3 pans with *Draba mollissima*, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* and *Androsace carnea* x *pyrenaica*. In Class 4 for a new, rare or difficult plant, Major-General and Mrs. D. M. Murray-Lyon came first with *Diapensia lapponica*. In Class 5, two pans native to Scotland, Mr. J. H. K. Rorie, Dundee, was first with *Salix myrsinites* and *S. herbacea* x *repens*. He was also first in the single pan class with a fine specimen of *Salix reticulata*.

In Class 9 Miss Joyce Halley, Dundee, was first with a small but well-flowered *Androsace imbricata*. Mr. J. D. Youngson, Perth, was first in the two pan class for Anemone or Pulsatilla with *Anemone appenina* and *A. nemerosa robinsoniana*. In the single pan class Mr. Duff came first with a pot of *Anemone vernalis* with 22 blooms. In the 2 pan Gentian Class, Major-General and Mrs. Murray-Lyon were first with fine pans of *G. pumila* and *G. verna*.

In the 3 pan Class for Asiatic Primula, Major-General and Mrs. Murray-Lyon were the only entrants. I thought the plant of *P. calderiana* was particularly fine. In the single pan Class for Asiatic Primulas out of six entries Mr. Duff was first with an outstanding pan of *P. gracilipes*. There were six entries in Class 25, 2 Pans Primula, any other group, and Mr. Duff was again first with *P. pubescens* "Marlene" and *P. auricula* "Blairside Yellow." In the single pan class, out of seven entries, Mr. K. J. Green, Pitlochry, was first with a well-flowered pan of *P. pubescens* "Rufus."

In the single pan Rhododendron Class, Major-General and Mrs.

Murray-Lyon came first with a very large specimen of *R. ledoides*. Saxifraga were not very well represented. Mr. Duff was first in both the 3 pan and the 1 pan Classes. He had nice specimens of *S. "Bridget"* and *S. "Chrystalae."* The Sedum and Sempervivum Classes were not very well represented. Mr. Duff won the 2 pan Sedum Class and Mr. Stewart Mitchell the 2 pan Sempervivum Class. Mr. Youngson won both the single classes.

Miss Scott-Murray, Perth, was first in the single pan Tulipa Class with *T. tarda*, and from six entries she was also first in the single pan Bulbous Plant Class with *Fritillaria meleagris alba*.

In the 2 pans Shrub Class Mr. Youngson was first with *Daphne collina* and *Halimiocistus x ingwersenii*. In the single pan Shrub Class Mr. Esslemont was first with his Forrest Medal winning *Daphne petraea*, and Mr. Green was second with a fine specimen of *D. retusa*.

Mrs. E. D. Wilson, Dunfermline, was first in both the 3 pans and the 1 pan Dwarf Conifer classes. Her plant of *Chamaecyparis obtusa minima* in the single pan class was particularly fine.

In Class 49 Mr. Duff was first with *Mertensia coriacea* and Mrs. Wilson first in Class 52 with a large pan of *Doronicum cordatum*.

There was keen competition in Class 56 with seven entries and the judges awarded equal first places to Mr. Green with a magnificently flowered *Cassiope x "Muirhead,"* and to Mr. Youngson with a fine plant of *C. lycopodioides*, which was fourteen inches across. Both plants were given Certificates of Merit. The Hardy Orchid Class (63) was won by Major-General and Mrs. Murray-Lyon with *Orchis sambucina*.

Mrs. Wilson was first in Class 67 with a marvellous plant of *Soldanella alpina* and was also awarded a Certificate of Merit. Major-General and Mrs. Murray-Lyon were second with a very well-flowered *Soldanella montana*.

Mr. Youngson was first in Class 72 with *Jeffersonia dubia* and *Polygala chamaebuxus rhodoptera*. Mr. J. R. Terris, Kirkcaldy, was first in the Container Class. The L. C. Middleton Challenge Trophy, awarded for the highest aggregate of points in Section I, was won by Mr. J. R. Terris, Kirkcaldy, for the third time running.

The entries in Section II were most disappointing. The only bright feature was the award of the Bronze Medal to Miss G. L. Blackwood, Scone, who in her first competition won seven first places from seven entries. Miss Blackwood showed a magnificent pot of Polyanthus, a fine pot of Primrose "Mother's Day," and a well-flowered pan of

Caltha palustris flore pleno. Miss B. S. Gold, Scone, was awarded a Certificate of Merit for a non-competitive exhibit of Cacti. J. R. Aitken, Orchardbank Nursery, Perth, was awarded a Large Gold Medal for a built-up rock garden.

The judges were Dr. H. Tod, Mrs. Knox-Finlay and Mr. J. R. Aitken.

J. D. YOUNGSON

ABERDEEN

FELLOW MEMBERS at other Show centres will no doubt be aware of the well-grown plants which frequently make the journey from Aberdeen to appear at their Shows, generally with a high degree of success. It is only to be expected, then, that when these, and many other plants of an equally high calibre, appear at their own Show, Aberdeen can stage, in the words of our President, Dr. Davidson, "the finest Show he has ever seen". Such was the Aberdeen Show held on the 13th and 14th May.

The Show was opened by Professor Lockhart, a noted cultivator of rhododendrons in Aberdeen, and the judges were Dr. Henry Tod, A. Evans and J. L. Mowat. One of the pleasing features of this Show which augurs well for the future was the way in which the honours were distributed among a much larger number of exhibitors than is usual. However, to the plants.

The George Forrest Medal was awarded to *Kalmiopsis leachiana* "M. le Piniec"; this was a large well-flowered plant which in addition received an Award of Merit and a Cultural Commendation for its exhibitor, H. Esslemont. It is interesting to note, however, that another 'form' of this plant, viz. *Kalmiopsis leachiana* "Umqua River", also exhibited by H. Esslemont, was preferred by the Joint Awards Committee inasmuch as they awarded it a First Class Certificate. (See figs. 68 and 69).

There were three entries in the six pan class (The Aberdeen Bronze Medal) which was won by H. Esslemont. Among the plants in this class were *Daphne petraea* (not *grandiflora*) grown on its own roots, *Cassiope* "Muirhead" (Certificates of Merit to both exhibitors, viz. H. Esslemont and J. B. Duff), *Primula reidii williamsii* and a dwarf form of *Trillium rivale*. The three pan class was won by J. B. Duff, who won also the Walker of Portlethen Trophy for winning most points in Section I. In this class J. D. Crosland exhibited a very fine yellow *Viola* species which he collected in the Dolomites.

The class for new, rare or difficult plants is always an interesting one and this year the emphasis that has been apparent over the last year or two in New Zealand plants was maintained by the two plants of *Haastia pulvinaris* and the one of *Raoulia grandiflora* entered. The class for one pan Daphne attracted no less than seven entries, including four plants of *Daphne petraea grandiflora*. Mrs. Dyas won this class with a small but very well-flowered plant. The Rhododendron class was not so well represented this year, but a well-flowered plant of *Rhododendron rigidum* shown by Dr. Hamish Robertson was awarded a Certificate of Merit. Among the bulbous plants, mention should be made of *Fritillaria recurva*, a native of North America, and *Cyclamen rhodia* (see below), both exhibited by J. D. Crosland.

In the gentian class Dr. Garton as usual produced a fine well-flowered pan of *Gentiana acaulis*, but this year he had to give way to the two pans of *Gentiana verna* exhibited by Mrs. Brown and Miss Gill. It was so very nice to see Mrs. Brown exhibiting again, as she grows such wonderful plants in her delightful garden.

Mr. A. D. McKelvie won the Bronze Medal this year for obtaining the most points in Section II. Among the plants shown by Mr. McKelvie were *Dryas octopetala* and *Myosotis alpestris*. Other plants of note in this section were *Syringa palibiniana* (Mrs. Fowler) and a very good plant of *Rhododendron* "Pink Drift" by Miss Duff.

This year there were two classes open to Junior Members; these attracted keen competition from J. Aitken, jun., Miss Sinclair, Miss Elder and Miss Fiona Garton, and it is to be hoped that they will bring their plants forward again next year. The class for arrangement of Flowers from Rock Garden Plants was won by another junior member, Miss Alice Garton.

A very fine display of plants from the Cruickshank Botanic Garden was presented by Mr. Sutherland and this, together with the well laid out Trade stands of the Edrom Nursery, Jack Drake, Mrs. McMurtrie, the Grovemount Alpine Nursery and Mr. Ponton made a very fitting surround to the show benches.

The Joint Rock-Garden Plant Committee made the following awards to plants:—

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE

Primula reidii williamsii (J. B. Duff, Esq.)

Kalmiopsis leachiana "Umqua River" (H. Esslemont, Esq.)

AWARD OF MERIT

Kalmiopsis leachiana "M. le Piniec" (H. Esslemont, Esq.)



Photo. — A. P. S., Aberdeen

Fig. 65 — *Primula reidii williamsii*,
F.C.C., Aberdeen

Ourisia caespitosa gracilis (Messrs. Jack Drake)

Cyclamen rhodia, subject to verification of name (J. D. Crosland, Esq.)

and the following Awards for Exhibits :—

CERTIFICATE OF CULTURAL COMMENDATION

To Messrs. Jack Drake for *Ourisia caespitosa gracilis*

To H. Esslemont, Esq., for *Nardophyllum bryoides*, *Kalmiopsis leachiana* “Umqua River” and for *Kalmiopsis leachiana* “M. le Piniec”

To J. D. Crosland, Esq., for *Primula spectabilis*

HAMISH ROBERTSON

DUNFERMLINE

THIS SHOW was held as usual in the Music Pavilion, Pittencrief Park, on 21st and 22nd May, and entries were well up to standard in both quality and quantity, several classes having seven, eight or nine entries with very few poor plants in evidence. It was opened by Mrs. Arthur Robertson, whose gracious address showed considerable knowledge of and enthusiasm for rock-gardening.

The premier award—the Forrest Medal—was awarded to a splendid plant of *Asperula suberosa* shown in class 23 (any other plant) by Mrs. J. W. Dyas, Aberdeen, while another outstanding plant which caught the eye was an extremely fine specimen of *Scleranthus biflorus* shown by Miss Milburn, Aberdour, which received a Certificate of Merit. The Robertson Challenge Cup, for class 1 (3 pans), Section I, went to Miss Jessie Thomson of Dunfermline for a beautifully matched trio, two of which were outstanding plants of *Sedum spathulifolium aureum* and *Campanula aucheri*. Second in this class was Mrs. Maule, Edinburgh, with *Fritillaria camtschatsensis*, *Cassiope saximontana* and *Lewisia trevosiana*, and third Mrs. S. Hall, Edinburgh, with *Andromeda polifolia glaucophylla*, *Leucoium hyemalis*, and *Oxalis enneaphylla*; there were seven entries.

In class 2 J. T. Aitken was first with *Oxalis laciniata* to Mr. Esslemont's *Lepidium nanum* and Mrs. Maule's *Raoulia buchananii*. Class 3 was very interesting, first prize going to a very good specimen of *Cochlearia groenlandica* shown by Mrs. Murdoch, and second and third to *Genista anglica* and *Primula farinosa*. Out of ten entries in class 7 first prize went to a grand plant of *Saxifraga cebennensis*, and of the eight entries in class 10 first prize went to a magnificent *Sedum*

arachnoideum shown by Mrs. Reid. In classes 12 and 13 H. Esslemont's *Eritrichium nanum* and *Campanula carpatha* were first, and in class 14 Mr. Aitken's *Celmisia ramulosa*. In class 15 pride of place went to *Kalmiopsis leacheana* "M. le Piniec" and in class 16 to an excellent *Oxalis enneaphylla rosea*. The winner of class 17 was something out of the usual in an attractive plant of *Jankaea heldreichii* shown by H. Esslemont. As has been said earlier, good plants were plentiful and one cannot list them all; but before leaving Section I mention must be made of a wonderful plant of *Schlumbergera gaertneri* shown in class 24 by Wm. Sheret, which must have had two or three hundred blooms. The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy (for most points in Section I) was won by Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Aitken, Edinburgh, while of course the special prize for best plant in the section went to *Asperula suberosa*, the Forrest Medal winner.

In Section II the Bronze Medal was worthily won by J. E. Jackson, one entry of his being an extremely attractive *Dianthus* "Whitehills" in class 35, which gained for him the special prize for the best plant in this section. In Section IV (confined to Fife members) R. W. Rutherford, who won the Institute of Quarrying Quaich for most points in this section, was first in class 44 with fine plants of *Phlox adsurgens*, *Primula cockburniana* and *Lithospermum* "Heavenly Blue." Class 45 had seven entries, first prize going to Miss Thomson's *Veronica pageana* and second to J. R. Terris's *Phlox douglasii* "Violet Queen." Out of nine entries in class 47 Miss Milburn's *Scleranthus biflorus* was first, closely followed by one almost as good shown by R. W. Rutherford, who also won both Saxifrage classes—48 and 49. The Sempervivum and Sedum entries are always heavy and good, and this year J. P. Moir was first of nine in class 50 and J. Y. Carstairs and Mrs. Niven first equal in class 51, also with nine entries. The Primula classes were stronger than usual with some good plants on view, and it was good to see a fine specimen of *Erodium x bedderi* in class 55.

The best plant in Section IV was adjudged to be a really wonderful specimen of *Chamaecyparis obtusa nana* shown by C. Gordon Hill. In addition to the Certificate of Merit already mentioned, others were awarded to Wm. Sheret for his *Schlumbergera* and to J. Bonnar.

Joint Rock Garden Awards Committee

EDINBURGH—20th APRIL 1965

AWARDS TO PLANTS

AWARD OF MERIT

To *Raoulia eximia*, as a foliage plant for the alpine house. Exhibited by H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen.

To *Primula* hybrid (*calderiana* x *strumosa*), subject to a cultivar name being given, as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay, Keillour Castle, Methven, Perthshire.

To *Primula* 'Royalty' (*griffithii* x *tsariensis*), as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay.

CERTIFICATE OF PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION

To *Anthericum boeticum* as a flowering plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by Major A. Walmsley, M.C., Culderry, Garlieston, Wigtownshire.

To *Fritillaria graeca* as a flowering plant for the alpine house. Exhibited by H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen.

AWARDS TO EXHIBITORS

CULTURAL COMMENDATION

To H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for a well-grown plant of *Raoulia eximia*.

To H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for a well-grown plant of *Haastia pulvinaris*.

ABERDEEN—13th MAY 1965

AWARDS TO PLANTS

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE

To *Primula reidii williamsii* as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by J. B. Duff, Esq., 42 Westholme Avenue, Aberdeen (fig. 65).

To *Kalmiopsis leacheana* 'Umqua River' as a flowering plant for the alpine house. Exhibited by H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen (fig. 69).

AWARD OF MERIT

To *Ourisia caespitosa gracilis* as a flowering plant for the rock

garden and alpine house. Exhibited by Messrs. Jack Drake, Inshriach Nursery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire.

To *Kalmiopsis leacheana* 'M. le Piniec' as a flowering plant for the alpine house. Exhibited by H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen (fig. 68).

To *Cyclamen rhodia* (hitherto known as *C. repandum* 'Rhodes Form'), subject to verification of the name, as a flowering plant for the alpine house. Exhibited by J. D. Crosland, Esq., Treetops, Torphins, Aberdeenshire.

AWARDS TO EXHIBITORS

CULTURAL COMMENDATION

To Messrs. Jack Drake, Inshriach Nursery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, for a fine pan of *Ourisia caespitosa gracilis*.

To H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for a well-grown specimen of *Nardophyllum bryoides*.

To H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for a well-grown specimen of *Kalmiopsis leacheana* 'Umqua River.'

To H. Esslemont, Esq., 9 Forest Road, Aberdeen, for a well-grown specimen of *Kalmiopsis leacheana* 'M. le Piniec.'

To J. D. Crosland, Esq., Treetops, Torphins, Aberdeenshire, for a well-grown specimen of *Primula spectabilis*.

Group Activities

ABERDEENSHIRE

ABERDEEN GROUP held five meetings in all in the Unionist Rooms, 23 Crown Terrace, Aberdeen, and these were well attended. For the talk by Brian Matthew from R.H.S., Wisley, we invited the members of the two local Camera Clubs to join us and they sent a good representation. A great deal of interest was taken in the talk on "Rock Gardening for Beginners" by Mr. R. J. Smith, who illustrated this with a demonstration on the building of a Rock Garden, bringing all the materials with him. The slides shown by all the lecturers were of a very high standard. The programme was :—

Oct. 21 "Plant Hunting with a Camera," by H. Esslemont, Esq.,
M.B.E.

Nov. 25 "A Perthshire Garden," by R. S. Masterton, Esq.

Jan. 27 "Rock Gardening for Beginners," by R. J. Smith, Esq.,
President, Aberdeen Horticultural Society.

Feb. 24 Members' Night.

Mar. 31 "Some Plants of the Near East," by Brian Matthew, Esq.,
from the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley.

J. E. C. POLE,
Hon. Show Secretary

ANGUS

AT THE opening meeting on 12th October, Dr. Henry Tod, F.R.S.E., spoke on "The Cultivation of Rock Plants"—general considerations and basic principles.

This was followed most suitably by Mr. J. D. Crosland's talk at the November meeting on how he made his garden at Torphins, entitled "A Beginning—from Scratch."

A talk on the Lily Family by Mr. E. H. M. Cox of Glendoick at the December meeting was most interesting; the discussion which followed proved this.

Our Members' Transparency Night was again a great success, as more members joined in.

"Plant Collecting in Greece" was the subject of the lecture by Dr. James Davidson, F.R.C.P., and was full of general interest as well as showing the plants he found. As Dr. Davidson came to us in February, and Dr. Tod before the A.G.M., we had the rare experience of having two reigning Presidents on the one syllabus.

The final illustrated lecture was by Mr. James R. Aitken, with his title "Flora of the Western Highlands". Beautiful colour slides of our native hills and their plants are widely appreciated and he had an enthusiastic audience.

The Members' Show on 5th April ended the session and proved very satisfactory, a very fine entry of plants being forward. Mr. J. L. Mowat and Mr. J. Carstairs were the Judges and gave an interesting and instructive joint talk on the exhibits, and about exhibiting generally.

A full bus visited Ascreavie on 22nd May, when we were lucky to get a dry day during a period of very unsettled weather. The garden, however, was looking lovely, in spite of some frost damage to Rhododendrons. There is always a great deal to see in this garden, and three species only will be mentioned. *Corydalis cashmiriana* is doing well here, also *Primula kingii*, which was not then in bloom, but there are drifts of it at several places in the garden. *Incarvillea mairei* "Nyoto Sama," was another charmer we have noticed under other names. Major and Mrs. Sherriff kindly gave the party tea, which was much appreciated.

S. M.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

THREE MEETINGS were held during last winter session in our usual headquarters, Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries.

In December we were visited by Mrs. Ellison Clark, Corra, by Dalbeattie, who gave an illustrated talk on her recent tour in New Zealand, where she visited a number of our members of the S.R.G.C. A most enjoyable and instructive evening was spent which combined the beautiful scenery and gardens of New Zealand with slides of a large number of the plants of that country. Mrs. Clark also illustrated a number of New Zealand natives from her own garden at Corra.

In February we had a talk on Dwarf Rhododendrons from Brigadier G. F. Hutchinson, Rockcliffe, illustrated by coloured slides of plants in his own garden and others. Brigadier Hutchinson concentrated his talk mainly on what he considered to be good varieties, suitable for growing in our gardens, and showed a mastery of his subject which must have been the result of considerable experience and study.

In March we held our popular 'Members' Night' when a good number of speakers took part in a most informal evening, which included a small sale of plants, etc.

It is hoped that full support will be given to our winter meetings, particularly if we are to bring speakers from a long distance to talk to us.

NORMAN M. BROWN,
Group Convener

EAST LOTHIAN and BERWICKSHIRE

OUR FIRST meeting of the winter took place at the Tweeddale Arms, Gifford, when Dr. James Davidson talked to us on "Plant Hunting in Eastern Europe." Mrs. Davidson operated the projector and we were shown some of the glorious mountains, sheer cliffs and fierce screes in which plants find their homes. Among the close-up pictures we were shown *Viola delphinantha*, a plant which only a few people can have seen, so rare and difficult is it in cultivation.

On a dark November evening at the Hope Rooms, North Berwick, Mr. John Lawson brought us all the spring and summer glories of Inshriach, with just one picture to show us that it can also snow there. What perfect plants grow in that lovely woodland garden! Among the many plants photographed with great expertise we were shown *Cassiope* x 'Muirhead' which won the Forrest Medal in 1962.

Our meetings are usually confined to members only, but in December a dinner was arranged at Bisset's Hotel, Gullane, to which members could invite their friends. It was an important occasion, because afterwards Admiral Paul Furse talked to us about his recent expedition to Afghanistan and Transcaspia, and showed us some wonderful pictures of the journey, the plants and the people. A land rover, the faithful "Rose of Persia", was the Furse's transport, home and herbarium. One picture showed Mrs. Furse using the bonnet as a table for giving the herbarium specimens their routine attention, with papers spread out to dry on every flat surface. Members would like to have talked to the Admiral far into the night, but he had to rush back to Edinburgh to catch the London train. We hope he was not too exhausted after his crowded two-day visit to Scotland, which included a lecture to the Edinburgh Group, a couple of visits to the Royal Botanic Garden, a recording for the BBC, and the journey out to Gullane to dine with us.

The February meeting was on a Saturday afternoon at the Roxburghe Hotel, Dunbar. After seeing the mountain summits and the summit of rock gardens at previous meetings, it was felt that there ought to be a meeting of down-to-earth, rock-bottom practicality. East Lothian plants always suffer badly in the Spring from lack of rainfall, so Mr. Sanderson, who lives in the driest corner of a droughty county, described and showed some of his watering arrangements, and circulated lists of drought-resistant plants. Mrs. Boyd-Harvey said a few words on spring propagation and circulated lists of plants which could safely be divided and potted in early March in order to be ready for sale at the Coffee Morning.

Mr. Ben Barrett, the well-known broadcaster of answers to listeners' questions, had been asked to give a lecture on herbicides, fungicides and insecticides, but chose instead to speak on "Good Health in the Rock Garden." It was rather like asking the doctor to prescribe some pills, tablets and ointments, and being ordered instead to have a clean house, fresh air and good food. Mr. Barrett's entertaining talk was most thought-provoking. He compared the effect of moving a sickly plant into clean, fresh soil, with the opposite effect of planting a healthy specimen in old soil as a replacement for one which had died. As a result of Mr. Barrett's talk, our heavy annual expenditure on poisons ought to be much reduced.

In March, a show of spring flowers was staged at Bisset's Hotel, Gullane. The kind proprietors here had turned their residents' drawing

room topsy-turvy for us—no nonsense about shelf-paper on the tables, but spotless white cloths draped down to the carpet. There were ten classes and it was most stimulating to see the really lovely plants which are being grown by our newest members. It is to be hoped that they have some equally good September flowering plants for the North Berwick Show. The proceedings were opened by Dr. Henry Tod, who told members what judges look for, with some humorous references to the attempts of exhibitors to hoodwink them. Afterwards three judges went round the hundred or so entries criticising and appraising them for all to hear. A high proportion of coloured stickers went on the cards of “first-timers.” After a buffet supper (which vied with the show-benches for colourful eye-appeal), members went round the tables themselves, before going home from an evening full of the promise of spring.

In April we moved out of “winter quarters” right into the open air on the only fine morning in a wet week. This meeting at Broadwood, Gifford, combined the pleasures of garden visiting with the serious business of making money for Group and Show expenses. Thanks to the kindness and organising ability of Mr. and Mrs. Paul and the generosity of members, the sum of £63 was raised.

The garden at Broadwood is formal near the house, with stone paving, roses and a velvet lawn. The rock garden falls away down to a fast-running burn. On the other bank there is woodland with wild primroses. Mr. Paul was awarded the novice Bronze Medal at North Berwick last year, but this is no novice garden. It has been made with great artistry by a skilful grower with a discriminating taste in plants. Among many other good things there, *Daphne petraea* collected an admiring circle. It was quite 8 inches across, and covered with flower buds. Mr. W. Cairns returned the following week when the flowers were fully out to record it on colour film (see fig. 60).

At the beginning of June members made their way to Ascreavie at the invitation of Major and Mrs. Sherriff. In the past many members would have found this journey too long and difficult to undertake in one day, but the Bridge has brought the Highlands much nearer, and twenty-nine members were able to accept. There are so many wonders to see here at Ascreavie that it is impossible to record more than a few: *Meconopsis grandis* and its elegant white form, *Primula sonchifolia* outdoing any *Sonchus* in its cabbage-like luxuriance, *Primula kingii* bedded-out like *denticulatas*, the very odd flowers of *Paeonia delavayi* and the “Puzzle-piece” *Syringa pinnatifolia*. It was delightful,

too, to see just ordinary forget-me-nots rubbing shoulders with rarities, and making a pretty blue haze in the dappled sunshine. After tea some members went to look at Mrs. Sherriff's collection of water colour plant portraits, while others, reluctant to go home, joined Major Sherriff in the kitchen garden and saw the wistaria which refuses to flower—the only recalcitrant in the place. We are looking forward to meeting Major and Mrs. Sherriff again in November at our Group Dinner.

L. CHRISTIANA BOYD-HARVEY,
Group Convener

FIFE—EAST

THE WINTER programme began with a most interesting talk entitled "A Walk Round the Garden at Sweethope" by Miss A. M. Scarlett, whose varied collection of transparencies was most attractive and made the evening in St. Andrews on 6th November an enjoyable event for an audience which taxed the capacity of our meeting-room. The meeting on 3rd December, held in Elmwood College, Cupar, was something entirely different, and drew an equally large audience so that we were fortunate in having such spacious accommodation at our disposal. Mr. James Aitken of Perth gave a demonstration of rock-garden construction accompanied by a running commentary which sparkled with touches of humour which brought a ready response from an eager and alert audience and ensured a really enjoyable as well as instructive evening.

The January meeting in St. Andrews again filled our room to capacity and it will long last in the minds of all who were present. Dr. D. M. Morison spoke on "Plant-hunting in Sutherland," illustrated with his own beautiful transparencies which have thrilled so many Club members and others. His slides and absorbing lecture held the fixed attention of his audience and brought on him at the end a shoal of questions and thanks. It seemed as if his whole audience had some close connection with the ground he covered in his lecture, and one remark to me the following day was to the effect that he had made plain a geological point which had puzzled this hearer for twenty years or more.

February 11th saw us back in Elmwood, Cupar, again with Mrs. Tweedie our speaker on "Plants of Patagonia." Mrs. Tweedie's interesting and racy talk about a part of the world so little known and its plants again held the large audience present. One slide in

particular brought certain members jumping to their feet—it was of a fine catch of large trout laid out on the river bank. In response to a request by a number of members keen on rhododendrons, Mr. H. H. Davidian on Friday 5th March spoke on “Dwarf Rhododendrons for the Rock Garden.” Mr. Davidian’s love of rhododendrons and his superb lecturing ability to impart this enthusiasm to his hearers must be known to all who have heard him at any time, and his transparencies are always of the same high standard of excellence.

The “Judging Competition” evening on 8th April was its usual enjoyable success. In spite of a most erratic spring many very excellent plants were brought by members and it was not difficult to make up a goodly number of well-filled classes. The “Coffee Evening” in May again proved a great success both financially and socially.

It seems as if our greatest problem for the future, so far as St. Andrews meetings are concerned, is going to be one of accommodation; last winter’s meetings stretched our present quarters to the limit.

On Saturday 19th June, fifty members from Fife-East had the pleasure of visiting the gardens of Major-General and Mrs. Murray-Lyon and Dr. and Mrs. Stuart in Pitlochry. The General’s garden on its steep hillside contains an extensive collection of many of the rarer rock-plants, which do extraordinarily well on the steep, well-drained slope with its terraces, rock walls and screes. It is amazing that many New Zealand plants whose hardiness so far North one would regard as slightly suspect do very well indeed in a variety of positions. Once the visitors took in the lay-out of the garden they soon scattered to its four quarters with their notebooks and cameras busy and were most unwilling to be called together when the time came to move on.

After tea in Pitlochry the party went on to the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Stuart at Moulin. Here we saw quite a different type of garden being developed. Millglen garden is in the form of a long, narrow, broad-based triangular slight hollow running rather steeply down the hillside. With its delightful running stream and its cascades winding down through the garden the setting is perfect. An amazing collection of interesting plants has already been gathered together and most of them appear to be settling down happily. Here and there, however, signs of severe frost damage suggest that this garden is rather more susceptible to cold than the General’s. Even if one sees this garden at fairly regular intervals the progress obvious at each visit is very striking—another stretch cleared and planted, a part rebuilt or re-designed, many new plants added to the ever-growing collection.

Again, when the time came to leave it was hard to persuade some members that we should be making our way homewards.

We now look forward to our visit to Keillour Castle in October to see the plants there in all the beauty of their autumn colouring. Some of us who have had that pleasure know the treat in store for those who have only seen this garden in the Spring.

J. L. M., G.C.

GLASGOW

THE GLASGOW Group meetings were held in the Christian Institute, 70 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, on the first Wednesday of each month October to April. An average of 80 members being present at each meeting.

The October meeting was a most interesting and instructive talk given by Mrs. F. Slack, Bearsden. Mrs. Slack's talk—which was illustrated—was mainly on methods of propagation, and was titled "Encouragement for the Beginner." As Mrs. Slack had won a Forrest Medal at the 1964 Glasgow Show, with a plant she herself had raised from seed, beginner and expert alike were most interested in all she had to say.

The November meeting was a most entertaining and instructive talk entitled "Rhododendrons Galore" and was given by three of our Glasgow Group, Messrs. Caldwell, Boyd and MacBeth. They took us on a trip up the Western Islands of Scotland and in a most racy and amusing talk showed us some wonderful slides of various Rhododendrons.

Our December meeting was addressed by Major Alan Walmsley, who told us about collecting Spring Bulbs in the Mediterranean Region. Major Walmsley was assisted by Mrs. Walmsley and the members enjoyed a most interesting lecture on rare types of bulbs, illustrated by very fine slides.

The January meeting brought an old friend of the Glasgow meetings and Show in Dr. James Taggart, and he spoke to us on East Greenland Flora, and had some fine slides of this region.

In February we enjoyed a visit from Mr. John C. Lawson of Inshriach Nurseries, Aviemore. In his talk, amply illustrated with exceptionally good slides, Mr. Lawson told us of the various plants grown and propagated at the Nurseries and gave most useful hints to the members on how best to keep the various plants healthy and happy.

At the March meeting our Branch Chairman, Mr. David Livingstone, gave us some useful advice and help on how and what to put up for the forthcoming Show. This meeting was most helpful, particularly so to the newer members of the Club, and if the slides Mr. Livingstone showed us illustrated specimens of plants rather beyond the abilities of the majority, they showed what should be the goal of the would-be exhibitor !

At our April meeting we had a visit from Mr. Alfred Evans of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Mr. Evans talked and showed slides of the various types and species of Lilies, many of which can be seen at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

The Glasgow Branch held two outings to gardens of interest.

The first outing in May was to two gardens of members attending the Glasgow meetings. The first garden was that of Captain and Mrs. W. Collis Brown, Milngavie. This garden is most attractively laid out and Captain and Mrs. Brown successfully grow a wide range of Alpines and Primulas, etc. The second garden was that of Mrs. M. S. Lunn, Drymen. This garden is a new one set in most beautiful countryside, and the members had great enjoyment in visiting it, and marvelling at the amount Mrs. Lunn had achieved in so short a space of time.

The second outing was to two gardens in Perthshire. The first was that of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Renton, Branklyn, Perth, and here members spent a most enjoyable time. Those who had visited this garden before voted it "more wonderful than ever." The second visit was to Glendoick, Perthshire, where members were taken round by Mr. Cox. Here, too, the party were enthralled by what they saw and the only regret was that the visit was too short.

To those who opened their gardens to our members and friends from the West and to those who gave of their time and talents in coming and speaking at our meetings we give our warmest thanks.

NORTH PERTHSHIRE

A WINTER session of four meetings was held in Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry.

Our first meeting in November was an illustrated talk by J. Aitken, Esq., on "Native Plants in the Highlands." It was a pleasure to listen to Mr. Aitken's talk, as he knows the Highlands so well, and his beautiful slides of plants and mountain scenery appealed to all.

The usual "Members' Transparency Night" in December was a great success. More members showed slides for the first time and we

hope they will bring more to show this coming winter.

In March D. Livingstone, Esq., gave a talk on "Primulas." Hints on the cultivation of the different groups was most informative.

H. Esslemont, Esq., gave a talk entitled "Temples and Flowers" at our April meeting. After seeing some lovely transparencies, Mr. Esslemont then showed us his alpine house and frames with his collection of rare plants. Slides showed his method of giving these plants the conditions required to thrive and flower. At this meeting Major-General Murray-Lyon gave an invitation to members present to visit Ardcuil the following week. Usually garden visits are in summer and one does not get a chance to see the early Spring show. The afternoon was fine and many of us enjoyed seeing this garden. Petiolarid primulas were still blooming. *Orphanidesia gaultherioides* was just shedding its lovely pink flowers, this plant growing on a shady bank with Shortias and Schizocodons for companions was a lovely sight. Spring bulbs were at their best, and so much more. More plant talk was exchanged as we enjoyed Mrs. Murray-Lyon's hospitality.

On 8th June we joined with South Perthshire Group on an evening visit to Keillour Castle. No matter when one visits Keillour there is much to see. On this warm June evening Meconopsis, *Nomocharis* were happy in semi shade. Tree paeonias were superb. A lovely sight was *Embothrium coccineum* in full bloom lit up by the evening sun. I meant to ask if this was the Norquincio Valley form, but it takes a long time to think about all the treasures to be seen at Keillour Castle. We all enjoyed Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay's excellent coffee before leaving for home.

Programme 1965-66 — Meetings will be held on the following dates in Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry, at 7.30 p.m. :—

Monday 25th October ; Monday 13th December ; Monday 14th March.

M. R. STUART

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

ON TUESDAY 23rd March, Major Alan Walmsley, M.C., gave a talk "In Search of Spring Bulbs in the Mediterranean Region." This most interesting lecture was well attended. Mrs. Walmsley showed a large number of slides and, among them, dwarf narcissi were well represented.

On Tuesday 4th May, over fifty members visited the garden of Colonel G. A. Barnett at Glen Aln and then the gardens at Howick

Hall, where they were shown round by Lady Howick. The members were very interested to see the alterations that Colonel Barnett had made to the gardens and to hear of his plans for extending the garden in the future. The gardens at Howick were lovely as always, the woodland garden particularly appealing to the members.

On Tuesday 25th May, three gardens at Edinburgh were visited—Hannahfield Quarry House, Balerno, the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Maule, where the numerous fine plants on Mrs. Maule's rock garden were the focal point of interest. A large plant of *Euryops evansii* in full bloom remains in the memory. The second garden visited was that of Dr. Duncan M. Morison at White Lodge, Barnton Avenue. Here the layout of the garden and lovely view were greatly admired. There were many fine rhododendrons and azaleas and Dr. Morison had landscaped the rock garden very skilfully by making a flat site undulating and making a small pond. The last garden was the new garden of Dr. and Mrs. Simson Hall at Marwood, Whitehouse Road. Here Dr. and Mrs. Hall had put in a great deal of work in a very short time and had made the most of the land available so that it seemed an extensive garden. There was a very varied selection of plants, among them some fine meconopsis. Mrs. Hall very kindly gave the members tea.

On Wednesday 9th June, about forty members visited the lovely Coquet Valley in perfect weather. A picnic lunch was taken in the garden at The Wilderness, Harbottle, the home of Dr. and Mrs. B. Richardson. The setting was all that could be desired and Mrs. Richardson's numerous fine plants were carefully inspected. Her dwarf rhododendrons and all peat lovers were in fine condition as befitted plants growing almost on the moors. The party then passed on to Burradon to see Miss M. Forster's shrubs in a woodland setting and with a very fine view. It was a little early for the shrub roses, though many beautiful ones were coming into bloom and there were many hybrid rhododendrons. Finally, the party ended a perfect day at Low Trewhitt, the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. H. Chrisp. Again it was just a little early for Mrs. Chrisp's roses, but she made up for this by entertaining the members to tea.

On Monday 28th June, over thirty members visited the garden at Bughtrig, Leitholm, the home of Lady Ramsay. Lady Ramsay showed the members her many fine old shrub roses which are her favourite plants, but *Clematis* "Nellie Moser", with the largest flowers ever seen, a fine magnolia, *Carpenteria californica* and many other shrubs

were the admiration of everyone. The members then went to the Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, where they were welcomed and shown round by the Misses Logan-Home and Mr. A. Duguid. As always, there were quantities of interesting alpine plants to be seen—meconopsis, primulas, irises and brooms in the wild garden, and a great selection of rock plants in the troughs. The artificial stone troughs that had been made by Mr. Duguid were a great point of interest. These were indistinguishable from stone and some were of enormous size. Shrubs that caught attention were the well-known *Cytisus* "Moonlight" and the new and unusual *Potentilla* "Tangerine."

The local Annual General Meeting was held at Wooler on Tuesday 6th July.

Twenty-one members stayed at Lochgair on Loch Fyne from the 16th to the 20th May to visit rhododendron gardens which they had been unable to include in the visit in 1964. Six gardens were seen and these included the Isle of Gigha. The weather was better than the previous year and the visit was most successful.

Arrangements are being made for four lectures for the winter season :—

Tuesday 12th October : Mr. Stewart Mitchell on " Plant Pictures in the Alps."

Tuesday 9th November : Mr. G. D. Smith, N.D.H., Director of Harlow Car Gardens, Harrogate, on "Lautaret and Mont Cenis."

Also Mr. J. K. Hulme, N.D.H., Director of the Liverpool University Botanic Gardens at Ness.

There will be a large effort to raise money by a plant sale, etc., probably in late September, and also another social afternoon and show of members' slides.

The Group Convener has tendered her resignation to Dr. Davidson and he has been pleased to appoint Mrs. J. Brunskill to take her place in March 1966.

D. C. PAPE,
Group Convener

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