

The Journal OF The Scottish Rock Garden Club

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



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The Journal

OF

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Editor's Notes

THE REMARK made in the Spring *Journal* that the hard weather of last winter and early Spring would probably adversely affect our Shows has been proved only too true. With one exception all our Shows have shown deficits—some much larger than others. Several of the areas concerned organise local efforts to raise funds and so help minimise the losses incurred by these Shows, but not all do this. These constantly recurring losses, in many cases running well into double figures, are a matter of continual concern for the Club as a whole. No Show is supported to any noteworthy extent by the general public ; our Shows are primarily Club affairs.

For many members their nearest local Show is probably the only one at which they can compete or which they can visit easily, and it would be a great pity if finance problems had to cause the abandonment of any of our Shows. Conversely some of these Shows are chiefly the concern of their own particular area and are well out of reach of the majority of Club members generally. Unless some means of cutting losses can be devised it may become necessary to revert to only the two principal Shows as in the Club's early days, or to them and any Show which can give reasonable assurance of involving the Club in no large deficit.

We wish to commend to the notice of members a very thoughtful and thought provoking article—"Why Exhibit?"—by "D. J." (see page 142). Written by a member greatly respected for her skill in growing difficult plants and bringing them to our Shows in a high state of perfection, she offers encouraging advice to all members whether beginners or 'old hands'. If even a fair proportion of members would only take her words to heart it could bring new life to both our Club and our Shows.

Those people who allow themselves to become really keenly interested in any particular hobby or pastime, very soon realise, if they did not realise when they first allowed themselves to become enamoured with a particular hobby, that if they are to get full satisfaction out of it they must make some attempt to keep abreast of the times as much as possible and up to date with developments in that particular line. This would seem to apply no matter what the subject may be—whether it be stamp collecting, ski-ing, handwork in the home, gardening, etc. That this is well-known is evident by the flood of gadgets and new introductions constantly advertised in the press and on television.

Rock gardening is no exception. For very many years now what came to be regarded as the chief source of new plants in modern times has been largely inaccessible to plant collectors (S.E. Asia). However, a steady flow of introductions still comes in from other parts of the world. New plants usually mean the learning of new methods of treatment before these newcomers will settle down happily in our gardens and alpine houses.

As new plants in their early days are usually in short supply as either plants or seeds, the majority of us cannot afford to go in for them without having first tried to learn at least something of their probable requirements and suggested treatment. This is where we have good cause to be grateful to those enthusiasts always keen to try out the newcomers or the problem plants and to pass on to us reports of their successes and failures and the methods of cultivation tried, so that we are able to learn from their experiences and in due course venture to have a go ourselves with some fair hope of success.

Not all new gardening books are good books. As with other subjects there are always those ready to turn any new development, or a revival of interest in an old one, to their own advantage, and in the field of books there are many which are churned out by writers whose knowledge of their subject is either very meagre or quite often obviously acquired at second hand.

This makes it all the more a matter for satisfaction than in the world of plants and gardening a number of excellent books have either been published recently or about to be published shortly. Those reviewed in later pages of this *Journal* are each worthwhile publications in their own particular way.

It is especially gratifying that we should have two new publications on conifers just released. Apart from the A.G.S. and S.R.G.C. booklet of Mr. Hillier's revision of Hornibrook's "Dwarf and Slow growing Conifers", there has been nothing on this subject for many years. One of these new books is on conifers as a whole including forest trees of cool and temperate countries and the other on purely dwarf conifers. Both books are the work of authors who know their subject and are very well worthy of a place on the bookshelf, but for rock-gardeners Mr. Welch's "Dwarf Conifers" will most certainly be the more useful; it is without doubt the most accurate and up-to-date—and exhaustive—book we have on the subject so far.

After a general introduction in which Mr. Welch explains the various reasons for and purposes of his book, he goes on to give an

extremely useful chapter entitled "The Uses of Dwarf Conifers". This chapter most capably fulfils the promise of its title by giving a series of suggestions and sound advice on siting, either individually or in groups and in a variety of situations. These ideas are very fully further explained by many excellent photographs of mature specimens established in the various situations mentioned. Like the previous chapter, "Cultivation Requirements", it is what it sets out to be, stating where some shelter is necessary for certain plants, and dealing with transplanting and after-care.

Next comes that all too bewildering and sometimes almost depressing topic—nomenclature—in which a difficult subject is ably tackled with a fine spice of humour that does much to lighten the load of concentration one must apply to this very vexing problem. The identification and naming is made much easier by 20 ingenious 'identification plates' each of which shows upwards to a dozen photographed sprays of conifer forms on a background of ruled centimetre squares; this fine idea shows at once the scale of the leaves, etc., of the different forms in relation to one another. After these plates with their accompanying descriptive details there follow over 200 pages of description of dwarf conifers in alphabetical order. Dwarf Conifer enthusiasts will find this book the answer to most of their problems; page 35 alone should almost make it a "best-seller".

The April *Journal* contained the announcement of a 'Photographic Competition' to be conducted in the Club this year. In later pages of this issue will be found the names of the winners of this competition, their winning entries, and comments on them by the judges. We feel that the competition, with entries reaching into double figures, has got off to a very good start, and the fact that the first three winners came from three different countries gave the competition quite an international flavour. The donor of the prizes wishes to be anonymous, but we put on record the Club's grateful thanks to him, as we do also to the judges who so willingly made their professional knowledge available. There are many able photographers in the Club whom we hope will take part next year.

St. Andrews, *August* 1966.

NOTICES

Club Christmas Cards

THE CLUB Christmas Cards this year are copies of the four colour plates (figs. 2, 3, 4 and 5) in the April *Journal* (No. 38). They will be supplied in lots of NOT LESS THAN ONE DOZEN, either all of one kind or mixed, as desired. It will be sufficient to give figure numbers when ordering, which should be as soon as possible to the Honorary Treasurer: DAVID ELDER, Dalmarra, Carslogie Road, Cupar, Fife, 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.

Slide Library

A TAPE-RECORDED LECTURE, with 64 colour slides from the Library, is now available: "Early and Late Flowers for the Rock Garden", by Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon, D.S.O., M.C., S.H.M. Time: 45 minutes. (5 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. tape; 2 track; speed: 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. per sec.). Charge for hire: 7/6 plus return postage.

Discussion Weekend 1966

THE MARINE HOTEL, NORTH BERWICK

MEMBERS are reminded of the Discussion Weekend and Late Autumn Show to be held in The Marine Hotel, North Berwick, on Saturday and Sunday, 1st and 2nd October 1966.

Full particulars of Weekend and Show appeared on pp. 10-13 of this year's April *Journal*. Applicants for accommodation should remember to state that they are members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

Seed Exchange 1966-67

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.

Subscriptions

SUBSCRIPTIONS were due on 15th January. If you have not already paid yours, the Subscription Secretary would be glad if you would do so now. Last year he had to send out nearly 600 reminders. This involves much work and costs the Club a lot of money, both of which could be more profitably utilised otherwise.

The Subscription Secretary is Mr. R. H. D. ORR, C.A., 30 Alva Street, Edinburgh, 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.

Photographic Competition

1st Prize-winner : Miss D. Holford, The Grange, Chethole, Sherborne, Dorset. “*Primula marginata*” (fig. 33).

2nd Prize-winner : Robert J. Mitchell, 3 St. Gregory’s, St. Andrews. “*Primula whitei*” (fig. 34).

3rd Prize-winner : Brian O. Mulligan, University of Washington Arboretum, Seattle, Wash. “*Penstemon davidsonii* var. *menziesii*” (fig. 35).

Comments :

Miss Holford is a worthy winner of the £3 prize voucher. Like her top award, her other two contributions are of impeccable photographic quality. The time of day chosen for exposure on the *Primula marginata* yielded optimum tonal range and texture.

Mr. Mitchell’s bid, though lacking the luscious sparkle of the 1st prize-winning picture has, nevertheless, captured the quality of his subject admirably, and this notwithstanding the fact that he had to print from his colour transparency into monochrome—often a kittle undertaking. Indeed, this transition may have accounted for the slight loss of contrast.

The three pictures from Mr. Mulligan might all have been eligible for award, but one fact had firmly to be kept in mind—reproduction possibilities. On that score two of them would have printed indifferently, which would have done less than justice to the author. But the range of contrasts in *Penstemon davidsonii* should hold up satisfactorily through to the printed page.

Miss D. HOLFORD, The Grange, Chethole, Sherborne, Dorset.

Camera : Agfa Super Silette. F.11, 1/60. Existing daylight.

Distance : Approximately 16-18 inches.

Subject : *Primula marginata*—Primulaceae.

A native of the Maritime and Cottian Alps. This photograph was taken in nature in the Maritimes. Flowers varying through many shades of lavender. Leaves serrated and heavily powdered with farina. Does very well in the rock garden.

This photograph is my property, taken by me in the pursuit of my hobby as an amateur photographer.

DENISE M. P. HOLFORD

ROBERT J. MITCHELL, 3 St. Gregory's, St. Andrews.

Camera : Edixa Reflex with macrokilar lens.

Exposure : 1/10th sec. f.8 on Kodachrome II colour film.

Distance : 8 inches.

Primula whitei is a native of Bhutan and S.E. Tibet. This delightful primula is a must for the peat garden and is best grown on a wall where the winter rains cause no harm to the unfolding buds. The flowers are clear blue with a greenish yellow eye, and the leaves forming a rosette are covered with farina. Flowering time is March/April.

This photograph is my property, taken by me as an amateur photographer in pursuit of my hobby.

ROBERT J. MITCHELL

BRIAN O. MULLIGAN, University of Washington Arboretum, Seattle, Washington 98105, U.S.A.

Camera : Rolleiflex, 4 × 4, (F.11, 1/60th), cloudy.

Subject : *Penstemon davidsonii* var. *menziesii* on rocks above Little Wenatchee river road, Chelan Co., Washington, U.S.A. Altitude 2500 ft. June 6, 1964.

Flowers lilac-purple, about two inches long. Requires a very well-drained, sunny position in gravelly soil, and even then may not flower regularly in cultivation around Seattle. Easily propagated by seeds, or by cuttings in summer.

This photograph is my property, taken by me as an amateur photographer in pursuit of my hobby.

B. O. MULLIGAN

Obituaries

SQUADRON-LEADER J. J. BOYD-HARVEY

WE ALL mourn the death of our late Honorary Secretary, John Boyd-Harvey, who died on the 21st April 1966. He had been Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Rock Garden Club for fifteen years, having been appointed on the 21st February 1951, during the Presidency of Major Alan Walmsley and just before the Second International Rock Garden Plant Conference.

In his early years he joined the Welch Horse and saw service in Gallipoli during the 1914-18 War. Seconded to the Royal Flying Corps, he later went to Egypt. He was always proud of having been a Royal Flying Corps pilot. During 1939 he returned to the Administrative and Special Duties Branch of the Royal Air Force as Squadron Adjutant and again served in Egypt and in Malta. Invalided home, he continued with the Royal Air Force at East Fortune, East Lothian, until his retirement with the rank of Squadron Leader.

From the time of his appointment as Honorary Secretary he served our Club well and gave of his best. We appreciate all that he did for us. A familiar figure to everyone at our meetings and Shows, he was a man of quiet unassuming character who will be sadly missed. With a legal type of mind, he frequently offered sound judgement on debatable points. If a ruling was proposed which was not strictly constitutional the proposer was quickly brought to heel!

Nothing appeared to be of too much trouble during his long term of office as Honorary Secretary. Latterly signs of failing health began to be apparent and on the 17th March 1966 we were informed of his intention to retire. His death occurred after a brief acute illness. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Boyd-Harvey.

J. D.

MR. R. J. C. BIGGART

IT WAS with great sorrow his many friends heard of the passing of Mr. R. J. C. Biggart, Melvaig, Kilmacolm. Although in poor health for a period, it had been hoped that his recovery would be complete and he would have been spared for many years to come.

Always quiet and unassuming in his manner, Mr. Biggart had for many years been connected with the Glasgow Show Committee, latterly acting as Show Secretary, and his genial manner made him a delight to work with.

Mr. Biggart was a man of wide interests. In addition to running a successful engineering works he was of course greatly interested in all things horticultural and his garden was a delight to visit. He was keenly interested in Church affairs and had also served as a district councillor in local government. Such a man of so many differing gifts will be hard to replace, and his friends will long regret the passing of a man who was so unvaryingly helpful, kindly, and at all times prepared to do his utmost for our Club.

MRS. C. M. CREWDSON

MRS. C. M. CREWDSON, Helme Lodge, Kendal, Westmorland, and wife of Colonel W. D. Crewdson, died on the 24th June last. She was aged 83, and for years she had suffered from arthritis, but this did not stop her interest and enthusiasm for gardening. She must have been among the earliest members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and in No. 2 of the *Journal* there is her first article on "Rock Garden Plants". Also, she may have been the first local secretary to be appointed outside of Scotland, and she must have held this position for about 20 years.

She had a large rock garden surrounded by fine old trees, among which the cut-leaved beech was an attractive feature. In addition to these she had planted a number of flowering trees and shrubs. Among them was the snowdrop tree (*Halesia carolina*), and this year it was a lovely sight covered with its snow-white flowers in early June, and last summer was not a warm one. Perhaps one might say she had a special liking for *Meconopsis* and *Primulas*. Early in the 1930's it was *M. bella* and *M. delavayi* from George Forrest's seed which had her special enthusiasm. Later it was *M. grandis* and *M. betonicifolia* and their hybrids which flowered magnificently in lime-free beds in her rock garden. She raised a white-flowered hybrid between these two, which while not as free-flowering as Miss Dickson's, was very nice. Of *Primulas* she grew some of the difficult ones very well and flowered *P. cusickiana*. *P. sheriffae* was a special favourite of hers, but she had to grow it in an alpine house, of which she had two, one more especially devoted to seed raising. Also she had a large number of troughs, some of which were very effective, placed at intervals along the top of a low terrace wall.

She often showed plants at the Edinburgh and Dumfries Shows, especially in the older days, but at the Dumfries Show in 1964 she

got an A.M. for *Saxifraga andersonii*, an uncommon species. If any of her garden friends were ill she was especially good in writing to them telling them of the plants she had in bloom and sending them samples without expecting more than an occasional reply now and then.

R. B. COOKE

Lt.-Colonel J. C. DUNDAS, D.S.O., D.L., of Ochtertyre

THE CLUB has lost one of its oldest members in James Colin Dundas, who was a very early member of the Club and also of the Alpine Garden Society. Of recent years increasingly severe deafness and failing health led him to withdraw largely from taking an active part in the affairs of the Club, but previously he had been in very constant touch. He was a regular exhibitor and served on the Council for many years, ending up as President from 1951 to 1955.

There was one rather curious aspect of Colonel Dundas's activities in the Club, for just after the War he was a firm supporter of the idea that the Club should be merged with the A.G.S. This was most violently opposed by many of us on the Club Committee, as it was then, and, like the wise and level-headed man he was, he immediately dropped the idea and thereafter worked most strenuously for a closer rapprochement between the two organisations. This coincided with a very considerable change of heart among "the powers that be" in the A.G.S. and, together with the Colonel's personal friendship with the late Sir David Bowes-Lyon, led to a very close and friendly relationship between the R.H.S., the A.G.S. and ourselves, with the consequent reorganisation of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee to include the S.R.G.C. and a much more harmonious atmosphere at the 1961 International Conference as compared with that of 1951. All this we owe to our old friend.

He was uniformly helpful and kind to the writer and during his tenure of the Presidential Chair I was privileged to help him as best I could and it was a most valuable experience when I succeeded him later after the death of the late David Wilkie. Many of the newer members of the Club may not know that he introduced and grew a number of good plants and that he was, at his peak, one of our most experienced and skilful growers. Apart from that, he was always available for advice and opinions as an "elder statesman" and he helped us to solve many of our problems by his wise and kindly judgements. We have lost a very fine and good man—the finest type of the old "Highland Gentleman"—and there are few of his like left.

HENRY TOD

Rock Garden Plants illustrated on Postage Stamps

(FIGS. 36 and 37)

By S. ARMSTRONG

EVERYONE has an interest in postage stamps even although for the majority this interest seldom goes beyond the payment for postal services. In recent years even the most casual observer must have noticed the trend towards stamps with pictorial scenes as opposed to the more traditional designs of former years. Naturally, postal authorities realise that well designed and artistically produced stamps are a form of advertisement, in addition to providing revenue.

Apart from specialising in one country or group of countries many philatelists make a thematic collection. The theme, or topic, may be anything you care to choose or have an interest in ; there are sure to be postage stamps to represent it.

It ought to be mentioned, however, that modern techniques in printing and producing have so greatly improved that stamps are much more attractive. In many cases the reproductions are almost perfect, frequently an expert on the subject being consulted. To appreciate this, plant lovers need look no further than the beautiful Orchid set issued by Venezuela in 1963, or the Polish flower set of 1964.

Collecting stamps portraying floral subjects is an attractive branch of the hobby for many enthusiasts. Even this subject, however, is rapidly becoming so vast and expensive that some devotees confine themselves to one aspect of it. This may mean collecting one family like Orchidaceae, or plants found in certain environments, such as aquatics.

The object of this article then could well be to stimulate readers into making such a collection, and although there are not so many true alpine plants shown on stamps, there are plenty of flower subjects suitable for rock garden culture.

So popular and well known is *Leontopodium alpinum* that it is featured on many European postage stamps. The plant is a true alpine perennial and a native of the high sloping pastures on many of the great continental mountain ranges. It owes its popularity to the whorl of hoary leaves which arise starlike below the small flower heads. In some localities these are sold in small bouquets known as "Edelweiss". Probably the best reproduction of the plant is to be

found on the 1s40g value of the flower set issued by Austria in 1948. Other countries illustrating this subject include Poland, Andorra, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Bulgaria.

When the New Zealand authorities produced the lovely flower stamps in 1960 as part of a definitive issue, the subjects chosen were all representative native plants, but unfortunately none were of an alpine nature. However, in 1962 this was rectified when a new value, 5 pence, was added and the plant chosen was *Celmisia coriacea*, one of the New Zealand daisies. A member of a large and diverse genus, this species is hardy and, although not easy of cultivation, is often seen in our rock gardens. The stamp is tastefully produced, with the purple background effectively showing in detail the flower and foliage colour. While congratulating the postal administrators on the quality of this issue, it is to be hoped that a country with such a wealth of unique alpine flora will, in the future, consider presenting more of these plants on its postage stamps.

The thistle-like flowers of *Carlina acaulis*, a hardy dwarf perennial, are surrounded by a rosette of deeply lobed acanthus-like leaves. "Acaulis" means stemless, and in nature the flowers are close to the ground, but when grown in the richer soils of our gardens a stalk is invariably produced. This European plant is commonly known as either "Silver Thistle", a reference to the foliage, or "Fair Weather Thistle", because the flowers close during rain. The Polish issue of 1957 shows this plant on the 60 groszy value, but a better reproduction may be seen on the 5 pfenning commemorative of East Germany released in 1957, although unfortunately not in colour.

Many bulbous plants are valuable as rock garden subjects and particularly desirable are those which provide colour during the early part of the year or in the Autumn. Although *Colchicum* foliage is coarse and untidy, it appears after the beautiful crocus-like flowers which provide such a fine display in the Autumn sunshine. On the 20 kopek value of the Russian set issued in 1960, *Colchicum speciosum* is handsomely illustrated, while *Colchicum autumnale*, complete with corm, is shown on the 20 dinar value released in Yugoslavia in 1957. Flower stamps issued by the Hungarian authorities in 1958 have, on the 60 filler, an illustration of the small *Colchicum arenarium*, a plant which is dainty enough to be considered among the choicest of alpinists. *Colchicum* is derived from Colchis, a swampy area in West Georgia near the Black Sea. All are poisonous and yield the drug Colchicine, while the leaves are highly dangerous to cattle.

Members of the genus *Crocus*, which are either Spring or Autumn flowering, are also widely grown in our rock gardens. The number of postage stamps depicting these plants is small in relation to the number of species and to their popularity. In 1948 Austria showed *Crocus aureus* on the 30 groschen, and Switzerland *Crocus vernus* on the 30 centimes in 1945. There are others including Luxembourg and Czechoslovakia, but the two detailed are very well produced and illustrate the subject admirably.

Russia has produced more postage stamps than any other country and although few are of a floral design, those so far issued in this vein are of a high quality. Two such stamps, part of a flower set released in 1960, show *Tulipa kaufmanniana* on the 20 kopecks and *Tulipa greigii* on the 40 kopecks. Both these are natives of Central Asia and are perfectly hardy for rock garden planting. Some other countries to use the Tulip as a stamp design are Hungary, San Marino, Netherlands and Bulgaria.

The number of countries which have issued stamps illustrating "Lily of the Valley", *Convallaria majalis*, shows what a favourite it is and to some extent indicates its wide distribution. As many as seven European states, from Finland in the north to Yugoslavia in the south, have used it. Probably the best reproductions, however, are to be found on the 1951 flower issue from Hungary and the 1961 Pro Juventute set issued by Switzerland. This monotypic genus, with creeping rootstock, appreciates a shady situation and damp conditions.

Numerous Primroses have been used pictorially on stamps and although by no means all are alpine, the majority are welcome as colourful rock garden plants. *Primula auricula*, however, is an alpine and is beautifully shown on the 20 centimes 1947 Pro Juventute issue of Switzerland and also on the 40 haleru value of Czechoslovakia in 1960. Hybridists have produced many curiosities completely different from this yellow cliff dweller and there is no doubt that it crosses naturally with other species. In 1961 the Roumanian authorities aptly produced a set of flowers to commemorate the centenary of the Bucharest Botanical Gardens and the 10 bani denomination showed *Primula minima*, a charming alpine from the mountains of Southern Europe. "Minima" means very small and at one time this was the smallest member of the genus. *Primula vulgaris*, the "Common Primrose" known to nearly everyone, is portrayed on the 40 groschen value of the 1948 Austrian release and, like the other illustrations in this issue, it is a first class reproduction. This is a very different plant

from the previous two, preferring less elevated situations and rather more moisture at the roots.

Among the more compact alpiners are the *Sempervivums*, a number of which are quite hardy. These fleshy-leaved plants are happiest when grown in rocky situations and fully exposed to the sun. Beautifully figured on the 60 haléru value of Czechoslovakia released in 1960, is *Sempervivum montanum*, the "Mountain Houseleek". Considering the appeal and charm of these plants, it is surprising to find that, up until 1960, the only other country to use *Sempervivum* as a stamp design was Switzerland on the Pro Juventute series of 1946.

It is indeed remarkable that a plant so well known and widespread, in the colder half of the northern hemisphere, as *Dryas octopetala*, should be found only on the 50 aur stamp released by Iceland in 1964. Fortunately this is an excellent reproduction, being finely printed in Switzerland. Commonly known as the "Mountain Avens", this little prostrate evergreen has been adopted as the emblem of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, while it is also the clan badge of the Lamonds and the Macneills.

There are many varieties of the "Sweet Violet" *Viola odorata*, which are worthy of a place in the rock garden. Few, if any, of these varieties are shown on postage stamps, but the species itself is beautifully portrayed on the 10 groschen issued by Austria in 1948. During 1958 Iceland, on the 2.50 krona value, released a stamp showing *Viola tricolor*, the "Heartsease" or "Wild Pansy". This short-lived perennial, a parent of the garden pansy, is not so frequently seen in our gardens, although often appearing as a weed; it is nevertheless a useful rockery plant.

The *Campanulas* are a charming and extensive genus containing both species and hybrids well suited and worthy of rock garden culture. Not only is the genus poorly represented on stamps, but the entire family has been surprisingly neglected in this respect. Up until 1960 only three members had appeared on postage labels, one of them being *Campanula carpatica*, issued by Hungary in 1950. During the last few years some additions have been made, including the "Scottish Bluebell", *Campanula rotundifolia*, released by Iceland in 1960 and featured on the 50 aur denomination. The specific name, *rotundifolia*, seems inappropriate to the narrow stem leaves, but the early basal leaves are quite rounded and are usually withered away before the flowers appear.

In contrast to the previous family the *Gentians* are well represented on the stamps of many countries. The majority of these beautiful and

free-flowering plants are considered to be choice alpine subjects. The small Himalayan state of Bhutan first issued postage labels in 1962, and three years later released a very fine flower set which included on the 5 and 33 chetrum values an excellent illustration of *Gentiana sino-ornata*. This plant, a native of Western China, is undoubtedly the finest autumn flowering member of the genus and is deemed by many to be the best introduction by the late George Forrest. Over the past few years the number of British commemorative stamp issues have considerably increased. While this policy has its critics, it was, nevertheless, responsible for the issue in 1964 of four flower values to commemorate the 10th International Botanical Congress held in Edinburgh. The ordinary letter rate at that time was threepence and on this value was shown *Gentiana verna*, the "Spring Gentian". This plant is often referred to as the "Sapphire of the Rock Garden", so intense is the blue of the flowers. *Gentiana acaulis* is a well known garden plant and ranks highly in a genus of great beauty. The flower is large and may be seen on the 55 bani stamp issued by Roumania in 1961. Closely related to *G. acaulis*, but with discernible differences, is *Gentiana clusii*, which is well illustrated on the flower issues of Czechoslovakia and Poland released during 1960 and 1962 respectively.

The Pulsatillas are a genus of plants closely related to and often grouped with the Anemones. The "Pasque Flower", *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, is shown on the 1.50 zloty stamp issued by Poland in 1962, while the Hungarian postal authorities, in 1950, printed a fine set of flowers, including on the 40 filler the white form of this plant. The common name refers to Easter, as it is around this time that the plant is normally in bloom. The 1948 Austrian release, so often referred to in these notes, shows on the 45 groschen an excellent illustration of *Pulsatilla vernalis*. Popularly known as the "Lady of the Snows", this is a true alpine and the earliest of the genus to flower. Canada has never been noted for flower stamp designs, in fact, few if any can be found among the past issues. Over the last few years, however, a series showing the provincial floral emblems has been released at intervals. One of these 5 cent values, *Pulsatilla patens* var. *nuttalliana*, the "Prairie Crocus", is the floral symbol of Manitoba. This is a plant with a wide distribution, both in North America and Siberia, and is abundant in the Rocky Mountains. In this country it is usually grown as an alpine and is sometimes known as *Pulsatilla hirsutissima*.

Postal authorities throughout the world are very well aware of the importance of stamps as instruments of publicity, policy and propa-

ganda, not to mention revenue. Undoubtedly, then, in the years ahead there is every assurance of more additions to the philatelic flower garden ; and may some of those be subjects for the alpine enthusiast.

Rhododendrons for the Small Garden

By PHYLLIS WARREN

BY SUBURBAN standards our garden of just under half-an-acre is quite a large one, but by the standards of most rhododendron enthusiasts (in New Zealand as elsewhere) it is a very small one indeed. However, we manage to grow a fairly wide selection of rhododendron species and hybrids ranging from the tiny prostrate *R. radicans* to large plants of the old hybrids *R. x 'Alice'* and *R. 'Cornubia'*, now 12 ft. high.

But it is the smaller growers which are of more interest to rock gardeners. To confine myself to rhododendrons which are strictly suitable for the rock garden would impose too great a limit, but where the rock garden proper adjoins a small wooded slope where birches, maples and flowering cherries provide some light shade, as in my own garden, it allows for a fairly wide choice.

The largest rhododendron to grow in the rock garden, in almost full sun, is *R. 'Unique'*, a handsome plant at all times, and a lovely picture in Spring when laden with its large trusses of soft creamy flowers. Many rhododendrons—and 'Unique' is among them—seem to flower better in Dunedin in full sun rather than in shaded places, always providing that soil conditions are right, and that watering and mulching during the warmer months are not neglected.

Another rhododendron which can be grown towards the back of the rock garden is *R. ciliatum*. This species was one of seven rhododendrons already in this garden when we came (though there were then no rock gardens). With one exception all the others were old hybrids—*Rr. 'Britannia'*, 'Mother of Pearl' and 'Fragrantissimum', as well as the two mentioned above. These have made fine splashes of colour with great regularity, but it is the newer hybrids and small species which I find far more interesting. The exception is a splendid little plant of *R. racemosum*, which I think may be Forrest's dwarf form, since it was a mature plant about 12 ins. high when we came here, and is now, fourteen years later, only an inch or two taller, though a little thicker through and considerably more compact in growth. The flowers, tiny trusses of soft pink, small as they are, cover the plant completely every year. This lovely little species also grows

in the rock garden in full sun, having been moved from the foot of an old flowering cherry where it was starved and dry. The amount of seed set by this small plant astonishes me afresh each year ; it is a long and painstaking job to remove the seedheads, which I do with a pair of nail scissors. But the necessity for this care cannot be too strongly emphasised if one wants the rhododendrons to bloom to their full capacity every year.

Now that we have about one hundred and fifty rhododendrons (of which all but a dozen or so have reached flowering stage) this is a major task. On the big old plants it can take two or three hours and the use of a ladder—a rather tedious job admittedly, but a not unpleasant one for a summer evening. In Dunedin we have the long twilight as you do in most of Scotland—though not quite as long. We think it well worth the trouble to perform this service for all our rhododendrons, both big and small. There are differences of opinion on this subject, and I was therefore most interested when in England in 1960 to hear Mr. T. H. Findlay, lecturing on the Savill Gardens, state that two girls were employed throughout the year at Savill to do nothing else but dead-head the rhododendrons. Perhaps it is not always possible for the owners of large rhododendron gardens to have such labour at their disposal, nor for those with smaller gardens to find the time, but there is no doubt that results justify the effort if it can be made.

R. ciliatum was for some years the earliest rhododendron to flower here. In Dunedin this species often fails to outlive its youth, but in time, if it survives the early years, it will form a spreading bush about four feet high and wider than tall. Our old plant, probably by now thirty years old, seems to have reached its maximum height, but it continues to increase slowly in width and to put out healthy new shoots wherever pruned, which is done lightly, in places, from time to time to help it maintain a good shape. *R. ciliatum* is a graceful and worthwhile plant which grows here in semi-shade and blooms profusely every year. In common with all the rest it receives a thick mulch of old pine-needles every year, and a good feed of sawdust-based compost now and again. In addition all rhododendron sections of the garden have been treated liberally with locally-dug peat mixed with sharp sand.

Of recent years the honour of opening the first flower has been shared between *R.* 'Christmas Cheer' and *R. x praecox*. A good deal seems to depend on the season, as one receives a lot more summer sun than the other. Among the bigger plants a fine blush-pink *arboreum* is

next, followed soon after by *R.* 'Cornubia', a cheering sight on wintry August days against the dark background of *Cedrus deodara*. Protected from wind and afternoon sun by the cedar, *R.* 'Cornubia' associates well with dwarf rhododendron species which flower a little later, with a changing carpet of snowdrops, erythroniums, and miniature daffodils—not forgetting the enchanting beauty of *Cyclamen neapolitanum* in flower at this moment, to be followed soon by old clumps and many new seedlings of *C. coum* and *C. x atkinsii*.

There are several small rhododendrons in the *Laponicum* series which follow one another in quick succession. Except for one plant of *R. microleucum*, those I have are all in shades of mauve and blue, ranging from the rosy lavender of *R. hippophaeoides*, through the deeper tones of *Rr. intricatum* and *scintillans*, to the rich royal purple of *R. russatum*.

Neatest and perhaps most attractive of all these blue-flowered rhododendrons is *R. impeditum*, a very compact plant with tiny glaucous leaves, which after some years is still only 9 ins. high by 12 ins. across. I had great difficulty in establishing this species. New plants are very small indeed as a rule, hardly noticeable in fact; yet in a period of six years no less than four plants, in widely separated places in the garden and with varying aspects, were all killed by repeated attack by birds, perhaps in search of a grub, but most likely for some more obscure reason, or even sheer devilment. We encourage birds in the garden here, and are especially delighted when the beautiful native tui and bellbird visit us, as they do every winter, and the little grey warbler, or *riro riro*, as it is called here. But even the blackbirds, which do so much damage at certain seasons, are not altogether unwelcome. I never saw a blackbird near a plant of *R. impeditum*; I simply found the tiny new shoots, time after time, lying on the ground beside the plant, which sooner or later gave up the struggle and faded away. Only once did I find a minute grub on one of the plants which might have provided an excuse for that destructive bird. Eventually I managed to obtain an older plant, and this has established well and gone from strength to strength.

Another charming early-flowering small rhododendron is *R.* 'Cilpinense'. It flowers well here, again in full sun, but tends to grow rather leggy after a while. Cutting it back will produce the desired result of new growth both from the stems and the base, but this all takes time and one can be without bloom for two years while the plant recovers. Among the low-growing hybrids I prefer a plant known here as *R. x multiflorum*. It has been variously known at different times as

R. virgatum and *R. oleifolium* ; but whatever its correct name, it is a plant that all new growers of rhododendrons, at least those with small gardens, should start with in my opinion. For quick growth, an exciting mass of flower on even the youngest plant—relatively large trusses of the most delicate pink—*R. 'Multiflorum'* would be hard to beat. Perhaps for some tastes this lovely rhododendron is almost too lush for rock garden use, but although generally speaking I do prefer species to hybrids in the rock garden, *R. 'Multiflorum'* can be recommended as an easy and rewarding rhododendron, far more beautiful than the true *R. virgatum*, which is supposedly one of its parents.

But early-flowering rhododendrons are probably not so popular in most parts of Scotland as in Dunedin, because of the difference in climate. Here a very early-flowering habit is not considered a disadvantage, and we have quite a wide choice of low-growing rhododendrons which flower well in the open garden at this season. Superficially the climate here resembles that on the west coast of Scotland, I think, but because of special geographic features it is also very much a local climate. We have an average rainfall of about 40 ins., most of which falls as a fine misty soaking rain ; there is usually some snow in winter, but it does not lie long, and frosts are seldom severe. Summer heat is never intense, the mean monthly maximum for January-February being about 80°, but the average is a good deal lower, and in fact the "summer" can on occasions be almost non-existent. This does not apply further north in New Zealand ; even in Christchurch, only 226 miles north, a hot summer is the rule rather than the exception, and consequently rhododendrons do not generally grow there with anything like the same success.

In Dunedin rhododendron gardens there is a tremendous burst of bloom in October and November. *R. williamsianum* and *R. tephropeplum* are outstanding among the small pinks, and *R. x 'Parisienne'* is an exquisite soft yellow. Another delightful yellow, though earlier in flower, is *R. 'Chrysomanicum'*, a hybrid as its name indicates, between *R. chrysdoron* and *R. burmanicum*, but this would probably be regarded as frost-tender in most of Scotland. *R. burmanicum* itself, and *R. valentinianum*, another yellow-flowered species, are also delightful plants here, less robust than their handsome offspring, but with a delicacy of appearance (as well as constitution) so often possessed by species. These yellows, both species and hybrids, all prefer light shade during part of the day.

Among the taller growers which may be used in almost any situations are the slender, graceful *Triflorum* series. In old gardens these sometimes grow quite big, but for many years their proportions are

not unsuited to the large rock garden. We have them grouped as a background to an east-facing slope containing some of the rhododendrons already mentioned, the intention being that they will ultimately merge into a sort of informal hedge. Among them are a good form of *R. chasmanthum* with flowers of deep lavender-blue ; the Exbury pink form of *R. davidsonianum* ; *R. lutescens* with very fine copper-red foliage and a good bushy habit, in contrast to the open growth of the others. There is *R. yunnanense*, with its profusion of white butterfly flowers ; *R. exquisitum*, not yet flowered, but aptly named even for its foliage ; the Tower Court variety of *R. augustinii* ; *R. triflorum* itself, var. *mahoganii* ; and finally a very beautiful unnamed plant, obviously in the same series, which carries its lavender-pink flowers in small compact trusses. This plant creates a sensation whenever in bloom ; several people have asked for cuttings, but no-one is prepared to state what it is. The conclusion is that it must be a *Triflorum* cross.

Finally, for the shadier corners there are the rich glowing reds of the many wonderful *griersonianum* hybrids. Of these we grow *R.* 'May Day', the F.C.C. form of 'Elizabeth' (as well as var. 'Jenny'), and *R.* 'Kaka' (the 'Scarlet King' grex), a New Zealand hybrid raised by the late Edgar Stead. Striking and beautiful as all these are in flower, they are not, I think, the equal of *R. griersonianum* itself. This species is not always easy to please, but my one plant, bought eight years ago, has grown in a cool sheltered corner of the garden into an open spreading bush attractive in leaf and bud all the year round, and magnificent in flower. Apart from its floral display it has the great advantage over many of its hybrids of clean foliage. 'May Day' and 'Elizabeth' especially (but also the lovely *R.* 'Fabia') are prone to attack by some grub or caterpillar, and it seems almost impossible to prevent the leaves from being disfigured ; even flower buds are not infrequently ruined. Two other fine *griersonianum* hybrids which do not suffer in this way are *R.* 'Damozel' and *R.* 'Winsome', both with rose-pink flowers, but totally different in style and habit.

Fragrance is provided throughout the Spring by a group of three *R.* 'Princess Alice', followed by *R.* 'Countess of Sefton' and *R.* 'Fragrantissimum' ; and by the last rhododendron to flower each year—*R. maddenii* itself, always in December, and in a later season the first trusses have been known to open out on Christmas Day. Like *R. griersonianum*, *R. maddenii* with its handsome foliage is a delight throughout the year ; already, and for many weeks past, the buds have been there, plump and full of promise, though Autumn is not yet over and the whole long Winter lies ahead.

23rd April 1966.

Notes on the Fritillaries of Oregon

By L. P. CROCKER, Medford, Oregon, U.S.A.

THE MID-COAST region of the states of Oregon and California as herein described is comprised of several mountain ranges interposed with a few valleys such as those of the Rogue, Umpqua, Sacramento, and Eel. The north-south running Cascades and Coast Ranges form two boundaries while the east-west Umpquas in Oregon and Yollo-Bollys of California form the other extremes. In between is that florally rich area of the vast Klamath Mountain complex, comprised of the Marble, Trinity, and Siskiyou ranges. Numerous plant species, including many endemics, numbering perhaps around 3000 in all, are to be found in this area. The wet winters and dry summers and falls are instrumental in the development of a great zerophylic population. In part the great number of plant species may be accounted for by the conjunction of these several mountain ranges that bring together the flora of California and the Pacific Northwest ; and to the great variation of geological formations of schists, granites, limestones, and sedimentary rocks. Conditions are ideal for the growth of such Liliaceous plants as Lilies, Erythroniums, Calochortus, Brodiaeas and Fritillarias.

Fritillarias with the exception of *F. pudica* are never found in great numbers in any one locality. In fact some of them are quite rare and localized.

F. recurva is considered our most beautiful and showy species and should be included among the world's finest Fritillarias. As many as thirty of the nodding bells, scarlet checkered with yellow, have been recorded on a stem, but the usual number is from five to ten. In higher elevations and in rocky soil it may not exceed six inches in height, but three feet is not unusual in more favourable locations. *F. recurva* seems to show a fondness for heavy clay soils on well drained hill-sides where a summer baking may be assured. Partial stem shade is provided for by the brushy Chaparral of *Arctostaphylos*, *Ceanothus*, *Quercus breweri*, and the obnoxious *Rhus diversiloba*.

A newly recorded variety of *F. recurva* with darker colours and flowers that are not recurved and resembling a great deal our *Lilium bolanderi* has been given the specific name of *F. gentneri* in honour of a local botanist, Dr. Louis Gentner, who discovered it. In all other respects it is a true *F. recurva*.

F. pudica, our dainty "Yellow Bell", is a widespread species in the U.S.A., which may be found growing on grassy or rocky hillsides throughout Western America. Where it has not been destroyed by

rodents, large areas with hundreds of plants have been noted. The single nodding yellow bells are seldom over six inches in height.

At an elevation of 5000 feet or more *F. atropurpurea* may be found in the sub-alpine meadows near the receding snow line. Several chocolate-green and rather shallow open bells grow above very narrow leaves on a stem as tall as two feet. This is an attractive but rather difficult species.

Very few people have been fortunate enough to have seen lovely *F. glauca* in blossom for the reasons it is restricted to a very limited and almost inaccessible area and that deer have a fondness for the mahogany-brown flowers. A true dwarf this, the single flowers seldom being more than four inches above a stem on which about three sickle-shaped leaves grow. The most barren screes at a rather high elevation provide it a home.

On oak-covered hills and grassy glades the usually single clumps of *F. lanceolata* are found throughout the Pacific Northwest, west of the Cascades. This is an exceedingly variable species with flowers ranging in colour from green to reddish-brown, mottled with odd shades. Indeed, the leaf and flower variation may lead one to believe there are several species rather than one. In some sections the rather large flowers are somewhat open, but usually the corolla has the humpy base so typical to Fritillarias. Forms with the deeper colours are rather attractive.

An excellent species that occurs in the Southwestern section of this area is *F. purdyii*. One to seven white and purple mottled bells shaded with pink glorify this seldom seen Fritillaria. In height this may reach 14 ins.

To generalize on the successful growth of our West Coast Fritillarias as seen in their native haunts, indications are that a rather heavy, rocky and well drained soil is needed. Usually the flowers like their faces in the open and their roots shaded by a bush or rock. After flowering they should never be given water until the time of our rainy season which begins in late fall. If one has a long life expectancy, Fritillarias planted from seed may bless your later years. A little faster than seed but still a slow method of increase is from the hundreds of small bulblets or "rice roots" that most of our West Coast species bear. The two exceptions to this are *F. glauca* and *F. purdyii*, both of which have only a few large scales. Nature is kind to the Fritillarias in providing numerous seed and scales that grow so readily.

The Ash Plunge Frame

By HENRY TOD

THE ASH plunge frame is a very useful adjunct to any rock garden, and even more so to an alpine house or alpine frame. It can provide the necessary open exposure for plants in pots and, at the same time, keep them sufficiently moist so that an omission of watering does not have quite such disastrous effects as may occur with plants in pots "above ground".

The reason is, of course, that the ash itself holds quite a fair amount of moisture so that the wall of the pot does not have the same loss as it would when exposed to the air. At this point a word of warning may best be given—plants in plastic (impervious) pots do *not* behave in the same way when plunged in ash as do those in clay pots, since the clay pot sunk in ash can, and does, absorb moisture from the ash, while the only way in which the impervious pot can do so is through the drainage hole or holes—a very different matter.

Not only does the ash plunge provide a fair degree of moisture control, but those enemies the slugs do not like its rough surface. I do not say that they will not cross the ash—they most certainly do, but in much smaller numbers than in the open ground, and they can be controlled fairly readily. Next, a wire-netting cage can be constructed to sit on top of the frame which will cut down bird-damage, and the maddening habit the blackbirds have of removing any or all the tallies in the pots. The wire-netting cage allows of virtually free light and ventilation, while it does tend to reduce storm damage from severe gales and will even cut down the total snow load if the snow is falling in the absence of wind.

The ash in the frame should be at least nine inches deep for this will accommodate all but the longest of "long toms" and almost all normal-sized pots except those of very large diameter such as 12 ins. and upwards. To hold this in, a hole about six inches deep or so to the size required should be excavated in a place in the garden where the drainage is free. Inside this hole a wall of nine to ten inches height should be built to form a rectangular or square "box", and it is worth while building this really well, for the expanding force of frost when the ash freezes can well push a lightly built wall right over sideways—*experto crede!* This wall, then, will project some four or six inches above ground level and if a cage is going to be used a light wood frame should be made of about inch-square wood—a base, uprights

and a top, and it is best to put a cross-stay or two in if the length is more than four feet or thereabouts, for if snow *does* rest on top, it can be forced to carry quite a fair weight. This frame should be at least a foot high above the level of the top of the walls and of such a size that the side and end members rest evenly on the mid-line of the brickwork. The wooden frame is then covered with inch-mesh wire-netting, securely stapled to the wood on top, ends and sides. This will accommodate all but the very tallest rock plants. The cage can be lifted off with ease, as it is of light construction, or can be propped up at the side or the end for access.

When the cement of the walls is completely set, the frame can be filled to within an inch, or a couple of inches of the top edge with *well-weathered* boiler ash. Household ash is *not* satisfactory, as it is both too lumpy and too soft; the soft components break down to a sludge and the lumps prevent an even contact between the wall of the pots and the ash. The ash *must* be well-weathered, as fresh ash frequently contains sufficient acidic components to cause serious scorch of leaves from gases rising above surface level, and of roots through the pot-wall below the surface. Boiler ash is generally just about the right degree of fineness, and any large lumps in it can be easily broken down with a hammer or the back of a spade.

The pots containing the plants are then sunk in the ash, usually so that the surface of the compost is somewhere about the same level as the surface of the ash, but—and here is quite a useful tip—if they are going to remain in the plunge over winter it is wise to bury them deeper so that the rim is just level with, or fractionally below, the ash surface. If the rim projects above the ash level and there is hard frost, the rim of the pot may either shatter or else be neatly cracked off from the rest of the pot. If, however, there is a small protective layer of ash, it is only rarely that I have found pot rims broken by frost, though very hard frost following very wet weather may occasionally cause the whole pot to split—and this is usually a sign that the drainage *in* the pot is faulty so that the soil has been just about waterlogged.

The ways in which such a plunge frame is useful are numerous. Worked in conjunction with an alpine house, the plants can live in the plunge for almost the whole year and be brought into the house to flower under the roof's protection from the worst of the weather. Plants just on the edge of hardiness can be left in the plunge to ripen and only brought into protection when the hard frosts threaten. Plants arriving in a grossly root-bound condition can be potted up into larger

pots and watched until the roots begin to move well into the new compost and then planted into their permanent quarters. Newly-rooted cuttings can be grown on to planting-out size in pots if free from competition and the same applies to seedlings which have been pricked out into small pots. Many plants do not take kindly to being pricked out into boxes and then dug out of the box and planted out ; the root disturbance and damage which must almost always ensue frequently upsets them so much that they either sulk for a long time or else die. If they are pricked out into individual pots they are not subject to so much harm when knocked carefully out of the pot and planted, and if the roots have formed extensively beyond the drainage hole of the pot and into the ash, they come free from the ash with less harm than from soil and the pot can always (and should) be cracked away, leaving the root system unharmed.

The advantage of an ash plunge for plants grown for showing needs no emphasis—and there is the added advantage that a pot from the ash can be wiped clean for the bench with a damp cloth—there is little or no growth of algae or formation of crusts on the walls of pots in the ash plunge.

A final word about plastic pots in the plunge—the moisture in the ash can and does penetrate through the drainage hole(s) and the water-vapour rising from the surface helps in reducing water-loss, *but* the plant in a plastic pot must be watched carefully as, paradoxically, it is more likely to suffer from dryness in sudden heat and dry weather than is one in a “clay” in the ash. This is, of course, the exact opposite of their difference in behaviour above ground, and until one gets used to handling plants in plastic pots in the plunge, it is as well to keep a very careful eye on anything delicate or rare just in case it should dry out unexpectedly with disastrous consequences.

Trilliums

By A. GUPPY

of the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia

I AM NOT an expert on trilliums, but as I have recently tried a number of species in my garden and have found most of them to be obliging garden subjects, I thought a brief description of some of the species might be of interest to others.

Little need be said about our familiar native *Trillium ovatum* (Pacific Trillium), though it is a superb plant and makes a lovely display when grown in clumps in moist, open woodland. Its white flowers turn pinkish in age and even occasionally take on a rich red, making people think they have found a new species. Of interest is its habit of producing odd mutations. Six-petaled and even four-petaled plants are only somewhat rare, and a number of plants with fully double flowers have been found. I have an odd specimen that produces its leaves near ground level and its flower on the end of a six- or eight-inch stem. Perhaps this trillium is seeking to defend itself against people who destroy plants by picking the leaves along with the flower!

Only one other trillium is native to British Columbia. That is an unnamed miniature species with pale pink flowers which is known from only one location; in an isolated area of north-western Vancouver Island it grows among scattered pine trees in a rather open, rocky location. Although at present only a few people are lucky enough to have this plant, it seems to be fairly easy to propagate and should be available to others within a few years.

Trillium grandiflorum (Snow Trillium or Wakerobin) is the eastern equivalent of our *T. ovatum*. It is equally easy to grow, and in the size and purity of its white flowers is perhaps even superior to our native plant. Its range is from eastern Canada south to Georgia and Arkansas.

Trillium sessile (Toad Trillium) is another easy woodland plant. It seems to be tolerant of most soil conditions but would probably object to poor drainage. This is an extremely variable species and there is great confusion in the naming of colour variations and geographic forms. All varieties have in common the rather long-petaled, sessile (stemless) flowers, but flower colour varies from darkest reds through greens and yellows to purest white. The best information on nomenclature seems to be as follows.

Trillium sessile is native to the eastern United States. It generally has heavily mottled leaves and red flowers, but the flowers may be greenish or white.

Trillium sessile luteum (often known as *T. luteum*) is the yellow form of this species. It tends to have rather small, greenish-yellow flowers which are not particularly attractive. It is a native of the Mississippi region.

Trillium chloropetalum (California Trillium) is the western equivalent of *T. sessile* and is very similar to that species. It is native from Washington to California. My red-flowered *T. chloropetalum* (bought as *T. sessile*) is almost without mottling on the leaves, but this seems to be a variable characteristic in the species. The finest plant I have of the sessile group is one which I bought as *T. sessile rubrum* but which is probably really a selected clone of *T. chloropetalum*. At any rate it is a beautiful plant with an immense bloom of lovely translucent red. My white form of *T. chloropetalum* (bought as *T. sessile californicum*) is also a real gem with extraordinarily long lasting blooms.

Trillium recurvatum (Prairie Trillium) is another sessile trillium and is distinguished from the others by its recurved sepals. Its brownish-red flowers are not especially showy. It seems at home in typical trillium conditions as it is a woodland plant, not a plant of open prairie as the common name might suggest. It is native to the region of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Trillium erectum (Purple Trillium) is very different from the sessile group as the flower often has a stem several inches long. It is a robust and adaptable plant with a range of colour variations almost equal to that of *T. sessile*. It is native to much the same region as *T. grandiflorum*. The carrion scent of the flower has given this species a rather bad name, but I have not noticed this to be a problem, perhaps because our damp coastal atmosphere does not bring out flower scents, either good or bad. I consider a wine-red form in my garden to be a really choice trillium. A white form of *T. erectum* (known as the Wax Trillium or *T. erectum album*) is too much like a somewhat inferior *T. ovatum* to be of more than passing interest.

Trillium nivale (Dwarf Snow Trillium) from the Eastern United States (Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Kentucky) is a plant for neutral soil in the partly shaded rock garden. It is a six-inch plant with a white flower like a little three-cornered star.

Trillium rivale (Dwarf Oregon Trillium) is like *nivale* in both name and appearance. In good colour forms the flower is beautifully marked

with purple spots. It is also a plant for a partly shaded rock garden, but it would perhaps prefer a little more moisture and a somewhat more acid soil than *T. nivale*. In Oregon it is to be found along stream banks.

Trillium stylosum (Rose Trillium) from the mountains of North Carolina and Georgia is a slender, graceful plant. It likes moist, open woodland but its lovely nodding, pink flowers are seen to best advantage if it can be grown in a raised position.

Trillium cernuum (Nodding Trillium) is an even more bashful plant, for it hides its flower completely beneath its leaves. This is unfortunate as the white flower with its reflexed petals and reddish ovary is well worth seeing. It is a native of eastern Canada and the north-eastern United States. Moist, open shade will provide ideal growing conditions.

Trillium undulatum (Painted Trillium) with its white flowers painted with a zone of pink is perhaps the most beautiful of all trilliums, but unfortunately it is also one of the most difficult to establish in our region. Perhaps it pines for the snowy winters and sudden warm springs of its home in eastern Canada and the United States. You could try it in moist, acid soil, but don't be surprised if it leaves you in a year or two. An added bonus with this beautiful plant is the bright red fruit in midsummer.

Trillium petiolatum (Idaho Trillium) is a little-known trillium from Idaho and Oregon. It seems happy in the conditions that suit most other trilliums, but its rather insignificant reddish flowers would not warrant it being grown except as a specimen in a trillium collection.

Trilliums can be propagated by seeds or by dividing the clumps when they are dormant in the fall. Seed sown as soon as it is ripe will come up the following spring.

In this article I have dealt only with trilliums I happen to be growing. These are, with one or two exceptions, the ones most likely to be available at nurseries. For the lucky person who is able to obtain them, there are another ten or so species native to North America and a few from Asia.

Alpine House

By VIDE

I HAD always wanted a greenhouse, so when this house turned up, with a garage, a garden shed, *and* a greenhouse, the issue was not long in doubt. We offered for it ; we got it. Now, if anyone thinks that acquiring somewhere to contain his, or her, goods, chattels and belongings is as easy as this, I had better explain that this was the twenty-third place we had looked over, at, into or through. The house, also, had lots of other things over and above the garage, garden shed and greenhouse, but that we didn't discover till later. Not much later, but late enough.

However, I now had a greenhouse. It was not, admittedly, one of these slick modern affairs, all glass and aluminium. The back of it also did duty as the garden wall and one end was also the gable of the coal cellar. An addition had, at some time or other, been added to the other end, extending out on stilts for the matter of a yard or so, but this was found to be a little gone in decay and was subsequently expurgated. But at least it was a greenhouse and already I saw myself growing bumper crops of tomatoes.

Now, why practically everyone acquiring a greenhouse immediately starts growing tomatoes is one of the inexplicable mysteries of the twentieth century. The tomato is a singularly unrewarding fruit. Grown in a cold house, it ripens late (if at all) just when the local nurseryman is practically giving his away, and I am absolutely certain that the reward obtained (unless one is exceedingly fond of green tomato chutney) is, in a normal season, out of all proportion to the expenditure on labour, time, and money.

But I grew tomatoes. I also grew bulbs for the Spring, and various odd bits and pieces (schizanthus, gloxinias, godetias) for a Summer display. Even in Winter it had its uses, for I over-wintered my chrysanthemums in the tomato boxes. And I was happy.

But that was before the Rock Garden Enthusiast arrived on the scene. She called in connection with something not remotely concerned with horticulture, but, on observing my greenhouse, immediately exclaimed, "Oh, what a lovely Alpine House". I said that it wasn't an Alpine House, that the temperature, in fact, had on one occasion almost reached 91, but she explained that an Alpine House was not one with an Alpine temperature, but one in which Alpine plants could be grown, and she expatiated on the wonderful, beautiful and unique

flowers that could be grown in a house such as I had. It had, in fact, been practically designed as an Alpine House.

Now, if I had been honest with myself, I would have seen clearly that the design had been conditioned by the juxtaposition of the garden wall and the coalhouse, but I admit I was impressed. Here was I with what was, apparently, almost the perfect Alpine House—and I was growing tomatoes ! All the neighbours grew tomatoes. Here was my chance to get out of the rut, to express my individuality.

So was my downfall accomplished. I scrapped my tomatoes ; I disposed of my Spring bulbs ; I threw out my schizanthus. Instead, I bought books on Alpine plants ; I bought small pots by the score ; I joined two societies purporting to tell one all about how to grow these things. I filled the shed with composts, peat, grit, and sharp sand. (An offer to take an option on the coal cellar was firmly turned down). I bought seeds and plants.

And what have I now ? Instead of my schizanthus in gorgeous array, my daffodils “enormous and glowing”, and my tomatoes, I have hundreds of tiny plants in tiny pots, all requiring different composts and different treatment, and with flowers (when they flower at all) mostly so small that I need a magnifying glass to see them properly. I spend pounds on literature and hours on “mixes”. My friends (those that are left), and my family think I’m daft.

Maybe they’re right. Maybe I *should* go back to the tomatoes.

Unknown Friends

By ‘ANOTHER UNKNOWN’

I HAD almost used the phrase—“our unknown benefactors”—but it struck me that it might be regarded as somewhat hackneyed, and at the same time embarrass the retiring modesty of many of those to whom I wish to refer. Speaking as an ordinary, everyday member of the Club, it often crosses my mind how much of the pleasure we get out of membership we owe to people we will never meet, and even to people whose names we may never know. It seems to me that we owe a great debt of gratitude to quite a host of ‘unknown friends’.

Take as one instance the *Seed Exchange*, in which I have participated perhaps two or three times ! What a wonderful opportunity is provided, for all who wish to take advantage of it, by those who devote time, patience, and painstaking care to the collection of a wide-ranging

list of seeds ! They seem to come to us from all quarters of the earth, but few of us know the providers of these treasures other than the names of some of the senders. Yet what a wealth of interest is laid on for any who enjoy raising plants from seed. Do we ever pause to think how much further work has to be done by unknown volunteers before all these seeds are checked, packeted, and ready to be sent out to applicant members.

Articles appear in the *Journal* on a wide variety of topics connected with rock gardening at home and abroad, and exciting descriptions of plants in their natural homes, by many authors who are only names to most of us, and by some who are masked in anonymity. These articles do not come into being without a certain amount of labour and effort—usually only after painstaking care and checking of detail. Even our Shows, where all of us are at liberty to study and criticise the display provided for us by the exhibitors (and so advance our knowledge of rock plant culture), would not be possible without those same exhibitors, and the hard-worked Show Secretaries and their committees of anonymous helpers.

Once one begins to think, vague, misty teams of workers begin to appear behind all Club activities—group meetings, discussion week-ends, library, slide-library, publicity, advertising, etc. The names of those in charge we may know, but what of their unknown helpers ? May I take it upon myself to proffer the thanks of ordinary members to those who help in any way to make our Club membership so satisfying ?

Raising Alpines from Seed

By A. DUGUID

TO RAISE plants successfully from seed is not difficult provided a few simple rules are followed. Seed should be fresh, that is, no more than a few months old. The compost must be good, capable of holding water, yet ensuring easy drainage. A high enough temperature for germinating and growing on and an abundance of light are necessary, for weakly, drawn seedlings will never grow into good plants. Moisture, too, is very important ; seed-pans should not be allowed to become too wet, or the seed will rot away. Dry conditions, especially after germination has started, are equally bad ; dryness at this stage to a large extent being fatal.

In raising alpines the John Innes Seed Compost will be found satisfactory for most alpine seeds ; any that need a more peaty or gritty compost I adjust by adding whatever is necessary previous to sowing. This compost is available for purchase at most shops dealing in horticultural products, but is quite easy to make up at home. It consists of 2 parts fibrous loam, 1 part peat, 1 part sharp sand to each bushel—approximately three buckets. Add $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces superphosphate and $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce chalk, mixing all thoroughly together.

For raising a small quantity of plants it is best to use either pans or pots, and a convenient size is the four-inch. This gives sufficient room for the seedlings to develop, while not drying out so quickly as the smaller pots do. These must be clean both inside and out. Dirty pots hamper the free passage of air, which is necessary to good germination. Pieces of broken pots or slate are placed over the drainage with a little roughage—small pieces of turf, etc.—to prevent compost seeping through and blocking drainage. Fill the compost to within an inch of top, and press firm. Sieve some of the compost, and fill most of remaining inch. When sowing large seeds sow them direct on top of compost and then cover with some fine compost. Soak pots in tub of water, and then lay aside to drain for an hour. Seed should be sown very thinly, and then lightly covered with a light dusting of compost. Then label with the name of plant, date of sowing, and origin of seed. In this way the raiser can gain valuable knowledge of the germination of seeds, and gradually build up an idea of how long it will take to raise them.

Early in the year I use a slightly heated house to raise seedlings. Later on, from April onwards, this is dispensed with, but if no heat is available this is not too important, as seed will eventually germinate, only the process will be slower. One more thing I might mention here ! When in doubt about how much to cover newly sown seed—it is a safe rule to cover with approximately twice the depth of the seed.

Once the seeds have germinated and are growing strongly thin out by at least half. The remaining seedlings will grow much more sturdy and will not check so much when pricked out. A fairly deep box is best for pricking seedlings into. Old fish boxes are ideal, and can usually be picked up from fishmongers shops. Use the No. 1 John Innes Compost to prick-out into. This again is easily procurable from horticultural suppliers. Allow about two inches between each seedling, planting in rows, each alternate row of the seedlings being planted between the preceding ones. This way, when the time comes each

little plant can be lifted easily without too much disturbance to its neighbour. Newly pricked out boxes of seedlings should be kept in a closely shaded frame until growth restarts, then gradually increase ventilation until frame can be left off altogether.

For raising ericaceous and various other acid-loving seeds I sow the seed on prepared sphagnum. Sphagnum grows on peaty moors all over Britain, being of a reddish green colour when growing. This is gathered and dried, and then rubbed through a riddle until it becomes like granulated peat. Then soak thoroughly in water, and having prepared and crocked pots pack the moist sphagnum in until (for fine seeds) it is half an inch from the top. For larger seeds, i.e. paeoniae and liliun, fill to half way. This is recommended for such plants as rhododendron, enkianthus, ericas and phyllodoce. Sow the seeds very thinly on the surface and do not cover. Water through a fine rose after sowing and put in a greenhouse in a temperature of 60° F. Germination will begin in about six weeks. The secret of success is not to let them dry out. You can't overwater sphagnum, as all surplus drains away. When the seedlings have put on their true leaves, thin out drastically, leaving only from 6 to 12 seedlings in a pot, according to size of plant being grown.

Those seedlings are left to grow until the following spring and then planted up in boxes with a peaty compost. Larger seeds are sown halfway down the pot, again very thinly ; paeonies (those, by the way, take approximately 14 months to germinate) about six seeds to a pot, lilies no more than twelve, and follow the same way with nomocharis, fritillaria, tulip and iris.

Paeonies are planted direct where they are to grow when large enough to handle. All bulbous plants are shifted on into larger pots in a rich fibrous compost, without disturbing them. Simply make a hole in the compost and plant in the whole pot of sphagnum and the bulbs will grow away into the compost. It takes about two years from sowing before they are ready to pot up, but this varies. Certain lilies grow more quickly than others, and nomocharis, too, make enough growth to be ready to shift on at end of first season from sowing.

Frae a' the Airts

By CARLINA

SINCE OUR column was launched in the April *Journal* we have, or so we hope, been able to help a number of members. Their enquiries were passed for reply to someone who had experience in the particular problem and now we have collected together some points which may be of general interest.

POROUS OR PLASTIC ? Plastic pots have been on the market for several years, long enough for gardeners to assess their advantages, and their disadvantages, when compared with the traditional earthenware pot.

The most obvious difference is in their weight ; one 4½ inch porous pot weighs the same as 10 plastic of the same size and these 10 pots will stack into the same space as 5 earthenware ones. The lightness of the larger pots is readily apparent to anyone who carries plants to Shows, but we have found only one maker who supplies them in 10- or 12-inch sizes.

Plastic is undoubtedly a more hygienic and easily cleaned material than earthenware. Remembering the hours spent in scouring green-coated pots with a wire brush, one finds it a relief to wash the plastic ones, which never become green, using only a cloth or a foam pot-scourer.

When growing plants in plastic pots it must be remembered that there is no evaporation through the sides, so there is a risk of the soil becoming too damp unless special care is taken to ensure perfect drainage. A potting compost with extra sand should be used and we find that a layer of fine chips or gravel over the crocks is a good substitute for the usual layer of moisture-holding peat.

Some makes of plastic pots have very small and inadequate drainage holes. These can be enlarged, or new ones made, with a red-hot wire or nail. As there is no evaporation there appears to be no need to plunge plastic pots deep into ash or sand, they need only be pressed in sufficiently far to embed the drainage holes, unless they are being plunged for protection from frost.

One well-known nurseryman tells us that he prefers to stick to porous pots as he can more easily estimate the moisture content, either by tapping or by feeling the weight, with such pots. It is understandable that a change-over on such a large scale would be fraught with

difficulties, but for the amateur plastic pots would seem to have every advantage, provided he guards against over-watering, resulting in rotting of the roots.

PREPARING FOR THE SHOWS : Much has been written and said about potting up plants for the show bench, but a reader sends us a new idea for keeping the plant clean in the process. A plastic bag is slipped over the plant from above, before lifting it, and held in place with a loose tie at soil level. The plant can then be potted and the soil packed in well around its roots without fear of dirtying the foliage. This would be a particularly useful system for plants with hairy leaves. (Or in wet weather !—*Editor*)

STORAGE OF BULBS : A member who has to move his garden in the near future has asked if it would be possible to store bulbs, chiefly species crocus and dwarf iris, in a dry state for up to a year.

These bulbs have a natural life cycle through the year which they must be allowed to follow. Once the foliage has died down they remain dormant for a period which corresponds with the dry hot weather of their native land. They then start into growth, sending out roots and in due course shoots, even if they are not planted in soil, thus using up the foodstuffs they contain in a struggle to survive.

We suggest that the bulbs should be lifted and re-planted in pots or boxes of potting compost with extra sand for drainage. A sprinkling of bone meal, to which potassium sulphate has been added at the rate of 1 oz. to the pound of bone meal, will help the bulbs to rebuild their strength. The pots may be plunged and can be lifted at any time without disturbing the bulbs.

A PERENNIAL QUESTION : From the earliest days of cultivation the problem of keeping down weeds has exercised the minds, the backs, and the knees of gardeners. Some weeds are particularly difficult to eradicate in rock gardens, and, judging by enquiries we have had, amongst the most tiresome are Horse Tails (*Equisetaceae*), Pearlwort (*Sagina*) and Bishop Weed or Ground Elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*). Our overseas members will be faced with similar problems under different names.

During the past year we have experimented with commercial forms of paraquat in dealing with the three weeds mentioned above. The solution may be dabbed on to the plant with a paint brush, or applied with a small spray provided the surrounding plants are protected. Paraquat acts through the leaves and green stems, but once it falls

on the ground it combines with colloids in the soil and becomes inert. It is not selective in its action and is liable to destroy any green plants on which it falls, so it must be applied with the greatest care.

The three weeds mentioned above have looked very sick after one application. The Pearlwort turns brown and can be lifted or covered with a good mulch of peat or soil. The Bishop Weed does send up new shoots after a time, but a further application of paraquat will kill these. Horse-tail is probably the most difficult to eradicate as its roots run wide and deep, but one spraying will turn the visible green parts brown and by destroying the chlorophyll should, if repeated a few times, deprive the whole plant of nutriment. A bad patch of Creeping Buttercup was eliminated with only one application of paraquat.

“ Why Exhibit ? ”

By ‘D. J.’

DOUBTLESS many members who read the article “How to win prizes at Shows”, in the *Journal* of September 1965, were very amused at the lighthearted, tongue-in-cheek approaching to showing, and why not? Heaven forbid that we should make it a life or death struggle.

There are, however, one or two aspects of showing which I should like to put forward, if possible to encourage a few more members who have not ventured as yet.

I remember that our great Willie Buchanan once told me that he thought the Club now had too many Shows. With respect I should like to argue against that. There must be many members who can go no further than their own local Show, so it follows that if there were fewer Shows far fewer people would see a Show at all.

Would this matter? I think it would. A very great deal can be learned by going round the show bench examining the plants, slowly, carefully, not only about the actual varieties in cultivation, but also how to keep plants true to form and in character. Unless one is fortunate enough to live near to a good Botanical Garden, specialist Nurseries, and really well-planted private gardens, it is quite impossible to get to know what plants are actually available. Surely without this knowledge one cannot hope to start an interesting collection of one's own.

Plants on the show bench are capable of much more exact and close examination than anywhere else, except perhaps in a first-class Alpine House, and how many have access to that?

Following that, if you have seen a plant new to yourself, it is often possible to find an expert at the Show who will give you some advice on the chances of success in growing it.

If there was no Show there would be no gathering of experts, and so less opportunity for the rank and file to glean some useful knowledge. Even the most authoritative books can be misleading.

So why, then, just go to see other people's plants? If the standard of Shows is to be maintained, even improved, there must be a constant flow of new exhibitors, as inevitably the old hands drop out for one reason or another.

It is sometimes difficult to know where to start, and it is essential to try to assess which plant or plants will be at their peak at the right moment. This is something which only comes with practice and experience, but there is always someone who can give valuable advice.

On the controversial question of whether it is necessary to have an Alpine House or Frame, I can only refer members to the *Journal* of April 1965, in which there is a most interesting article on Forrest Medal plants. May I quote: "In the 122 Shows examined, 30 exhibits gaining the Forrest Medal had been grown in the Alpine House or in Frames, i.e. protected cultivation, and 83 in the open ground. These are 32% and 68% respectively and show that the open ground plant has better than double the chance of one grown under protection".

If this is true, that the best plant in the Show can be grown in open ground, how much easier it must be for the humbler aspirants.

It should be possible to lift a good plant in ample time for the Show and give it some modest protection with a cloche or even a pane of glass.

When you have decided to make a start, really have a go at showing; you will be surprised how much more notice you take of every part of the plant, and how much more critical you become about presentation. Of course, there is an element of luck about actually winning a prize, but it does mean you have taken a certain amount of trouble to grow something really well, and what else does any successful gardener ever do?

I should like to make one suggestion, and that is that if the experts would circulate as freely amongst the women members as they do amongst the men, I believe more women members would be encouraged to seek advice about plants, and be emboldened to bring something along to the show bench.

DEAR EDITOR,

Letter

I wonder if you can help me? What I need is a Dictionary of Pet, Common or Household names of plants. That is to say, not the so-called correct or botanical names. Perhaps you could compile a list for me. You are in touch with so many people I'm sure you must know all about it.

It happens that my father, as he used to say, "Had the Latin". I had no luck, no brains, and hence no Latin, but my father saw to it that at least his plants were referred to by their Latin names. Pronunciation is a stumbling block though. A visitor at a Flower Show remarked to me once on the "pidgin Latin" he heard around him. I don't think he was being rude. No, unlike Queen Victoria, he really was amused. That reminds me of the exhibitor who placed her plant labelled "Livingstone Daisy" beside the old gardener's perfect specimen ticketed "Miss Emmy Anthrum". You must admit "Mesem . . ." is a bit of a mouthful anyway. Now my Aunt Matilda doesn't approve of these awful foreign names, she says. As a Flower Arrangement enthusiast she fits the flower to the occasion and says her Torch Lilies would brighten any occasion, and Job's Tears and Baby's Smiles have their uses of course. Aunt M. has despatched plants for my garden, sending in advance a list of names which don't give a clue where to plant them. Where (to quote Aunt M.) "the darlings will be happy". Shall I put "Lords & Ladies" behind or before "Soldiers & Sailors" and will "Goldilocks" languish beside "Goat's Beard"? Perhaps "Fairies Thimbles" or "Pincushions" would suit her better. You see my trouble? I do know some common names, of course; Lunaria for instance is "Honesty"—at least I thought it was till someone said it was "Pennies from Heaven". Another lady asked me to name "This plant with the so refreshing scent" (brushing my nose with a bunch, thereby giving me an attack of hay fever). I said, in sincerity and sorrow, "Artemisia"—I might almost say I sneezed it. A 7-year-old piped up "Granddad keeps that in his pocket book and it's called Old Man". Her Aunt murmured "Lad's Love" it is surely" and Uncle commented "I don't know why you use these fancy names—it's just "Southernwood", I'm sure". I ask you—we couldn't all be right?—or were we?

On second thoughts, you know, I think you need not trouble about that list or Dictionary. It's all too difficult. Devon is a long way from here, and the climate is a bit different. Any plants that don't expire on the journey may not long survive the time of waiting till the snow here has departed and the frost is over and done.

Yours in deep doubt, —

Plant Notes

CAMPANULA TOMMASINIANA

THE GARDENING beginner becomes aware sooner or later that his preconceived idea that all plants with the same name should be and look exactly alike, is subject to modification, to say the least of it. I am not referring to mistakes in naming, but rather to the fact that there is considerable variation within a species.

The point, however, that this introduces is that the plant of *Campanula tommasiniana* illustrated in Fig. 38 is a particularly good form of this species. Many plants under this name in gardens and nurseries I have visited do not have the same beauty, while conforming more or less to the same botanical specification. Indeed, one friend of mine labels his specimen as a hybrid, although it was supplied as the true species by a reputable nursery. That may be the answer in some cases, and these poorer examples had been raised from seed.

Campanula tommasiniana comes from Istria, near to an area in Europe from which many interesting Campanulas originate. In its native habitat it is locally rare. It is a species which does not wander about, but makes a thick perennial root from which rises numbers of slim stems up to about 6-7 inches tall. These have rather long pointed leaves with serrations on their edges. The branching stems carry numbers of pendant flowers of a pale lavender colour in late July. The specimen depicted gets much of its charm from the abundance of these flowers, which I have not seen on any other plant of this species. The bells are long, narrow and tubular, about 1 inch in length, with reflexed pointed lobes about a fifth of the total length. These have been considered too narrow by critics, but I think the picture indicates quite a graceful bell. As Campanula bells in their diversity of form have been likened to all sorts of china and glass ware, I find this narrow bell reminds me of a lovely crystal celery glass.

Its drooping habit has been criticised, too, but this is surely a matter of choosing a suitable place to plant it. At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, where this picture was taken, the elevated position it is given allows it to drape gracefully a piece of rock. This is the best position to plant it, where its tap root can get sufficient depth of open soil. It seems to thrive in sun or in partial shade. Propagation is from seed or cuttings of unflowered shoots, which may be done in early spring or July-August.

S. M.

CAMPANULA ZOYSII

IN HIS article on *Campanula morettiana* Mr. H. Esslemont suggests that *Campanula zoysii* might well be grown in tufa and asks for members' experiences with it using this method of cultivation.

Being very much a crevice plant in nature it does indeed seem to be quite at home when planted into holes made in large tufa rocks in the rock garden and I have grown it in this way for some time now. In these larger rocks the holes are not of course drilled right through, but the plants seem to derive sufficient nourishment from the small amount of very gritty compost provided.

I find, too, that in this situation it is also protected from ants which can be very troublesome and also, though to a lesser extent, from its enemy the slug. Indeed, if these two pests can be thwarted it appears to present little difficulty in cultivation.

As Mr. Esslemont says, it varies considerably in form both in shape and depth of colour of flower, and particularly in *size* of flower and leaf. However, I have yet to see a bad form, although sometimes it appears a little 'drawn' when grown under glass.

Surrey.

G. B.

CASSIOPE TETRAGONA (Ericaceae) (Fig. No. 39)

Cassiope tetragona is an inhabitant of the arctic and sub-arctic regions, and is circumpolar in distribution, so there is no question about its hardiness. It is about twelve inches high, and its whipcord-like stems are four-sided or four-angled, as the specific name implies.

The leaves are small, dark green and tightly imbricated, i.e., clasping the stem closely and giving it the appearance of a large Club Moss.

If closely examined the leaves will be seen to be deeply grooved on the reverse. It has the lily-of-the-valley-like flowers of the family; these are white with the mouth of the bell slightly constricted. The flowers are daintily borne on longish pedicels, and here in Perthshire they are usually out in early May.

The plant illustrated is very free-flowering and, I think, rather a good form. It came from that collector of good form, the late Willie Buchanan. It is growing in a peaty border which is in full sun all day except for the early morning, and it is sheltered from north and east winds.

If exposed to freezing winds when there is no snow cover, there may be some die-back, and the plant can look pretty miserable in the Spring. The same thing happens in the wild also, I believe, just as

happens to heather on our own Scottish moors in a hard winter. It does recover, however. After the very bad winter a few years ago a plant of mine was badly cut back. I lifted it in Spring, dug the hole down an extra six inches and replanted it deeply, giving it a good top-dressing of peat, leafmould and sand. The following year it was as good as ever.

Propagation is easy, as cuttings, with or without a heel, strike readily in June/July in half and half peat and sand in a shady frame.

You can usually find a few 'Irishman's Cuttings' if you examine your plant.

Perthshire.

M.-L.

CROCUS TOMASINIANUS var. TAPLOW RUBY

THIS is a very good form of *Crocus tomasinianus* with flowers of a good deep reddish purple. It looks very well in groups amongst the type form which has much paler mauvish-lilac flowers. Another form also well worth growing is *C. tomasinianus* var. 'Whitewell Purple', its flowers are purplish-mauve outside and silvery-mauve inside.

The species is a native of the eastern side of the Adriatic, is cast-iron hardy, and very free flowering.

All forms are early flowering, February or March, and they make a gay show in the alpine meadow on a sunny afternoon. The effect is enhanced if you mix in some yellow-flowered species such as *C. ancyrensis* and yellow varieties of *C. chrysanthus*. The best effect is got, I think, if the yellows and the darker coloured forms of *C. tomasinianus* are in irregular groups thinning out into the predominant mauvey mass.

C. tomasinianus seeds itself freely, some people say it is too rampageous for the rock garden. I would not agree with that entirely, but I would not plant it in one of my 'snob corners'.

Perthshire.

M.-L.

GENTIANA FROELICHII

THIS interesting plant discovered in the course of a September holiday spent in the limestone mountains of Yugoslavia was quite new to me. I do not know to what extent it is at present in cultivation here. One reference book suggests that its cultivation would be difficult.

This does not appear to be the case, however, as two small plants which were brought back and planted in a tufa rock garden have not only thrived but one has also produced two of its curious upright

flowers. These were of a clear light blue and quite large (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long) but lacking the 'turned over' ends to the trumpet which are characteristic of *Gentiana acaulis*.

Curiously the plant, normally autumn flowering, produced its flowers in July.

Surrey.

G. B.

GENTIANA SAXOSA (Fig. No. 40)

THIS is a native of South Island, New Zealand, where it is found growing near the coast. It grows in the form of a low clump of succulent-looking dark green glossy leaves. The flower stems are wiry and rather procumbent and carry good sized upward looking flowers with five white petals around a bunch of golden stamens.

It is perennial, but with me not very long lived. It is apt to look rather miserable at the end of the winter, but it usually recovers its good looks in plenty of time for its flowering in late summer and autumn.

It does best with me in full sun growing in 'humusy' soil, moist, but well drained. It is easily raised from seed, and I believe cuttings are not difficult to strike, although I have not tried this method of propagation myself.

Perthshire.

M-L.

JUNIPERUS COMMUNIS var. JACKII

THIS variety is a geographical form of the common juniper which is peculiar to the Siskiyou Mountains in S.W. Oregon and adjacent N.W. California. It is very doubtful if it is yet in cultivation in Britain, though Mr. B. O. Mulligan has it in cultivation in Seattle in a sunny well-drained situation.

The plant appears to confine itself to a few long branches radiating from its central root and extending for several feet, completely prostrate, in various directions without making any appreciable suggestion of lateral growths. Mr. Welch mentions this form in his "Dwarf Conifers" just published, stating that it is "more a botanical than a useful garden form". Obviously it must be regarded as a plant for the specialist. (See Fig. 41)

PINGUICULA GRANDIFLORA (Lentibulariaceae) (Fig. No. 42)

THIS belongs to the same family as our native Butterwort, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, and like it is insectivorous.

It is larger, and I think a more handsome plant than *P. vulgaris*.

I also find it easier to grow and to keep. It is fairly widespread in the mountains of Western Europe, and it is also found in the south-west of Ireland. The leaves are succulent and sticky and rather a yellowy green. The edges of the leaves are curled inwards. The flowers, on sturdy three-inch stems, are two or three times as big as those of our native Butterwort, up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across. In colour they are violet-purple with a white centre and throat.

In nature it is found in moist, even boggy places, and we must try and give it similar conditions in the garden. The plant illustrated is growing fairly low down on a shady peat bank, on a shelf held up by peat blocks. Its close neighbours are *Cassiope hypnoides* and *Diapensia lapponica*.

I also grow it in plastic pots in a mixture approximately—Loam 1, Peat 2, Chopped Sphagnum 2, coarse sharp sand 1—parts by bulk. I have also grown some in that mixture with half the sphagnum replaced by vermiculite, but I can't say I have noticed any difference in growth. A similar mixture was used when planting out in the peat bank.

It comes easily from seed in January or February on a compost as described above, and kept moist and shaded, but not actually in the dark. As with most other seeds, especially very small fine ones, I find results are very satisfactory if the seed compost is covered with coal chips of between an eighth and a quarter of an inch in size, and the seed sown on top. A light watering using a fine rose carries the seed down. There seems to be something in coal which discourages the growth of moss and liverwort. Another advantage, and this applies to any kind of chips or gravel, is that it prevents the seed all being washed into one part of the pot or box.

Some of the seedlings may flower after about fifteen months, but most do not do so till two years after sowing. No doubt it would be better for the precocious seedlings to have their flower buds pinched out.

Another method of propagation is division of the dormant or semi-dormant buds in spring when they are just showing signs of new growth.

They may also be propagated from leaf cuttings, I believe, but I have never tried that myself.

Birds, especially blackbirds, are the greatest menace to *Pinguiculas*, or for that matter to any plants grown in sphagnum or a mixture

containing sphagnum. The only answer I find is to keep them covered with wire netting. The mesh should be not larger than one inch and preferably less. Old netting which has toned down in colour, and is possibly a little rusty, is the least obtrusive.

Perthshire.

M.-L.

PULSATILLA HALLERI

THE Pulsatillas were separated from the big and varied family of Anemones some years ago, and gardeners did not complain about this readjustment, as it conformed with their own observations to a great extent. At that time *Anemone pulsatilla* became *Pulsatilla vulgaris* and *Anemone halleri* was changed to *Pulsatilla halleri* (Fig. No. 43).

The Pulsatilla group of the Ranunculaceae, often referred to as the "Hairy Anemones", is renowned for its beauty. *P. halleri* is a distinctive species, with an overall decoration of silky-grey long fine hairs, which even exceeds the shagginess often found on lovely *P. vernalis*.

The example shown was photographed at the University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, where this plant has never failed to delight the eye for about twenty years that I know of. It flowers in this country in March, but in its native habitat, high up in the hills of the Valais in Switzerland, it appears in early July. It is locally rare in Switzerland and other parts of the European Alps.

The flower stems of 5-6 inches bear large, silky petaled flowers, normally of a tone of violet peculiar to the species, but this can vary, and a white has even been reported. From a colour transparency taken by a friend in the Valais area last year, the flower colour of the wild plant seemed almost the same as that of this plant growing at St. Andrews.

Cultivation is as for other Pulsatillas, perhaps best without lime, as it seems to avoid lime-stone regions in the wild. Good drainage is necessary in a raised position, where happily established, it is a long-lived plant as indicated above. Propagation is from seed, but hybridisation with other Pulsatillas would be a possibility.

S. M.

SAXIFRAGA STRIGOSA (Fig. No. 44)

THIS belongs to the Boraphila section of the Saxifrage family, and it flowers in September and October, which is quite a point in its favour.

It is a native of Tibet, where it was collected by Ludlow and Sherriff at 11,000 feet. It is reliably hardy, and in the garden is probably happiest in a peat bed in part shade.

It is a branching plant up to five inches or so in height, and it carries masses of dainty golden yellow flowers. It disappears below ground for the winter but reappears again in spring.

It is easily raised from seed which is freely produced. As it is not very long-lived, possibly not more than three years or so, it is, as well to keep a few young plants coming on.

Perthshire.

M-L.

TWO LATER-FLOWERING SAXIFRAGES FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

SAXIFRAGES of the Kabschia, Engleria, Silver and Mossy Sections are, as a rule, well represented in most rock gardens, but there are others, equally interesting and beautiful, which seem to be somewhat neglected. The two Saxifrages described below belong to less cultivated sections and have the additional merit of providing colour in, respectively, the late summer and autumn. They appear from time to time in the catalogues of well-known nurserymen.

S. pardanthina. This is a native of Szechwan. It is a deciduous plant which does not flower till August. The leaves, however, appear much earlier, forming a loose mat of rosettes, and are so beautiful that it would be worth growing the plant for these alone. They are about two and a half inches in length, elliptical, and of a velvety light green with paler veinings. Sprays of small flowers are carried on reddish, leafy stems reaching a height of twelve inches. The colour is deep, tawny orange, spotted and mottled with red and crimson, very brilliant and striking in appearance. Belonging to the Hirculus Section, *S. pardanthina* dislikes dry conditions. Here, it flourishes in moist scree, shaded from the mid-day sun.

S. strigosa comes from the Himalayas. It appears even later in season than *S. pardanthina* and does not flower until well into the autumn. Although it bears little resemblance to them, it belongs to the Boraphila Section, which also contains the British natives, *S. stellaris* and *S. nivalis*. *S. strigosa* is about three inches in height, with wiry, rather angular stems, and sharply pointed, toothed, leaves. The green-eyed flowers of rich golden yellow contrast well with Autumn Gentians, and are particularly welcome at this time of year. Other colour forms, including white, are known to exist. *S. strigosa* should be given cool, peaty soil in a shaded position.

C. E. D.

VERBASCUM DUMULOSUM

THIS attractive dwarf mullein is one of the interesting plants introduced from Turkey by Dr. Peter Davis.

It forms a mass of broadly ovate leaves, pale grey-green and hairy. Out of these rise many spikes, some 9-10 inches tall, of soft yellow flowers which harmonise with the foliage.

Like so many plants with grey, woolly leaves, it does not enjoy our winters of alternating spells of frost and damp, though it appears to stand up to dry cold weather. If grown out of doors it should be in a sunny crevice with perfect drainage, and where possible should be protected in winter from overhead damp.

It is easily raised from seed and forms a charming plant for the alpine house. Hybrids have been raised between this and two other dwarf mulleins, *Verbascum pestalozzae* and *V. spinosum*.

Edinburgh.

K. S. HALL

CLEANING PLASTIC LABELS

THE BEST thing I have found for this chore is a Brillo Soap Pad, the thing that housewives use for taking stains off domestic pots and pans. Warm water and a good rub with one of these things and both pencil and pen writing comes off, and they're ready for another lease of life. If you can't scrounge one from the kitchen, buy a packet for yourself. But keep it in the shed or you'll lose it!

They can also be used for the removal of recalcitrant stains on flower pots.

S. B.

Review of the Year

By THE PRESIDENT

DURING the past year the activities of the Club have retained their usual high standard. It could well be imagined that the difficult weather of the greater part of the spring and the early summer would affect the entries for our Shows, and on the whole there was some reduction in the number. However, this was offset by the average high standard of the exhibits, which was surprising considering the very mediocre season. The cancellation of the Rhododendron Section at the Glasgow Show was most unfortunate as the spell of good weather which had produced such a hopeful outlook was followed by the later severe frosts which put an end to everything for the time being. At some



Photo—D. Holford

Fig. 33—*Primula marginata* (see page 112)

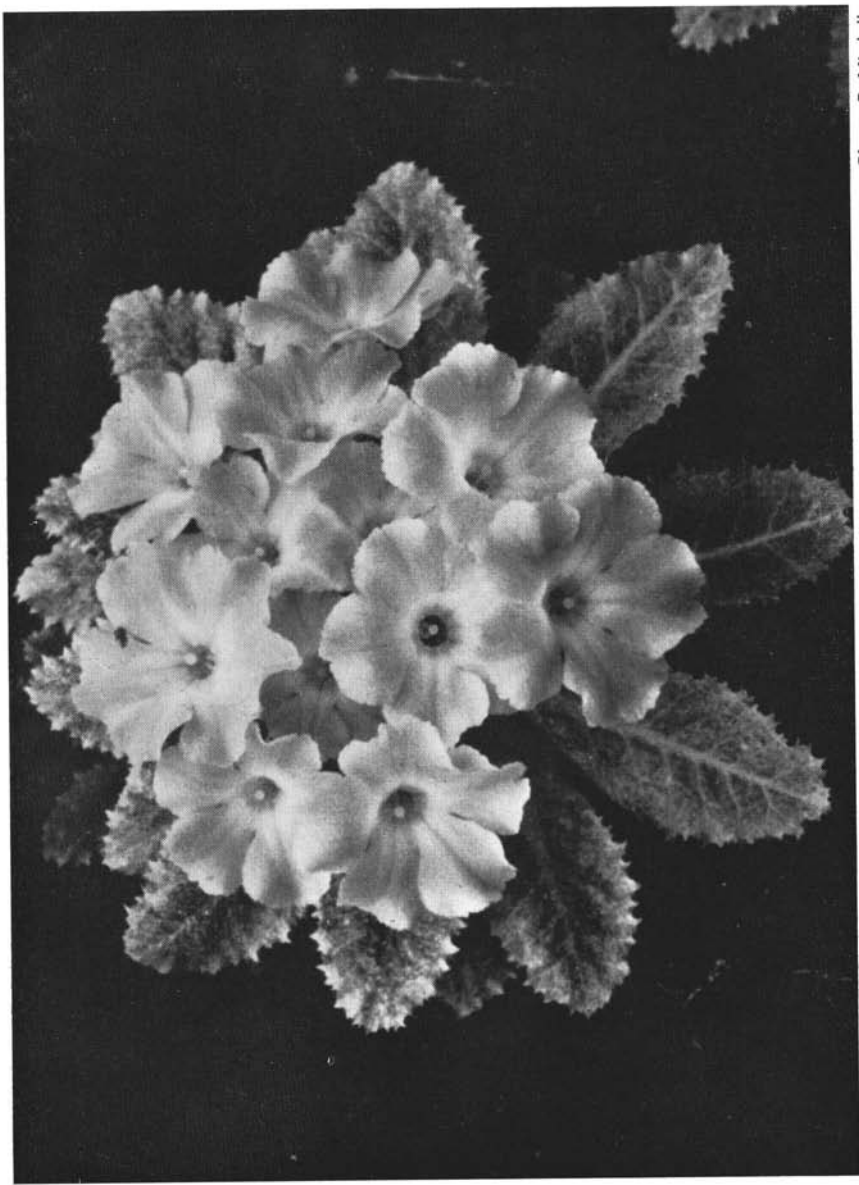
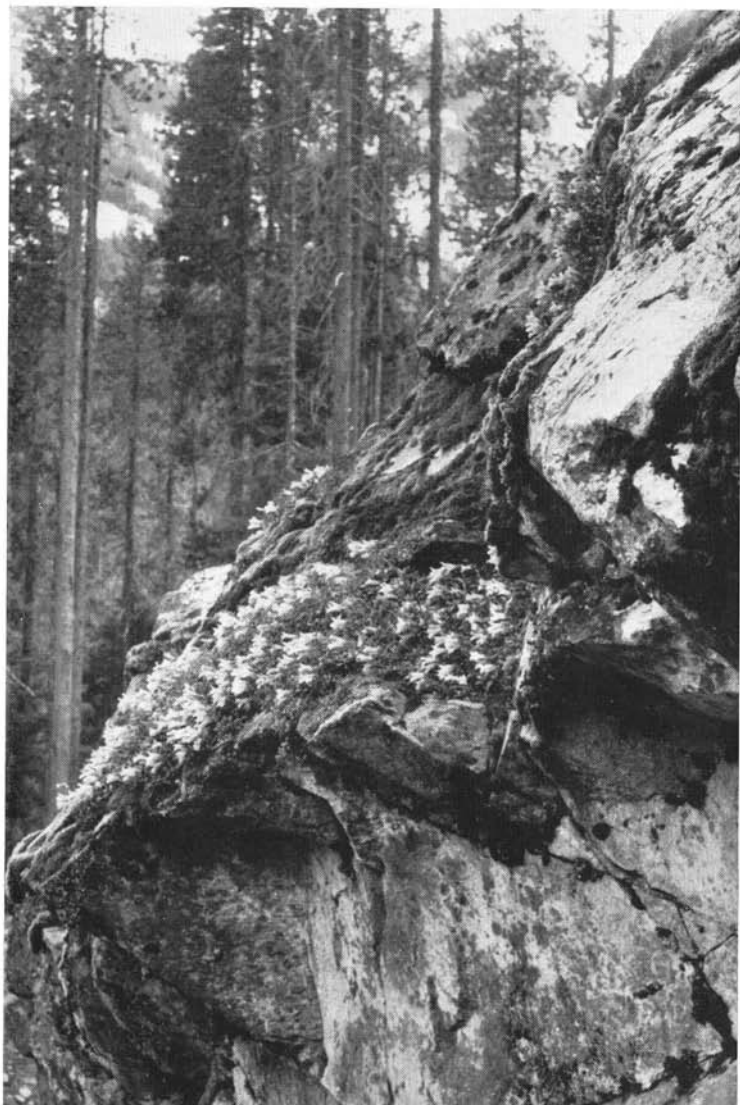


Fig. 34—*Primula whitei* (see page 112)

Photo—R. Mitchell



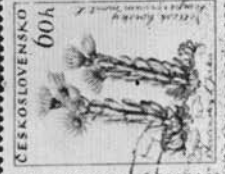
Photo—B. O. Mulligan

Fig. 35—*Penstemon davidsonii* var. *menziesii* (see page 112)



Photos—R. Endall

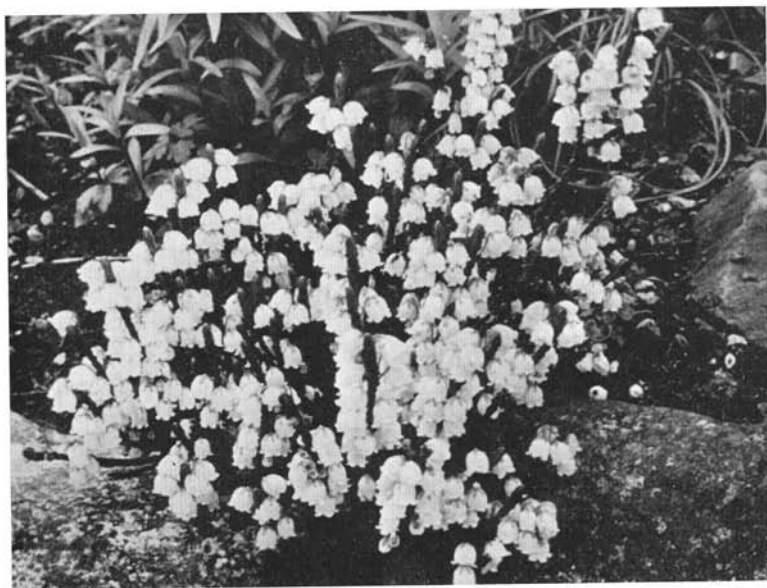
Figs. 36 and 37—Rock Garden Plants on Postage Stamps (see page 117)





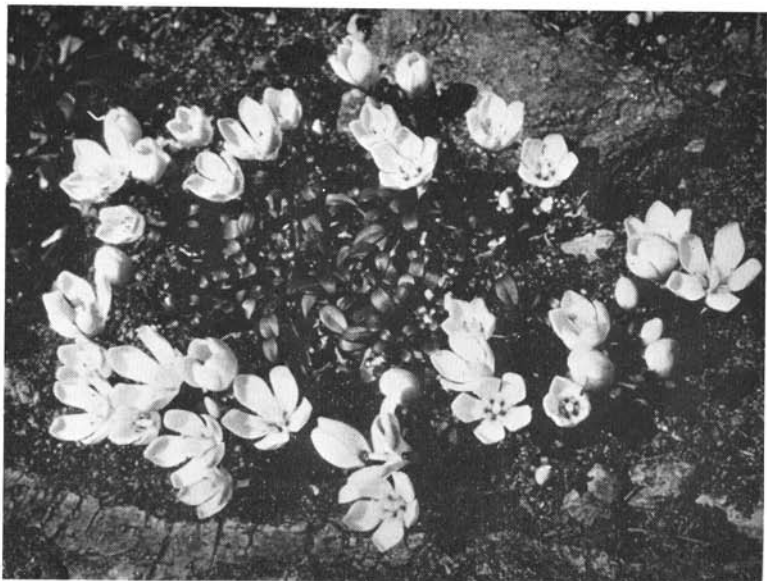
Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 38—*Campanula tommasiniana* (see page 145)



Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 39—*Cassiope tetragona* (see page 146)



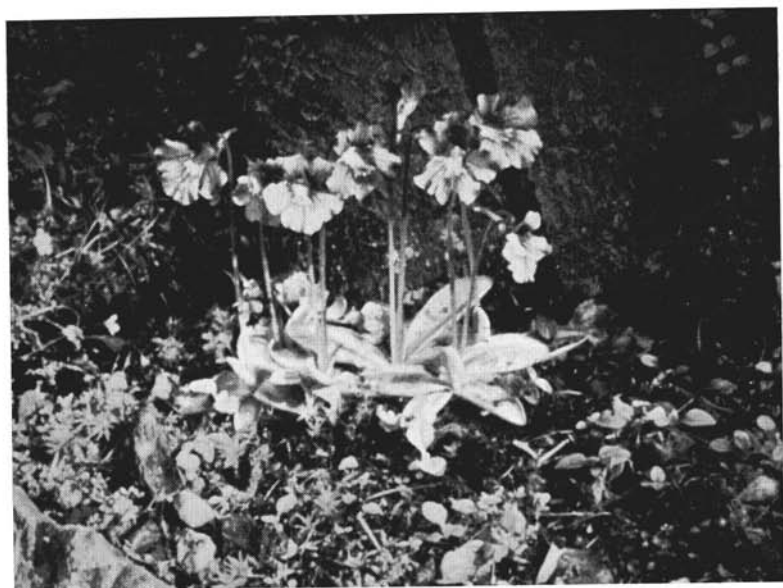
Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 40—*Gentiana saxosa* (see page 148)



Photo—B. O. Mulligan

Fig. 41—*Juniperus communis* var. *jackii* (see page 148)



Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 42—*Pinguicula grandiflora* (see page 148)



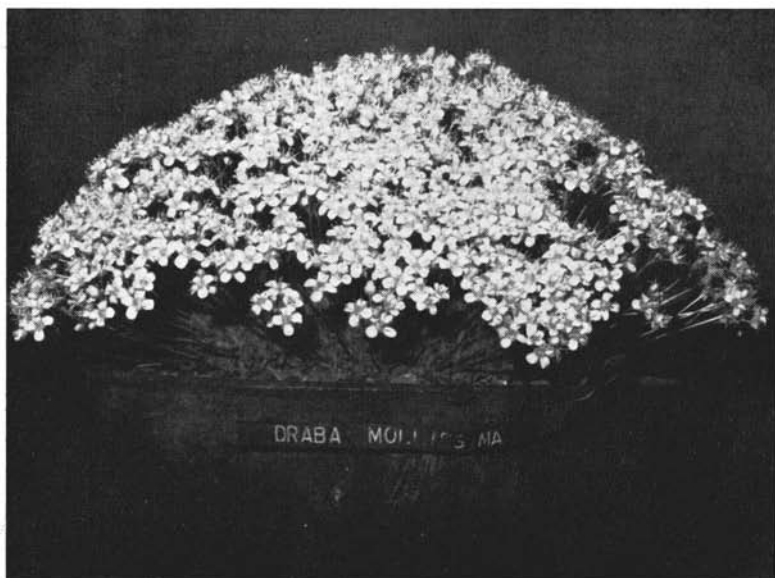
Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 43—*Pulsatilla halleri* (see page 150)



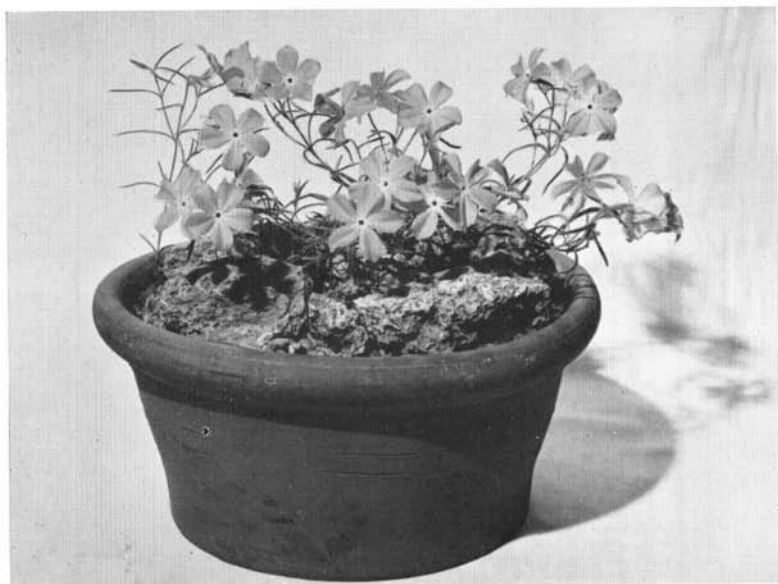
Photo—S. Mitchell

Fig. 44—*Saxifraga strigosa* (see page 150)



Photo—H. D. Slack

Fig. 45—*Draba mollissima* at Glasgow (see page 157)



Photo—G. Finney

Fig. 46—*Phlox triovolata* (Forrest Medal, Edinburgh)
(see page 159)



Photo—G. Finney

Fig. 47—*Claytonia nivalis* (see page 159)



Photo—H. Esslemont

Fig. 48—*Pyxidantha barbulata*, Dunfermline (see page 161)

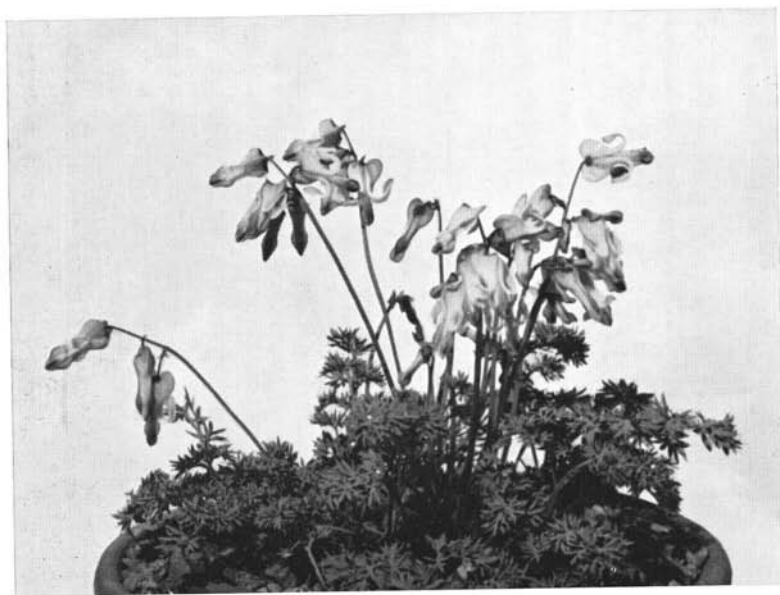


Photo—G. Finney

Fig. 49—*Rhododendron* "Chikor" (*Rh. chryseum* x *Rh. ludlowi*)
(see page 164)



Fig. 50—*Fritillaria pyrenaica*, Aberdeen (see page 164)



Photo—G. Finney

Fig. 51—*Dicentra peregrina* var. *pusilla*, Award of Merit and Cultural Commendation (see page 165)

Shows there was again an increase in the number of entries for Section II, but there is no reason why this increase should not be greater. I would ask that those members who are eligible for this Section and have not already entered plants should seriously consider doing so during the coming year.†

The attendance on the part of the public might have been better and the question as to whether it would not be wiser to have a one-day Show instead of two days in certain areas will have to be considered. There are times and localities where it is most inconvenient for would-be exhibitors to bring plants from considerable distances and again to collect them after a two-day Show. In addition there is the extra expense incurred for the hire of a suitable hall—a point which is of some importance in these days of high costs.

The two meetings of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society were held during the past season at Edinburgh and Dunfermline, where recommendations were made for one award of Merit and two Preliminary Commendations to plants, and three Cultural Commendations for exhibits at these shows.

Our overseas membership continues to increase, which is a great pleasure to us in this country. To our overseas members we send our greetings. We are grateful for the interest which they take in our activities and for their most interesting contributions to our *Journal*. We shall look forward to many more in the future. One wonders whether it would not be possible to form Groups in certain areas which would hold meetings and perhaps Shows such as we have here.

Again in spite of the comparatively poor weather conditions the response to the Seed Exchange has been very good. There has also been an increase in the number of requests for the loan of slides from the Slide Library. A tape-recorded lecture with a set of 35 mm. colour transparencies is now available for members. Further recordings will be produced if the demand justifies it.

No doubt during the early summer some of our members have taken part in one or other of the advertised Continental Tours to see alpine plants growing in their natural surroundings. I would like to remind members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club that never in its history has the Scottish Rock Garden Club sponsored any continental tour.

†(Section II is limited to those who have won not more than 6 first prizes, and so is particularly suitable for new members)—*Editor*.

We mourn the loss of four of our outstanding and older members during the past year. We shall greatly miss the valuable services of Squadron Leader J. J. Boyd-Harvey, who was Honorary Secretary for many years and who served the Club so well and so selflessly ; Mrs. Dorothy Renton, that great plantswoman who with her husband established one of the finest gardens in Britain ; Mr. R. J. C. Biggart, who was Hon. Show Secretary for Glasgow and who did so much for the Club and the Glasgow Show will be greatly missed ; Mrs. Crewdson, an eminent authority on alpine plants and well known to alpine plant enthusiasts throughout Britain, was one of our oldest members.*

The membership of the Club continues to increase but so have the necessary costs which have now reached a record ceiling. I want seriously to remind members, as I said last year, that under these circumstances it is extremely necessary to persist in increasing our membership, and would again ask everyone to introduce at least one new interested member.

JAMES DAVIDSON

*(Since the above was written the Club has also sustained the loss of a greatly respected member in the recent death of Lt.-Colonel J. C. Dundas, President 1951-1955)—*Editor*.

Show Reports

PENICUIK SHOW

FOR THIS, the thirteenth Show, the weather was really kind as it was sunny and dry, if somewhat cold. The Show marked a change in form, for it was held jointly with the Industrial Section of the Penicuik Society, who have changed the date of their complete "Industrial Show" from the autumn Show to their Spring Bulb Show. As this section was added to our Show and their Bulb Show, the hall of Eastfield School was very well filled. Their Bulb Show, too, was definitely increased in number of entries, and extremely good ones at that.

About a fortnight or so before our Show was due it seemed likely that it would have to be moved on at least a week as everything was so very late, snow-covered and frozen in, in fact, but a very mild sunny week-end and a further spell of intermitted mild weather brought almost everything on so quickly that we were well "up to date" when the time came. In fact, there was the highest entry yet, the number beating the record 1963 Show to reach the hundred mark for the first

time—an astonishing total when one remembers that the number of entries in 1954 was 24 and in 1955, 34 ! Once again we were glad to see some new names among the competitors and a Junior Competitor as well as our usual stalwart supporters.

The Forrest Medal was awarded to *Primula marginata* "Clare's var." shown by Dr. D. F. Booth of Edinburgh. This was a really magnificent plant, perfectly flowered and in beautiful condition, but the competition was so close that three Certificates of Merit were awarded to the runners-up—*Primula sonchifolia* shown by Mr. Esslemont of Aberdeen, *Cyclamen vernum* (the B.S.B.E. form) shown by Mr. Duff, also of Aberdeen, and *Shortia uniflora* shown by the Edrom Nurseries. This was, in many ways, typical of the whole Show, for I have seldom seen such close competition in so many classes—in fact, in two classes "equals" were given, an uncommon occurrence.

Each Show tends to be different from its predecessors and this was no exception, for this year the Primulas were of exceptionally good quality, as were the Irises and *Cyclamen vernum*. Last year there were a number of "blind" Irises, but this year this fault was not apparent. Both "Asiatic" Primulas such as *Pp. sonchifolia*, *whitei* and *edgeworthii*, and "others", mostly European, were finely flowered and in the best of condition—perhaps the latter were the more striking for several of the so-called "commoner" colour-variants of the ordinary primrose and the polyanthus and their hybrids were shown in complete perfection, solid mounds of bloom with hardly a leaf to be seen.

Mr. Esslemont had a "three" of the difficult New Zealand silvers which made a striking exhibit, and just beside them was a very good *Epigaea asiatica* shown by Mrs. Maule in full flower. There were some unusual Ornithogalums on show, for example *Oo. balansae* and *natalense*, both handsome plants, and Mr. Esslemont had a pan in full flower of *Sternbergia* and that is a genus which is notoriously tricky to flower well. There were a number of the B.S.B.E. and Mathew and Tomlinson bulbs on the benches, including the true *Tulipa humilis* shown by the Show Secretary, as were *Fritillaria chlorantha* (which seems to be settling down well) and *F. zagrica*. Other good bulbs were among the classes for Narcissus and Crocus, the Narcissi being much better than last year.

The Kabschia Saxifrages seem to be late this year and the entries were down a bit, but the Midlothian Vase was won by Dr. Davidson with a very fine pan of *Sax. burseriana* 'Sulphurea', and those which

were exhibited were good. There were a number of Heaths shown in full flower—they are a most useful stand-by in any garden and it is odd that one does not see them more often on the show bench.

The Midlothian Bowl was won by Mrs. Maule of Balerno by a narrow margin from Mr. Esslemont—both of these exhibitors had notable plants on show and if the points had been even closer Mrs. Maule would still have won on the ruling for ties as she had a higher number of firsts.

The Edrom Nurseries gave us their usual and very welcome support with a very good display of a wide range of plants and bulbs which gained them a Gold Medal, and the Certificate of Merit mentioned above.

The Penicuik Bulb Show was, as mentioned earlier, even better than usual and the same three Judges dealt with it as with our Show ; they were Miss H. M. Logan Home and Messrs. J. L. Mowat and K. C. Corsar of Cairniehill. The teas provided by the ladies of the Penicuik Industrial Section were appreciated very much, as usual, and at one point there was quite an appreciable queue waiting more or less patiently !

Altogether, though it *was* the thirteenth, this was a most successful and happy Show held in pleasant weather and an almost ideal hall.

HENRY TOD,

*Hon. Show Secretary, Penicuik,
and G.C. Mid- and West Lothian.*

GLASGOW

THE GLASGOW SHOW was held in the McLellan Galleries on 19th and 20th April 1966, when there was an increase in the number of entries in the Rock Garden Sections, but unfortunately, because of adverse weather conditions, the Rhododendron Section had to be cancelled. However, Mrs. K. L. Kenneth and Mr. R. G. Kenneth brought from Ardrishaig a very fine non-competitive exhibit of cut rhododendrons which was awarded a worthy Certificate of Merit. The Parks Department of Glasgow Corporation are also due high praise for two exhibits which greatly helped to make the Show a success. One from Glasgow Botanic Gardens consisted entirely of greenhouse orchids, which by their quality testified to the skill of the staff. This exhibit was awarded a Gold Medal, as was the other Corporation display from Queens Park of well-grown azaleas, hydrangeas, schizanthus,

primulas and daffodils. Once again the Scottish Orchid Society put up a fine exhibit of orchids grown by its members and received a Certificate of Merit. Thanks are due to the Society and to the individual members who brought along such well-grown plants.

The Dr. William Buchanan Memorial Rose Bowl for six pans of rock plants was again won by Mr. Harold Esslemont, Aberdeen, with a very fine exhibit. His outstanding plants here were *Dionysia demavendica*, *Primula dryadifolia*, as well flowered as I have seen, and *Draba mollissima* (Fig. 45), which made a perfect cushion smothered with yellow flowers. The latter was awarded the George Forrest Memorial Medal as the most meritorious rock garden plant in the Show. His *Dionysia* must have been a close second for this award. Mr. John Archibald took the second prize with a good six, the three best of which I thought to be *Cassiope selaginoides* form L. & S. 13284 (is there a better in the genus?), *Rhododendron leucaspis* and *Primula aureata* which Mr. Archibald always shows to perfection.

There was keen competition for the Henry Archibald Challenge Rose Bowl, which was won by Mr. and Mrs. Alec Todd, Bearsden. His three pans were *Pleione limprichtii*, quite the best that I have seen, *Primula reidii*, raised be it noted from Club seed, and *Primula* 'Linda Pope'. Mr. J. B. Duff, Aberdeen, was a very close second with plants of very good quality. They were *Androsace carnea* x *pyrenaica*, covered with pale lilac flowers, *Draba polytricha*, and *Primula pubescens* 'Christine'. Third prize went to Mr. John Archibald whose best plant was *Primula aureata*, carrying an enormous truss of flowers and buds.

Mr. Jack Crosland, Aberdeenshire, again won the William C. Buchanan Challenge Cup for 3 pans of rock plants, rare, new or difficult in cultivation. His best plant was the rare *Pleione pogonoides*, which had never before appeared at a Glasgow Show and indeed may not have been shown in Scotland previously. Mr. Crosland also showed in excellent condition the silver *Raoulia mammillaris*. Just to show that it was no fluke to produce such a fine silver foliage plant, Mr. Crosland won the class for plants of that description with *Helichrysum frigidum*.

The fairly new shrub *Kalmiopsis* 'M. le Piniec' gained a first for Dr. Gibson, Dalbeattie, and the offspring of *Saxifraga grisebachii*, S. 'Chrystalae' with sixteen spikes of flower took a worthy red ticket for Mr. J. B. Duff. Mr. R. C. Macbeth, Glasgow, showed a very good white saxifrage the name of which is in some doubt. We finally

decided with some reservation that it might be *S. 'Suendermannii'* of Kew. Whatever the name, it is most certainly worth propagating and distributing.

Primulas, particularly those of European origin, were forward in good numbers and condition. First prizes went to the following for the species or varieties indicated. Mr. Neil Morris, Greenock, *P. petiolaris*; Mr. and Mrs. Alec Todd, *Pp. 'Barbara Barker', farinosa* and 'Blairside Yellow'; Mr. J. B. Duff (2 firsts), *Pp. 'Linda Pope', leucophylla* (both in 9 in. pots) and 'Marven'.

Another excellent pan won the award for a hardy cyclamen for Mr. Jack Crosland. It was *C. coum* with a couple of dozen or so flowers. A small but well flowered *Androsace carnea* var. *halleri* took a first for Mrs. Reed, Symington, as did *Anemone blanda* 'White Splendour' for Mrs. A. Allan, Strathblane.

Dwarf narcissus and tulipa were shown in good condition. Mrs. E. W. McLean, Bearsden, took tickets for *N. triandrus loiseleurii*, a dwarf form not known to me, *N. 'Beryl', N. nanus* and *T. praestans 'Fusilier'*. Mrs. Lunn, Drymen, won a first with *N. cyclameneus 'Little Witch'*. Mr. and Mrs. Wagstaff, Eaglesham, won the same award with *T. praestans 'Fusilier'* and *I. kaufmanniana 'Hearts Delight'*.

Mrs. E. D. Wilson, Dunfermline, had three very good, well matched conifers in *Pinus sylvestris 'Beauvronensis', Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana'* and *Cedrus libani 'Sargentii'*. She also gained a first prize for a fine rhododendron, *R. grievii*.

Mrs. E. W. McLean also exhibited some fine conifers, notable amongst them being *Pinus sylvestris 'Pumila'* and *Picea abies 'Gregoryana'*. Other plants noted particularly in Section I were *Rhododendron yunnanensis* (Mr. R. C. Macbeth), *Muscari alba* (Mr. James Moir), *Abies balsamea 'Hudsonia'* (Mr. Neil Morris), *Daphne retusa* (Miss Margaret Nicolson), *Pleione pricei* (Mr. William McMillan).

The Crawford Cup for most first prizes in Section I was won by Mr. Neil Morris, Greenock.

There were some good entries but not enough of them in Section II. Without a doubt we should hear more from some of those whose names appeared in the prize list.

Miss Margaret Nicolson, Bearsden, gained the Bronze Medal and the James A. Wilson Trophy for most points.

Plants noted were primulas 'Mrs. J. H. Wilson', 'Faldonside', *x bilecki*, and *gracilipes*, saxifrages 'Chrystalae' and *thessalica*, Nar-

cissus juncifolius, *Tulipa praestans* 'Fusilier', rhododendrons *pema-koense* and *pumilum* and *Chamaecyparis leptoclada* ?

The only trade stand of rock garden plants this year was put up by Mr. J. R. Ponton, The Gardens, Kirknewton, Midlothian. It was well worthy of the Gold Medal awarded by the judges. Shrubs can be the back-bone of any rock garden. Amongst them were *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Pygmaea', *Salix wehrhahnii*, *Cassiope selaginoides*, azaleas 'Little Beauty' and 'Vuyk's Scarlet' and heaths in variety. Primulas were the European species *Rubra* and the Asiatic species *chionantha* and *sino-purpurea*. Noted particularly amongst the spring bulbs were the tulips *tarda*, *turkestanica* and *kaufmanniana* hybrids. Mr. Ponton again featured *Pleione formosanum*, the near hardy orchid which has become so popular in recent years.

We were very gratified on this occasion to have a fine exhibit of orchids from the well-known firm Stuart Low Orchids, Jarvis Brook, Crowborough, Sussex.

D. L.

EDINBURGH

LIKE MOST other of the Club Shows this year Edinburgh Show, held in the Music Hall, George Street, on 8th and 9th June, showed the effects of the long, severe winter and spring, and entries were down slightly on those of last year. In spite of this, however, it was a very good Show and many really excellent and very interesting plants were staged, so that over all a high standard was attained.

It is always interesting to see what comes up in the six-pan class, and here Mr. J. D. Crosland gained a worthy 'first' with good pans of *Pinguicula grandiflora*, *Primula reidii* var. *williamsii*, *Helichrysum frigidum*, *Lewisia* 'Carroll Watson', *Rhododendron hanceanum* 'Nanum', and *Fritillaria camschatcensis*. In the three-pan class Mr. H. Esslemont came first with a very fine *Phlox triovulata* (see Fig. 46) (winner of the Forrest Medal), a handsome *Ramonda myconii*, and a large, well-flowered *Anchusa caespitosa*. Dr. and Mrs. Simson Hall were runner-up with excellent plants of *Euryops evansii*, *Campanula allionii*, and a *Claytonia nivalis* (see Fig. 47) which later gained a Preliminary Commendation. In class 3, also for 3 pans but this time—new, rare or difficult, Mr. Crosland came first with *Jankaea heldreichii*, *Lewisia nevadensis*, and *Saxifraga florulenta*, followed by Mr. Esslemont with *Jankaea*, *Haastia pulvinaris*, and *Campanula lourica*.

It is of interest to note that in the names mentioned so far the only duplication is that of *Jankaea heldreichii*.

In class 4 *Saxifraga florulenta* appeared again as first (shown by Dr. and Mrs. Davidson) followed by *Gentiana* sp. M.1639 (Kuli-i-Alwand) shown by Mr. Esslemont. First in class 5 was a very fine *Antennaria dioica* 'Rosea' shown by Mrs. Tucker, and in class 6 a nice pan of *Trientalis europaea* by Mrs. Cormack. *Helichrysum coralloides* was first in class 7, and in the next class *Raoulia mammillaris*. The three-pan class of saxifrages was won by Mr. and Mrs. Baillie with *Ss. aizoon* 'Lutea', *cotyledon*, and *macnabiana*, and the two-pan class by Mrs. Murdoch with *Ss. cebennensis* and *aizoon* var. *baldensis*. Out of 7 entries in class 11 *Saxifraga cotyledon* 'Southside Seedling' was first, followed by *S. aizoon* 'Lutea'.

How often does one see tulips in good condition in the month of June? Surely very seldom! Nevertheless, class 26 (for 1 pan tulipa) was won by a very fine pan of *Tulipa batalinii* 'Bright Gem' shown by Mrs. Davidson, while in class 29 a fine rich pink *Nigritella nigra* var. *rubra* shown by Dr. Davidson was first. This nigritella is much more attractive, with its clear bright colouring, than is the dark flowered type plant. Class 33 was won by Mrs. Maule with a good plant of *Helichrysum orientale* 'Pitchleri', and Mr. and Mrs. McLeod won 42 with a good *Sedum spathulifolium* 'Capablanca', with as runner-up a nice pan of *Sedum oreganum* shown by Mr. and Mrs. Aitken.

Class 43 could boast eight entries and the following one seven, all of them good. Mr. Aitken in class 47 showed a most attractive *Rhododendron kiusianum* 'Alpinum', and in class 52 was a fine well-flowered *Tsusiophyllum tanakae* by Mrs. Maule, while in 54 all eyes were caught by a magnificent *Saponaria* x 'Olivana' (*S. pumila* x *S. caespitosa*) shown by Mr. and Mrs. Baillie, who were also first in class 55 with a very fine *Ramonda myconii*.

I do not remember having seen *Hebe macrantha* at a Club Show before, and certainly not one to equal that shown by Mr. and Mrs. Simson Hall in class 60. In 71 appeared another plant seldom seen at Shows in the form of a well-flowered *Linnaea borealis*. Class 76 was extremely colourful and most attractive with the great array of entries in competition for the Kilbryde Cup. *Wahlenbergia pumilio* caught the eye in 77, a good *Antennaria dioica* 'Rosea' in 79, and *Saxifraga* 'Southside Seedling' in 82.

The classes 112 to 117 and 121 to 124 (cacti and succulents) were

likewise very interesting and sometimes colourful even though not rock plants in the accepted sense.

In such a difficult season as we have had the displays put up by our Trade members was most praiseworthy and deserves the Club's grateful acknowledgement and thanks. Large Gold Medals were awarded to Messrs. Jack Drake, Inshriach, Aviemore, and to Grove-mount Alpine Nursery, Auchterarder, and Gold Medals to Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire, and to J. R. Ponton, Kirknewton, Midlothian.

DUNFERMLINE

DUNFERMLINE SHOW, held in the Music Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, on 13th and 14th May, reflected to some extent the very adverse weather of late winter and spring which has been experienced this year. It was somewhat thinner than in most years and while there were many really excellent exhibits there were also some which did not come up to the standard usually seen here.

Class 1, for the Robertson Memorial Challenge Cup, was won by Mr. J. D. Crosland with good plants of *Claytonia nivalis*, *Ourisia ruellioides* and *Androsace imbricata*, while Mr. H. Esslemont came second with *Primula forrestii*, an *Androsace*, and *Anchusa caespitosa*. Third in the five entries came Mr. J. B. Duff with *Cassiope* 'Muirhead', *Anemone vernalis*, and *Glaucidium palmatum*—which gained the Forrest Medal and was also of course reckoned the 'best plant' in Section I. Also outstanding in this class were an excellent plant of *Phyllodoce empetrififormis* and a good *Gentiana verna*.

Mr. Crosland also came first in Class 2 with a pan of *Calypso* sp., which was followed by an excellent plant of *Pyxidantha barbulata* (see Fig. 48) in full flower shown by Mr. Esslemont. Mrs. Cormack won the next class (native to Scotland) with a very fine *Genista anglica* (which I do not remember having seen previously at a Club Show). Out of 6 entries in Class 5 first prize went to *Primula tzariensis*, second to *P. reidii* var. *williamsii*, and third to *P. sieboldii* 'Butterfly'. In the next class *Androsace cylindrica* came first, *A. arachnoides* 'Superba' second, and *A. mucronifolia*, shown by Mrs. Murdoch, third. The saxifrage class was won by *S. demnatensis*, one not often seen, and the sedum class by a nice pan of *S. ternatum* out of eight entries. Class 10 brought nine entries, all good, of which Mrs. Baillie's *Sempervivum ciliosum* f. *borisii* was adjudged best. Entries in Class 15 reached

double figures, and the winners were *Rhododendron sargentianum* and *Cassiope* 'Muirhead' and 'Badenoch'. Unfortunately the flowers on a good plant of *Oxalis laciniata* in Class 16 remained tightly closed on such a dull, cool day. Class 23 contained some interesting plants in its ten entries and although *Corydalis cashmeriana* was given first, there was a very excellent pan of *Armeria caespitosa* and a nice *Corydalis wilsonii*.

In Section II the Bronze Medal went to Mrs. Reid, whose three plants in Class 30 were *Gentiana acaulis*, *Saxifraga aizoon*, and *Primula rosea*.

The winner of the 3-pan class in Section IV, Mr. R. W. Rutherford, showed very excellent pans of *Phlox amoena*, *Cytisus ardoinii* and *Primula involucrata*; he was followed closely by Mr. C. Gordon Hill and Miss Milburn, whose *Globularia cordifolia* was first in Class 44. In Class 46 there were some excellent specimens and some fine saxifrages in Class 48, while the *Sedum-Sempervivum* class (49) had five very excellent entries and Class 50 ten good entries. Three excellent primulas were first in Class 51 and there were some fine lewisias in 55, while Mr. C. G. Hill's *Cassiope* 'Edinburgh' caught the eye in Class 60.

A most outstanding display of Auriculas, staged by Mr. Elder, our Club Treasurer, seemed to draw and fascinate both Club members and general visitors alike and caused much interested comment. It and a plant of *Rhododendron sargentianum*, staged by Mrs. E. Wilson, were awarded Certificates of Merit, and the attractive display staged by Grovemount Alpine Nursery, Auchterarder, was awarded a Large Gold Medal.

DUNDEE

THIS SHOW was held on Friday and Saturday, 27th and 28th May, in our usual venue, and despite a large fall in entries produced some plants of very high quality.

The George Forrest Medal for the most outstanding plant was awarded to a magnificent specimen of *Lewisia heckneri* with wonderfully large flowers, exhibited by Mr. J. B. Duff, Aberdeen.

The "Alexander Caird Trophy" was also won by Mr. Duff, who exhibited six fine pans consisting of *Anemone obtusiloba patula*, *Dianthus* x 'Whitehills', *Lewisia cotyledon* 'Comet', *Lewisia heckneri*, *Lithospermum oleifolium*, and a fine specimen of *Cassiope selaginoides* (L. & S. 13284) which was also awarded a Certificate of Merit.

Mr. J. D. Crosland, Aberdeen, won the "Dundas Quaich" with a fine exhibit of *Ranunculus parnassifolius*, *Orchis sambucina*, and *Androsace hirtella*. This gentleman also exhibited fine specimens of *Calypso bulbosa* and *Lloydia longiscapa*, the latter gaining a Certificate of Merit.

Further Certificates of Merit were awarded to a very fine plant of *Oxalis patagonica* with beautifully marked petals, exhibited by Miss E. M. Rogers, Dundee, and in Class 95 to Mr. D. Schofield's wonderful plant of *Mammillaria wildii* 'Cristata'.

Other outstanding plants were *Ramonda myconii*, *Rhodohypoxis*, named varieties "Pictus", "Dulcie" and "Douglas", shown by Mr. J. D. Youngson of Perth, and a wonderful plant of *Asperula suberosa* from Mrs. Dyas, Aberdeen.

The Bronze Medal went to Mr. W. C. M. Pearson, Dundee, on his first attempt at exhibiting.

The L. C. Middleton Trophy for the greatest number of first prizes went to Mr. James H. K. Rorie, Dundee.

I would like to record here my thanks to the small band of helpers who do so much to make this Show the success it is, and without whom I would be unable to stage any Show.

Hon. Show Secretary.
Dundee.

ABERDEEN

A DIFFICULT beginning to the year with severe late frosts reduced the number of entries at the Aberdeen Show held on 28th and 29th April. Our President, Dr. Davidson, opened the Show and we were very pleased to welcome him and Mrs. Davidson back to Aberdeen.

The highlights of the Show were the successes of two of our lady members, Mrs. Dyas and Miss Brenda Gibson. The George Forrest Medal was awarded to *Androsace imbricata*, exhibited by Mrs. Dyas, who is a staunch supporter of the Aberdeen Show and whose name has featured in many of these reports. Miss Gibson, a junior, was awarded a Certificate of Merit for a very notable collection of plants.

The Aberdeen Bronze Medal (6 pan class won by Mr. Esslemont) attracted three entries, among which the following individual plants attracted considerable attention: *Daphne petraea*, *Androsace arachnoideum*, *Oxalis patagonica*, *Primula dryadifolia*, *Trillium rivale* and *Anemone vernalis*. *Primula dryadifolia*, exhibited by Mr. Crosland, cannot have been exhibited at many Shows. In the 3 pan class, Mr. Reid had a fine plant of *Cassiope* 'Edinburgh'.

An interesting plant raised by Mr. Esslemont from seed collected by Mr. Archibald in North Africa was *Saxifraga demnatisensis*. *Pyxidantha barbulate* was once again to be seen; this delightful little plant covered with little white flowers won the class for new, rare or difficult plants (Mr. Esslemont). It is a pity that the plant of *Rhododendron* 'Chikor' (*ludlowii* x *chryseum*) (see Fig. 49) exhibited by Mr. Reid had been entered in this class, as it was a very well-flowered specimen. This cross, produced by E. H. M. and P. A. Cox of Glendoick, and for which they received the Cory Cup from the R.H.S., must, with its masses of yellow flowers, prove an invaluable addition to the list of Rhododendrons suitable for the rock garden.

The class for silver foliage plants was won by Mr. Duff with a good form of *Helichrysum coralloides*. Another attractive plant in this class was *Raoulia bryoides*, as was *Raoulia mammillaris* beside it in the class for cushion plants. The 'impossible' Raoulias seem to be responding to expert cultivation as did the 'King of the Mountains'.

Some good ericaceous plants were shown, including *Phyllodoce caerulea* (Duff), *Cassiope lycopodioides* and *Vaccinium nummularia* (Reid), but the rhododendron classes were poorly represented, no doubt a reflection of a sudden and severe late frost.

The classes for dwarf conifers attracted a large entry including *Tsuga canadensis*, *Juniperus echiniformis*, *Cedrus libani* 'Nana' and *C. brevifolia*. In addition there was a fine aged specimen of *Picea glauca* v. *albertina* 'Conica' exhibited by the Cruickshank Botanic Garden (Mr. Sutherland).

In the dwarf shrub class an interesting exhibit was *Ilex crenata* 'Mariesii' which had set seed. Perhaps these will appear in the Seed Distribution List.

There seems to be a resurgence of interest in Aberdeen in bulbous plants, and among the Fritillarias shown were *F. citrina* and *F. sp.* M. 1666, while good pans of *Tulipa pulchella*, *montana* and *tarda* were shown.

In addition to the awards already mentioned the Bronze Medal for the most points in Section II went to Mr. McKelvie and the Walker of Portlethen Trophy for most points gained in Section I was won by Mr. Esslemont.

A Certificate of Exceptional Merit was awarded to the Cruickshank Botanic Garden (Mr. Sutherland) for a collection of rock plants. Outstanding in this collection was *Fritillaria pyrenaica* (see Fig. 50), to which a Certificate of Merit was awarded. Mr. Esslemont received a Certificate of Merit for his plant of *Dionysia aretioides*.

The judging was admirably conducted by Mr. Evans, Dr. Tod and Mr. Sutherland.

Colourful trade stands were staged by the Edrom Nurseries and by Mrs. McMurtrie.

HAMISH ROBERTSON

MEETINGS IN SCOTLAND OF THE JOINT ROCK GARDEN PLANT COMMITTEE

DUNFERMLINE : 13th MAY 1966

Award to Plant :

PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION to *Lewisia cotyledon*, white form, exhibited as *Lewisia cotyledon alba*, introduced to cultivation by M. le Piniec, and to Britain by H. Esslemont, as a flowering plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by H. Esslemont, Esq., Aberdeen.

Award for Exhibit :

CERTIFICATE OF CULTURAL COMMENDATION to H. Esslemont, Esq., Aberdeen, for a well-grown plant of *Androsace arachnoidea* 'Superba'.

EDINBURGH : 8th JUNE 1966

Awards to Plants :

AWARD OF MERIT to *Dicentra peregrina pusilla* as a flowering plant for the rock garden and alpine house. Exhibited by Messrs. Jack Drake, Aviemore (see Fig. 51).

PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION to *Claytonia nivalis* as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Dr. and Mrs. Simson Hall, Edinburgh (see Fig. 47).

Awards for Exhibits :

CERTIFICATE OF CULTURAL COMMENDATION to Messrs. Jack Drake, Aviemore, for a well-grown plant of *Dicentra peregrina pusilla*.

CERTIFICATE OF CULTURAL COMMENDATION to H. Esslemont, Esq., Aberdeen, for a well-grown plant of *Phlox triovulata* (syn. *P. mesoleuca* Hort, non Green) (see Fig. 46).

Group Activities

ANGUS

A SERIES of seven meetings was held from October 1965 to April 1966.

At the first meeting William Howell, F.L.S., F.Inst.P.A., from Beckenham, Kent, spoke to us about "Plant Hunting in the Southern Alps". The increasing cultivation of New Zealand plants in rock gardens in this country made this particularly interesting, and the slides of flowers and mountains made an attractive start to our session.

In November, Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon, D.S.O., M.C., had for his title "My Garden in Atholl". This was a description of his garden and its plants throughout the year, aided by colour slides. This delighted even those who know the garden, for the range of plants cannot be fully appreciated by a visit at one particular time of the year.

The speaker at our December meeting was Robert J. Mitchell, from the University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, who took for his subject "Colour in the Rock Garden". This gave him scope to show many fine colour slides of usual and unusual plants, which with his expert commentary increased our knowledge of suitable plants for the rock garden.

The usual Members' Transparency Night was on 10th January 1966 when the increasing number of members taking part made this a very full and pleasant evening. It was outstanding, I think, in the interesting commentaries given with the slides shown, a thing members were rather diffident about when this feature in our programme was started.

On 7th February we were fortunate to have other travellers who had been outside the usual European limits to speak to us. "A Visit to the Assam Himalayas", by P. C. Hutchison, Forgardenny, and P. A. Cox, Glendoick, was a most instructive lecture. Those who read about the conditions in which Rhododendrons, Magnolias and Orchids grow in their native habitats, were interested to see pictures taken in these forest regions. Unfortunately, the area covered by their permit was restricted at the last moment to the Subansiri district of the North East Frontier Agency. At heights when things were getting really interesting to cultivators in the U.K., they had to turn back. A good discussion period followed in which Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Cox took part along with Mr. Hutchison.

Two of our own members provided the next lecture, "Czech Mates", by Miss Joyce A. Halley and Miss Jenny Stirling. Some

excellent slides of the towns and mountains they visited in Czechoslovakia and the flowers they saw there were shown. We were particularly pleased to see as well pictures of some of the fine people who made their visit so pleasant. This is an intriguing development from correspondence Miss Halley has had as the Club's Seed Distribution Manager. It seems that America is to be the next place to be visited by these able and charming ambassadors, and we look forward to hearing about that expedition next session.

We had only one garden visit this year, to Keillour Castle on 21st May. This was a rainy day which cleared up wonderfully when we were there. Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay showed the party round the gardens, which as usual were looking splendid. The time was intermediate in some ways. The Petiolarid primulas were going over, but the Candelabra types were hurrying to take over. Many Rhododendrons were in full bloom with others, including many Azaleas, yet to give their brilliant show. Many *Incarvilleas* were still in bud, but *Incarvillea mairei* 'Nyoto Sama' was in exceptional bloom—real "Forrest Medal" standard. It was interesting, too, to see *Corydalis cashmiriana* at several places, including the original big mass beside *Magnolia stellata*. A series of new Fritillaries were interesting, while *F. pallidiflora* was a most sturdy form. *Meconopsis*, too, of course, in very fine form in several species and varieties! In the den north of the bridge, Ramondas, Haberleas, and *Jankaea heldreichii* were well budded and some of the Ramondas just opening. Altogether a most satisfactory visit with much to see for everyone, and for which we are much indebted to Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay.

S. M.

BERWICKSHIRE

DURING the winter three meetings were held in the Lecture Room at the Agriculture Centre, Duns, by the kind co-operation of the Berwickshire Education Committee.

The November meeting was an informal one, various members bringing slides and giving a brief talk about them. This was followed by a successful sale of plants donated by members.

Dr. Davidson, our President, came to us in December and gave a most interesting illustrated talk on trips he and Mrs. Davidson had made in Yugoslavia and Greece, which was much appreciated by the fine turnout of members and their friends.

For our final meeting we had our old friend Mr. Sanderson from Birnieknowes, Cockburnspath, and spent a happy evening seeing his fine slides and hearing of his gardening exploits.

In June we visited two gardens in neighbouring counties : first we went to Mr. Bruce Robertson, Parkhill, Howgate, where we enjoyed seeing a very fine collection of plants growing in first class conditions. From there we went to Linton Muir, West Linton, where Dr. and Mrs. Davidson showed us round their fine collection of plants—many brought back from their travels in Europe—and now growing happily in their new home. At both gardens we enjoyed the hospitality of afternoon tea, which was much appreciated. Weather was not too kind, as there was a persistent drizzle most of the time, but nevertheless, although few in number, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

A. W.

EAST LOTHIAN

THE 1965-66 winter season began with a Members' Transparency Night on Thursday 30th September at the Rectory, Dunbar, by invitation of the Rev. E. M. Ivens. The proceedings opened with a twenty-minute programme with taped commentary by Mr. Hunter and Mr. Ivens of some of the tender, almost sub-tropical, flowering shrubs which grow in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Waterlow at Belhaven House, Dunbar. Thereafter members showed pictures, both cine and still, taken at garden visits and in their own gardens. Although the Club exists to encourage the growing of rock garden plants, pictures of rock gardeners also have interest, particularly when we can recognise ourselves on the screen.

We have had a considerable influx of welcome new members recently, and it was felt that a lecture should be laid on for their special benefit. Who could be better fitted for this than Mrs. Simson Hall, who runs a beginners' class in her own Edinburgh Group? Members both old and new were most appreciative of her talk, and of the "before and after" pictures of the new garden which she and Dr. Simson Hall have built at Barnton.

On 24th November fifty-two members and friends attended the Group Annual Dinner at Bisset's Hotel, Gullane. It had been hoped that Major and Mrs. Sherriff would have been our guests of honour, and we were saddened to hear of the Major's illness. Very nobly, at the eleventh hour, Mr. and Mrs. Cairns came to the rescue by agreeing to show us some more of their very delightful and entertaining films

of birds and animals, taken in the Highlands, the Borders and in their own garden.

The Group, whose activities in winter are limited by the risk of snow over the higher ground towards the Lammermuirs, had to wait until February for the next meeting. This was a summary and appraisal by Mr. J. T. Aitken of the life and work of Forrest and of Farrer. No two men could have been more strongly contrasted in their early background, their education and their character—Forrest, the greatest of all plant collectors, and Farrer, the unsuccessful and meagre collector, who nevertheless, by his writings, is still to this day influencing the way in which we grow our plants.

By March it was time for us to see living plants again, and it was a propitious moment for a competitive show of saxifrages, classified into those grown as flowering plants and those whose form and foliage are their chief merit in March. This was held in the Hope Rooms, North Berwick. Dr. and Mrs. Davidson showed some wonderful pictures in nature and in their high Peeblesshire garden. These included the rare and difficult *Saxifraga florulenta* growing in a vertical crevice in the Maritime Alps, quite inaccessible to almost everybody except the Davidsons. The Group Convener spoke of the distribution of *Saxifraga* species in nature, classifying them into sections and showing how these two factors indicate the conditions under which they should be grown in cultivation.

The lecture programme for the year concluded with Dr. Duncan Morison's talk on Swiss alpins in their habitats. As a photographer, Dr. Morison's artistry is widely known, and this evening was of particular interest and value to those members who had enjoyed or who were planning a holiday in the Swiss Alps.

No admission money is charged at East Lothian lectures, and so all the expenses of Group meetings and of the Autumn Show rest on the success of the Coffee Morning and "bring-and-buy" sale. We all of us owe a debt of gratitude to those generous and hospitable people past and present, who have made the collection of Group money so painless—in fact, so enjoyable. Mr. and Mrs. Paul have done this for us again in 1966. Their garden is very lovely both in its design and in the plants which grow there, and it is a marvel that members were able to tear themselves away in order to buy the brought plants, invest in raffle tickets and chat over a cup of coffee, thus raising more than £70. We now feel very comfortable financially, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Paul, and not only that, we have acquired some good new plants.

Our visit to Keillour Castle, by kind invitation of Major and Mrs. Knox Finlay, was indeed a red letter day, and it is difficult to describe in words our varied impressions of this extensive and beautiful garden. Some of us could hardly believe in the blueness and stature of the meconopses, and others were impressed by the artistry with which coloured foliage had been used. The collection included many plants such as *Jankaea heldreichii*, *Corydalis cashmeriana* and *Carduncellus rhapsodicoides* which are seldom seen except as potted treasures. Extensive plantings of Trilliums and Hellebores collected admiring circles. Perhaps the most impressive part of the garden is the gorge with almost vertical sides planted with Rhododendrons raised from wild seed by Major and Mrs. Finlay. Members were describing it as being “*exactly* like the Himalayas” and complaining that there was no rope bridge on which they could risk their lives. This was the first outing for several new members of the Group, and no doubt they returned home thinking that the “Rock Club” was quite a good thing to have joined. Major and Mrs. Finlay, by growing all these plants and allowing fellow members to see them, certainly comply with Rule 1 of our Constitution: “to create an interest in rock garden plants, to spread a knowledge of such plants, and to encourage their cultivation.”

L. CHRISTIANA BOYD-HARVEY,
Group Convener.

FIFE—EAST

THE OPENING meeting of the Group’s winter session was held on Thursday 7th October in MacArthur’s Cafe, St. Andrews, when the speaker was Mr. William Howell. His subject was “Plant Hunting in the Southern Alps, New Zealand”. A good attendance of members was shown coloured slides of some interesting New Zealand plants.

The meeting of 4th November was at Elmwood College, Cupar, and the speaker Mr. Stewart Mitchell, whose name on our programme always ensures a good turn-out and a keen enthusiasm. The beautifully illustrated talk on “Lautaret and Mont Cenis” was enjoyed by all present and after his talk Mr. Mitchell was called on to answer quite a barrage of questions.

“Members’ Night”, on 3rd December, was even more of a success than this item usually is. Dr. J. A. Weir set the ball rolling by giving a short but very lively talk on “How *not* to make a Rock Garden”—an account of his first experience in rock garden construction. He

illustrated his subject and drew attention to his errors with a series of interesting and attractive slides. This lively introductory talk set the pattern for the evening and the members who followed all added to the evening's enjoyment.

Most members must know by now how meticulous Mr. A. Evans is in the thorough care and preparation he gives to his lectures to Club members. The one on "Late Flowering Plants", which he gave at the Tudor Cafe, St. Andrews, on 7th January, was no exception. Mr. Evans' excellent slides, and the helpful and enthusiastic way in which he introduced and described his subjects, along with hints on their cultivation and various possible uses in rock garden schemes, was very greatly appreciated by all his audience, who were not slow to show their enjoyment of such an interesting and instructive evening.

Our following meeting at Cupar on 3rd February was also extremely interesting, when our speaker was Mr. John Lawson of Inshriach, who took as his subject "Plants at Inshriach". The wide-ranging collection of plants grown there, many of them of a unique rarity, is known by rock gardeners throughout the world and Mr. Lawson in his talk and slides covered a wide and varied field so that there was something to appeal to every member of his audience. After his talk many questions were put to him and his replies on matters of cultivation, best types and forms, etc., were received gratefully by his questioners.

In March we were given a most delightful talk by Miss W. Muirhead of Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, on a rather neglected class of rock plants with an interest all their own—"Sedums and Sempervivums". After the excellent way in which Miss Muirhead dealt with her subject and made it so interesting to us all we can surely hope for a much more knowledgeable and even keener cultivation of the many fine species available in the two genera.

Our "Judging Competition" evening at Cupar in April proved itself as usual a very popular evening in spite of the weather, and though the number of plants was understandably less than usual, the overall standard of plants on show was very good indeed. Amazingly so! Fife members look forward to the opening of the Tay Road Bridge when the Club Show at Dundee will become much more accessible to them.

Our Coffee Evening in May was also as usual highly successful and established the Group in a very sound financial position. It is proposed that we can now afford to go a bit further afield in our

efforts to introduce new speakers to our Group. No summer visits to gardens were possible this year, but here again we feel that the new bridge will open up new possibilities.

WEST FIFE

WE HAD three meetings this winter—the January one having to be cancelled owing to weather and illness. All the meetings were held in the Women's Centre, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline, and we would like to thank most sincerely all those who so kindly gave us so much enjoyment with their talks and slides.

Thursday 17th February : "Alpines of the French Alps and Mount Cenis", by Mr. Stewart Mitchell, Dundee. We were delighted to welcome Mr. Mitchell once again. The views of the alpines and of the mountains he photographed were truly lovely and the close-ups of the plants brought many gasps of sheer delight from his audience. To mention only a few were *Dryas octopetala* with each bloom so perfect, a very lovely dwarf form of Edelweiss, *Campanula allionii* blooming in a solid mass, and a *Dianthus neglectus* that really glowed, made us forget any winter discomforts waiting for us outside.

Thursday 17th March : "Making a Rock Garden", by Mrs. I. Simson Hall, Edinburgh. We were shown both by slides and diagrams how the new garden was drained, planned and built, and the slides showed lovely groupings and colour blending and contrasts. There were colours from blossoms and foliage all the year round, with some very beautiful flowering shrubs to form the background, and lawn to offset it all.

Thursday 21st April : "Rock Plants all the Year Round", by Mr. R. J. Mitchell, University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews. It was the first visit of Mr. Mitchell to Dunfermline and he brought a selection of really lovely slides. Many plants were completely new to us. There was a wonderful variety of Crocus Species and Hybrids and many other bulbs, both for Spring and Autumn, with plants, shrubs and conifers that were a sheer joy to see with so much beauty in form and colour.

Thursday 14th April : A very successful "Bring and Buy" coffee morning was held at 39 Townhill Road, Dumfermline, to raise funds for the Club Flower Show on 13th and 14th May. Many thanks to all who helped so willingly and who came to "bring and buy".

E. D. WILSON,
Group Convener.

INVERNESS—NORTH

THE FOLLOWING is the syllabus for this winter—meetings to be held in College of Agriculture, Drummondhill, Stratherrick Road, Inverness.

Oct. 3 Mr. R. Pearl : “Flower Hunting in the Swiss Alps”

Nov. 14 Mr. S. Mitchell : “The Small Rock Garden”

Dec. 12 Mr. A. Evans : “Dwarf Shrubs for the Rock Garden”

Jan. 15 “Members’ Topic Night”

Feb. 5 J. R. Aitken : “The Small Garden Pool”

Mar. 19 Members’ Night and Bring and Buy plant sale

Two summer garden visits were organised this year and the weather was excellent on both occasions. There was a good response by the members and everyone was most enthusiastic about the usefulness of these visits.

The first outing, on 28th May, was to Aberchalder Gardens, now owned by Captain and Mrs. Bethel. This very natural garden was seen at its best with the Meconopsis and Primulas being the main feature. Many of the members took the opportunity of purchasing some of the very reasonably priced plants from the nursery section of these very fine gardens.

The second outing was on 11th June and took the form of a double visit. In the afternoon to Major-General Murray-Lyon and in the evening to Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Millglen, Pitlochry. Ardcuil was as it always, is at its best—well tended and full of fascinating plants. No matter how often one walks round the garden something new can be noticed. Many names of plants were noted by members and will no doubt be eagerly searched for in the seed lists. After tea a visit was paid to Millglen, where again we saw many fascinating plants in a very beautiful setting. Everyone was full of praise for the hard work which Mr. and Mrs. Stuart had done to create this lovely effect. The week-end was completed by some with a theatre visit on Saturday and a visit to Lawers on Sunday to see some of the alpinists in their true habitat.

J. SUTHERLAND

INVERNESS—SOUTH

A WINTER session of four meetings was held in the Star Hotel, Kingussie.

Our first meeting on 7th October was an illustrated talk by Brian Mathew on “Plant Collecting in Persia”. Mr. Mathew gave a very interesting account of the Bowles Scholarship Expedition to Persia which he led in 1962.

On 4th November Mrs. Simson Hall gave a very instructive talk on "Rock Garden Colour throughout the Year". Her talk was illustrated with some very fine slides which emphasised the importance of colour associations in the rock garden.

Our next meeting on 2nd December was a talk by Mr. A. Duguid, who explained and demonstrated various methods of trough and miniature garden construction. Mr. Duguid's talk was illustrated with some excellent slides which showed the great varieties of plants that he has grown in his many troughs at Edrom Nurseries.

The last meeting of the winter session on 3rd March was a most interesting talk on "The Relationship of the Scottish and Norwegian Mountain Flora", by Mr. J. Grant Roger of the Nature Conservancy. He showed some very fine slides which illustrated how much richer the Norwegian flora is compared with our own.

On Saturday 21st May fifteen members of our Group, in spite of the heavy rain, paid an extremely instructive visit to Mr. John Weir's garden in Inverness, and later to Mr. James Sutherland's garden near Culloden. Both gardens were small, but packed with interest, and they showed what can be done in a limited area.

JOHN C. LAWSON, G.C.

NORTH PERTHSHIRE

THREE MEETINGS were held in Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry.

25th October : Mr. Stewart Mitchell, Dundee, spoke about Pontresina and the plants to be found there. We were taken up several valleys and saw many beautiful slides of alpiners growing in their native habitat. There is always much to be learnt from seeing this.

13th December : Transparency Night was well supplied with members' slides and we all enjoyed seeing what others had grown well last summer.

14th March : Mrs. Taggart, Kilcreggan, told us about "Gardening in the West Coast". It was good to see the beautiful plants that grow in this mild and very wet part of Scotland, many of which we cannot grow here. On the other hand, we grow plants in our colder but drier climate that would not tolerate the heavy rainfall of the West, so we were not too downhearted.

8th June : Visit to "Branklyn" by kind permission of J. T. Renton, Esq., North Perthshire joined South Perthshire members on an evening visit to this famous garden. We visited "Branklyn" some years ago

and thought then that it was at its peak, but it has grown still more beautiful. Most gardeners have a special fondness for a certain family of plants and it would be difficult not to find your own favourite at "Branklyn" growing to perfection; each plant is given the soil and situation for it to flourish. Much can be learnt from a visit here. The knowledge and skill required to keep this garden as it is, is tremendous. The many beautiful trees and shrubs are under-planted with choice plants right up to the trunks of trees, yet nothing is starved. This is a lesson that could be applied to some of our own gardens.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. Renton for allowing us to visit Branklyn.

M. R. STUART

Book Reviews

"MANUAL OF CULTIVATED CONIFERS HARDY IN THE COLD- AND WARM-TEMPERATE ZONE," by P. den Ouden and Dr. B. K. Boom. Published by Messrs. Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague, Holland. Price £5 8s 0d.

At long last we have a comprehensive and authoritative book on the sadly neglected conifers which, if properly used, should go far to remedy the nomenclature confusion of these plants, and to make the flower-obsessed British gardener more conscious of the value of form and foliage. Dealing as it does with 303 species, 208 formae and varieties, and 1935 cultivars, this monumental work will be useful to all who love conifers, from the forest giants to the smallest rock garden dwarfs.

The late Mr. P. den Ouden, of the famous Boskoop nursery firm, died in 1964, and was unable to complete this greatly elaborated version of his "Conifern, Ephedra en Ginkgo", published in Dutch in 1949. The present work was therefore completed by Dr. B. K. Boom, horticultural taxonomist at the Wageningen Arboretum. Its 526 pages, printed on fine art paper, contain over 330 black and white illustrations, about 150 of which are close-ups of cones or foliage, which are highly desirable to aid identification where conifers are concerned. The well-detailed descriptions of each species and its cultivars are arranged alphabetically, and also included are a short preface, notes on dwarfs, and nomenclature, a seed density and germination table, a section on diseases and pests and their control, a list of literature references, an index of species synonyms, and another on varieties, formae and cultivars and for vernacular and trade names.

Taken all in all, there is no more comprehensive conifer book so far in any language, nor one in which these plants are so attractively presented, so that we are indeed lucky that it has been published in English for our delectation.

The dwarf conifer enthusiast, so long puzzled by the plants he possesses whose names are either doubtful or obviously wrong, will wonder whether the book will solve all his problems. The answer is that though it goes a great deal further than Hornibrook's 'Dwarf and Slow-growing Conifers,' containing as it does a large number of new cultivars unknown to him, it must be expected that a small number of forms are still in doubt, which cannot be detailed here. This is owing to the lack of specimens of some forms known to be authentically named, and the lapse of time during

which the subject has remained neglected, and the lack of proper recording of many forms, with the resultant permanent loss of much valuable data. The formation of an International Registration Authority for Conifers, which will record all names and descriptions, should put right this sorry state of affairs in the future. But may it be well noted by all concerned, that is, by amateur and professional growers, nurserymen and botanical institutions alike, that the co-operation of all is required to this end, and of these, the nurserymen, as chief distributors, and the botanic gardens, as places resorted to by inquiring gardeners, bear the chief responsibility to see that invalid names are stamped out. May we see the time when we no longer receive *Picea abies* 'Clanbrassiliana', said to be from cuttings off the original Tollymore tree, which is nevertheless obviously *P. a.* 'Gregoryana', or *P. a.* 'Echiniformis', which also turns out to be 'Gregoryana', and so on, *ad nauseam*.

R. S. CORLEY

"DWARF CONIFERS," by H. J. Welch. Published by Messrs. Faber & Faber. Price £4 4s 0d.

Though it is often said that "misfortunes never come singly", the same sometimes applies to good things too, for close on the heels of the aforementioned book has appeared another fine work, this one being confined to the dwarfs of the conifer world. It will therefore be appreciated, especially by rock gardeners and others, many of whom, not having access to Hornibrook's "Dwarf and Slow-growing Conifers," the only other full-scale work on the subject, have floundered hopelessly for years in the welter of nomenclatural confusion of these smaller plants.

While the new book does not attempt to deal with all the dwarfs, it describes very adequately a large number of forms available in the trade, or likely to be so in the near future, and will prove a useful successor to Hornibrook's work, thanks to the remarkable amount of work put into it by Mr. Welch. His achievement is all the more creditable in that he has been associated with dwarf conifers for only a comparatively short time. The descriptions are most ably assisted by nearly 300 black and white illustrations, the standard of which is on the whole excellent, especially when one considers what difficult things dwarf conifers are to photograph successfully.

Nor is this all. A most useful and unique aid to identification is supplied in the shape of 20 full-page plates of foliage sprays of nearly 200 different forms. The extreme complexity and variations in conifer foliage which defy mere botanical descriptions make this feature most welcome. Eminently useful and illuminating also are the general introduction and the sections on cultivation, nomenclature, and the uses of dwarf conifers. Those of us who grow them know how relatively easy they are as to soil and other requirements and comparative freedom from pests and diseases, but Mr. Welch enlarges on several useful wheezes which are not often brought to our notice.

As in the case of the Dutch book it must not be expected that all the puzzles of nomenclature and controversial points have been solved, and there are actually one or two differences of opinion between the two authors. These are entirely understandable in such a complicated and neglected subject, though the critics and those prejudiced against dwarf conifers, who are mostly flower-obsessed people who do not go very far into such complex subjects, do not appreciate this. Human knowledge is, of course, never complete, but a second edition should go far to correct the differences.

We cannot now complain that we have little or no authoritative literature to go on, and we must see that we make full use of this book. It

should go a long way towards making dwarf conifers more popular, as they are in other countries, notably in the U.S.A., Holland, and Germany, where the craze for flowers is more tempered by a shrewd appreciation of the merits of form and foliage and permanent garden attraction.

R. S. C.

"ALL ABOUT ROCK GARDENS AND PLANTS," by Walter A. Kolaga. Pp. 385, with many line sketches by Eva Melady and 60 photographs. Published by Doubleday & Co., Inc., New York.

This is mainly intended as a book written for American rock gardeners and plant lovers by a very knowledgeable American grower and nurseryman. If British readers, however, will keep these primary facts in mind, they will find much to interest them throughout its pages and much helpful advice regarding matters of construction and cultivation.

A delightfully written foreword contains some hard truths and at the same time much helpful advice and kindly encouragement to beginners. Chapter I deals with different types of rock garden construction to suit various settings, and the next with locations and exposures. 'Three' sets out to go very thoroughly into rock garden construction itself and deals very effectively over nearly fifty pages with the many forms of rock work in a manner easily understood and well illustrated with drawings and photographs. After a chapter on soil compositions follows a very useful one on 'planting and maintenance,' and one on 'background and approach planting.' Chapter 7, on 'the basic plants,' in over 200 pages gives names and descriptions of rock plants themselves, and then follows a chapter on 'rock garden bulbs' and another, perhaps controversial but nonetheless interesting, on 'annuals in the rock garden' and one on dwarf conifers. An appendix on plants for the seasons, locations, conditions, and effects is followed by a useful index.

This must be reckoned as an extremely useful and interesting book on its subject by all grades of rock garden enthusiasts in any country where rock gardening exists.

"PRIMROSES AND SPRING," by Doretta Klaber, with 125 pp. and over 70 line drawings by the author. Published by M. Barrow & Co., Inc., New York. Price \$4.50.

The author at one time practised as a landscape architect, had a plant nursery, and has always been a keen and enthusiastic grower of plants. This admirably written and illustrated book has been compiled chiefly to encourage in plant lovers an interest in the primula family and to aid beginners in their identification and culture. Very obviously an immense amount of work—interesting and satisfying work, we are sure—has gone into this small book, with all the checking necessary, and its wonderfully detailed illustrations.

Written mainly for fellow Americans, it must prove not less delightful and useful to plant lovers on this side of the Atlantic and in other temperate countries of the world, even though certain details of cultivation may need some amendment or modification.

After stating that the *Primula* genus contains thirty sections, the author gives the general conditions required by various sections and indicates that the types one decides to go in for must depend on the conditions available. Dealing briefly with the *Denticulata* section the author goes into rather more detail with the *Farinosae* section, and here very honestly admits to finding a certain difficulty at times in identifying between *P. farinosa* and *P. frondosa*. Later in this section we find reference to a hybrid between *Pp. rosea* and *clarkei*, *Primula* x *kleinii*. At the end of

each section the author gives a brief note on the cultural requirements of members of the section.

Next to be dealt with comes the Vernales section, in which its members and their variants are treated fairly comprehensively. A minor slip appears here when, though *P. acaulis* is given in the text as a synonym of *P. vulgaris*, the section is introduced on page 19 with a picture of *P. acaulis* followed on the next page by one of *P. vulgaris*.

The primroses and their near relatives are followed by the Auricula section, which includes the auricula and its many European relatives and hybrids and ends with the 'garden,' 'show,' and 'alpine' strains of auricula and their cultural requirements. After describing a selection of the better known Asiatic primulas of the Candelabra, Sikkimensis, Capitata, and Nivales sections, and ten pages on 'Primulas for Specialists,' the author gives a few pages on suitable companion plants and some useful notes on raising primulas from seed. A list of nurseries and plant societies, a page of bibliography, and an index complete a delightfully readable book.

"THE GENUS LEWISIA," by R. C. Elliott. An Alpine Garden Society publication of 76 pp., with 34 photographs and a number of line drawings. Price 10/-.

This extremely useful booklet is a reprint from Vol. 34, No. 1, the March number of the A.G.S. Bulletin. In it Mr. Roy Elliott has gone to a great deal of work to gather together with the help of several other writers who know their lewisias in the wild all the available information concerning this interesting and often attractive genus. It is not intended as a botanical treatise so much as an aid to growers of these plants in the identification and cultivation of the various species and cultivars of lewisias.

The introduction, after ending with a sort of key in which the genus is divided into three groups, is followed by an index which includes the many synonyms found in this family and goes some way towards sorting out the prevailing muddle in nomenclature. In part 2 the species are dealt with, in alphabetical order, as they are found in the wild—with details of their habitats and the local conditions applying. Actual quotations of those who have known them well in the wild are given in each case. This makes for a section of extreme interest and provides possible clues towards their cultural requirements in captivity.

Part 3 goes on to deal with "Lewisias in Cultivation," and again abundant use is made of actual quotations and the experiences of growers in this country. No doubt there is still a lot to learn about this genus, and we must hope that as more knowledge becomes available Mr. Elliott will keep us up to date with developments in the pages of the *Bulletin*. Meantime all interested in the growing of lewisias owe a debt of gratitude to the author and should make full use of the book now available.

Dwarf Conifers

by

H. G. HILLIER

This booklet by H. G. Hillier is a much extended and revised version of a paper read at the Third International Rock Garden Conference of 1961.

The work done by the author in trying to disentangle the chaos existing among dwarf conifers and to bring his references up to date makes this an invaluable booklet for garden lovers, particularly those interested in rock gardening. Its eighty-two pages are well illustrated with twenty-five black and white photographs of individual conifers.

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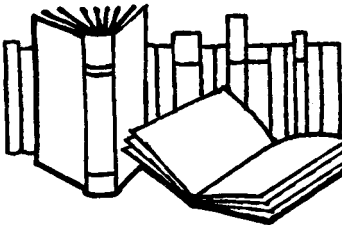
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