



The JOURNAL of
THE SCOTTISH
ROCK GARDEN CLUB

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No. 57

SEPTEMBER 1975

Editor P. J. W. KILPATRICK • 10 Eglinton Crescent • Edinburgh • EH12 5DD

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SRGC PUBLICATIONS

THERE is a wealth of information in back numbers of the Club's *Journals*. Current availability and prices are given below. It is now necessary to ask for a contribution to postage costs of 3p per *Journal*, up to a maximum of 45p.

<i>Journal No.</i>	<i>Pence</i>	<i>Price per copy</i>	
			<i>U.S. Dollars</i>
1 to 6	100	When available	2.60
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George Forest Book	125	post free	3.25

Stocks of the available *Journals* in the 1-35 range (except 9) are becoming low and members who wish to complete their runs should note this. Waiting lists are kept for *Journals* not available now.

The Club will be glad to receive or consider purchase of scarce *Journals* and also copies of "DWARF CONIFERS" by Hillier.

Members who have good runs of the earlier numbers are asked to make provision for their useful disposal when their own need passes.

BARGAIN OFFER

Stocks of *Journals* 9, 39, 42, 44, 48 and 52 are high and until they come down to average level they are being offered at the very low prices of: 2 for 45p, 3 for 60p, 6 for £1.10, all post free to members.

All correspondence about past publications should be addressed to the Hon. Publications Manager:—

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Subscriptions and Postage

A PLEA to the members from the Subscription Secretary

MAY I please draw attention to the following:—

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE ON 15TH OCTOBER (or before) and are for the year to 30TH SEPTEMBER 1976 the same, i.e.:

Ordinary Member	..	£1.50p (U.S. \$3.75)
Family and Junior	..	50p (U.S. \$1.25)

BANKER'S ORDERS

Postage is now so high that each member who can is urgently requested (if he or she does not already do so) to pay by banker's order. This should be completed, please, and sent to me for a S.R.G.C. reference—there are between 3000 and 4000 members, some with identical initials and names.

PAYMENT OF BANKER'S ORDER will save you postage and is the most reliable method of payment. It also ensures automatic prompt payment.

This year 674 reminders had to be sent out in late Spring. Besides spoiling the best time for fly fishing, it cost the Club £36 in postage alone.

PROMPT PAYMENT as you will now realise would be appreciated by your Subscription Secretary. If you cannot pay by banker's order, then, in order of preference, please pay by crossed cheque or crossed postal order. Some mail every year never gets delivered and if you have paid by cash this cannot be rectified.

PAYMENT IN ADVANCE

This would save you postage and is very acceptable by me. You can pay two or more years in advance, in which case your membership card will show either when the next subscription is due or how much credit you have.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

As Subscription Secretary, I am responsible for the mailing list, so please let me know your old address as well as the new one. About 20 *Journals* of each issue are returned by the postal authorities. Although

no charge for extra postage has been made up to now when a member has claimed his missing *Journal*, as this is likely to be more than 10p I intend in future to request payment for the additional postage.

Unstamped Letters can be Expensive

I trust that if I should be the guilty party the suffering member will please complain to me. I receive one letter from an overseas member which had a 13 cent stamp but was marked "Air Mail". The postage due came to 26p or 57 cents. Care is requested and, incidentally, some members seem to be unaware that the old penny (a) stamps are no longer valid.

RESIGNATIONS

If you must resign, please notify me in writing as required under Rule 2 before 31st January, otherwise you will be held liable for the year's subscription. Merely stopping your banker's order is just not enough!

COVENANTS

Owing to the extra load of work caused by last year's change of subscription and date due, I have not encouraged members to pay their subscription by taking out a deed of covenant in favour of the Club. I will accept new covenants up to the end of November and again for those who wish to covenant for the year to October 1977 in the months of May to September. On application to me, I will be pleased to send a covenant form which includes a seven year special banker's order for completion. It is possible for arrangements to be made so that seven years' subscriptions can be made with one payment. Covenanting is advantageous to the Club, especially the last method; but should the subscription be increased, the covenanting member may have to augment his subscription. In the original offer to covenanters a special concession was given that, as far as they were concerned, the subscription remained the same for the seven years. It should be made clear that this special concession has been withdrawn.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the many members who are co-operative and patient and pay their subscriptions promptly. I do hope that the quite large number who do not pay the right amount, or at the wrong time, or who do not pay at all, will have read this and will mend their ways. Quite frankly, this year has been very difficult and meant burning the midnight oil. Could you please help, if the cap fits.

RONALD ORR, *Subscription Secretary*

Some British Ferns and their Cultivation

by Dr. C. N. PAGE

**The Clark Memorial Lecture given at Edinburgh
on 9th November 1974**

IN THE British Isles there are about fifty species of native ferns, the majority of which are present in Scotland, and there are probably many foreign ferns which could prove to be hardy in cultivation out of doors. This latter group includes especially ferns originating from the more temperate regions of the Himalayas, Japan, North America, southern South America and New Zealand (which has a fern as its National Emblem). It is thus surprising to find that the number of enthusiasts in Britain cultivating ferns is relatively few, and that their interest is largely concentrated on growing British species and horticultural varieties. How many foreign ferns could be grown successfully out of doors in Britain, there is no complete list, for as far as I know no-one has ever tried to compile one.

The scope for growing ferns, especially in the milder and wetter parts of Scotland, is thus high. The Victorians were, of course, the fern-growers *par excellence*, both of hardy and non-hardy ferns in Britain, and a few old Victorian ferneries still remain. Since then, interest in fern growing has steadily declined, although we still have in Britain an active group of fern growing enthusiasts in the British Pteridological Society, and there are similar fern Societies also in the United States of America and Japan. Each Society produces regular journals on ferns and fern growing and operates spore exchange schemes. The last twenty, and especially the last ten years, have seen a dramatic revival in interest in fern growing in Britain. But this time the interest is not by horticulturists alone, but chiefly by scientists interested in studying what this large and ancient group of plants can teach about plant evolution. Whilst fern growing by gardeners declined, plant collectors gathered and scientists described increasing numbers of species from wild habitats and communities. Then, with the realisation of the potential of these plants for scientific research, fern growing for scientific purposes greatly increased. So today, in Britain we have some of the finest living fern collections in the world.

Although at least 90 per cent of ferns require tropical conditions, over twelve thousand species are known to science, and more are being added every year. The choice for the cultivator, whatever growing conditions are available to him, is thus wide.

I have tried to set down some notes on fern growing based on my own experience, and outlined some of the ferns which can be grown in Scotland. This is not intended by any means to be an authoritative guide to all the cultivation methods possible, nor to all the species. This would need a book. The notes are merely on methods I have found particularly successful from experience of raising and hybridising a wide variety of ferns from many parts of the world. They thus apply broadly to all (the techniques are little different), in the hope that overseas members of the S.R.G.C. may find the points equally applicable. Exactly what ferns can be grown depends primarily on the climate. For those who live in more favourable climates, the choice of species increases enormously.

If these notes do anything to stimulate a wider interest in ferns and in fern growing, they will have served a useful purpose. For further information on fern growing and identification of British species I would like to recommend the following two books:

Kaye, R. "Hardy Ferns" (Faber & Faber, 1968), an authoritative book on practical aspects of fern cultivation and one which also deals with native fern varieties and some hardy foreign ferns.

Hyde, H. A., Wade, A. E. & Harrison, S. G. "Welsh Ferns" (National Museum of Wales, 1969), an invaluable publication which deals with identification of ferns growing in Wales, most of which are also found in Scotland.

Much information both on fern growing and on scientific aspects of ferns and fern allies world-wide can be found in the *Bulletin* and *Fern Gazette*, published by the British Pteridological Society, and available from its Secretary at 46 Sedley Rise, Loughton, Essex, England.

SOME GENERAL POINTS OF FERN STRUCTURE

Most ferns, especially the larger ones, die back completely or at least partially in winter, flushing again with new fronds in spring and summer. A few are evergreen in sheltered situations. In all cases, fronds spring directly from rhizomes which, with very few exceptions such as bracken, grow at or just beneath the soil surface. The rhizomes may be long creeping ones, in which case they give rise to fronds at

intervals, or, more usually, short creeping or short ascending or erect. The latter habit is most common in temperate ferns and allows the crown producing the new fronds to be above soil level and hence free from waterlogging conditions—an essential condition for healthy growth. Here the fronds grow from all sides of the rhizome in a tight spiral succession, new fronds arising from the crowns in the centres of the rosettes made by the older ones. It is the erect rhizome with persistent leaf-bases and an interwoven mesh of roots which forms the trunk of tree ferns which may be up to thirty feet or more in height. Fronds of all ferns grow by uncoiling in crozier-like fashion—often appropriately called by the Americans ‘fiddle-heads’.

Fronds may stand more or less erect (as in the male ferns), or lie fairly closely against the surface of the soil forming a rosette (as in the Maidenhair Spleenwort and Hard Fern). The majority of ferns produce only one type of frond, some of which bear sporangia on their undersides in clusters called *sori*. Such *sori* (singular, *sorus*) may lie totally uncovered on the backs of the fronds (as in the Common Polypody) or, in the majority of species, may be covered by a flap of tissue called the *indusium* which shrivels when spores are discharged. Other ferns produce two types of frond: one green and leafy and the other bearing the sporangia and having the leafy tissue reduced to a minimum (as in Hard Fern). A few others are half way between these two conditions and have some fronds which are partially specialised to bearing sporangia and partially leafy (as in the Royal Fern).

The shape of the *indusium* (whether, for example, it is umbrella-shaped, kidney-shaped, or a simple flap hinged at the side) is one very important character used in classification of fern genera and families by the taxonomist. Other characters often used in the identification of species and genera include overall habit, size, shape and degree of dissection of the fronds, and the type of rhizome, and more detailed characters such as type of hairs or scales on the frond and rhizome surface, position of the *sori* with respect to the frond margin and venation pattern, presence and position of grooves on the main and side veins of the frond, the vascular anatomy of the rhizome and frond stalk (*rachis*), detailed features of the sporangia themselves, spore size and ornamentation, and chromosome number.

Some of these features will be mentioned where they help to distinguish particular species.

GROWING FERNS FROM SPORES

Ferns have a reputation for being in some way difficult to grow. In general, although there are some difficult (and a few near impossible) species, on the whole this view is totally erroneous. As a non-horticulturist with little previous experience of growing even a blade of grass, I have found little difficulty in raising and growing nearly any fern I have met in many parts of the world.

I attribute this to one main factor. I have grown nearly all my ferns from spores. For, on the whole, ferns do not like being moved—a fact which applies especially to plants growing in the wild, for these seldom transplant successfully into gardens. Hence, perhaps, the reputation. The reason may be twofold:

Ferns are so prone to desiccation (their fronds are thin and they have a high rate of water loss) that any severance of the root system feeding the rhizome is likely to be harmful. Ferns have a mass of extremely fine delicate fibrous roots which spread deeply and widely into minute fissures. These roots break extremely easily if moving is attempted.

By growing ferns from spores we produce an enormous number of individuals from which we can select the best and most vigorous ones. By doing so, we unconsciously select the plants which do best in our particular conditions of cultivation. Such pot-grown ferns can be planted-out later with little root damage so that they soon surpass those of transplanted wild rhizomes. Furthermore, they can be grown in as large numbers as may be required.

Collection of Spores

All mature ferns produce spores, and these can be readily collected by removing whole, or pieces of, sporangium-bearing fronds with ripe spores (usually when sporangia and sori are a rich brown or black colour, from mid-summer onward) and placing in an envelope or specially folded spore-packet to dry. Ideally, spore packets should be folded from a thin smooth-surfaced paper, but not one which is heavily waxed. Dried slowly at ordinary room temperature, spores are released from the sporangia in a few days, and collect at the bottoms of the packets. Once gathered in this way and kept dry, spores of most ferns remain viable for a number of years (the Royal Fern, *Osmunda*, is an exception).

Time for Sowing Spores

Sowing should always be done in springtime. This allows the young plants the lengthening of days of spring to develop, and gives them the maximum growing season for establishment before the onset of winter. Growth of all ferns is most rapid in spring and summer because of the length of day and slows down or stops in winter (even in evergreen hardy species and tropical species kept in a warm temperature).

Preparation of Compost and Pots

Fern spores so collected germinate readily when placed on moist compost. Sometimes sowing on fragments of old broken pot is recommended but I have always found difficulty in later transplanting the young ferns without root damage if sown in this way. For this reason I have preferred to use a compost. I normally use a 3:2:1 ratio of peat:sand:loam, passed through a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. riddle. The loam is steam-sterilised before mixing (to reduce the number of pathogens and rogue algae, moss and other fern spores), and once mixed is stored in a dark plastic dustbin with a tightly fitting lid. This stops the compost drying out, as it is difficult to wet again. It is very important that no feeding whatsoever be incorporated in the compost, as this would only encourage the growth of algae at the expense of the ferns.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ -in. pots are made up with a 1-in. layer of coarse sand in the bottom (the same sand as used in the compost) and then filled to within a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. of the rim with compost, loosely tapped down (but not pressed). I generally find clay pots better than plastic, which tend to dry out or waterlog too readily. Clay pots should be steeped in water before sowing.

Once filled, the pots must be covered with pieces of glass or clear plastic. This helps to keep out unwanted pathogens and encourages a high humidity to develop inside. Once covered, the pots should be stood in a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. of water and be left to soak for an hour, until uniformly moist. I always use water previously boiled and cooled.

Sowing

This simply involves scattering some of the collected spores over the surface of the compost. Briefly remove the plastic lid and gently tap a small cloud of spores over the compost in the pot from just above it. Avoid doing this in a draught. Do not sow the spores too thickly—a thin sowing will produce better plants than a crowded one. Add a small plastic label with the name to the pot, replace the cover

and put the whole in a light shaded situation (a north light is ideal). Avoid direct sun on the pot at all stages. Stand in a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. of water whenever the compost starts to show dryness, but be careful not to waterlog the pot and do not water overhead at this stage. This would merely over-compact the compost, sink the spores and waterlog the culture.

Subsequent Treatment

Germination of the spores takes place in a few days, and should be detectable by the appearance of a non-shining yellow-green powdery covering to the compost in 6-12 days. A glistening green covering indicates the growth of a culture of algae instead. The rate of growth of the young plants henceforth varies widely with the species, the season, the temperature, and the thickness or thinness of the original sowing. Typically, young heart-shaped green fern *prothalli* can be seen by the naked eye in 3-4 weeks, and should be mature in 4-8 weeks. The prothalli are the alternate generation to the fern plant proper, the *sporophyte*, and it is from the prothalli that the fern sporophytes arise as a result of *fertilisation* by the plant's own male gametes. These gametes, the *antherozoids*, are free-swimming and mobile and require a film of water in which to reach the female *archegonia* and achieve fertilisation. Hence at this stage it is necessary to water the pots once overhead. Do this when the prothalli are $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. across. If no young fern plants have begun to appear within a fortnight—try again, as some prothalli do not mature until nearly a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. across. A few, like the golden-scaled male fern, are *apogamous* and will produce young sporophytes without fertilisation at all. If the culture has proved to be a crowded one, maturity of the prothalli will be retarded, and a few should be pricked out and spread apart with forceps, into a fresh pot of compost, set up as before.

As young sporophytes appear and touch the covers, the covers can safely be removed and the cultures watered overhead. When about 1 in. high, the young sporophytes can be pricked out into small pans, and at 3-4 ins. into small individual pots, using the same compost. At this stage many ferns, with the exception of epiphytic ones, will respond well to the use of a general feed. Do not feed epiphytes. Plants can be retained in pots until planted out as opportunity dictates, but this is best done in early spring, just before active growth begins.

Treated in this way, fern plants can be raised by the hundred and be ready for planting out in 1-2 years. This quantity is an advantage

if group plantings are required—a scheme for which ferns are particularly suitable. In 2-3 years, these plants can surpass anything obtained by transplanting mature rhizomes. The majority of species require moisture but not waterlogging, a degree of shade and shelter from extremes of sun and wind, and a soil or rock substrate appropriate to the particular species. Given these conditions, ferns show a wide variety of form which can provide a particularly attractive addition to any planting scheme, especially in shady rocky situations and when rocks overhang water. The pleasure of having raised all the ferns from spores is also a satisfying achievement.

SOME FERNS OF LIMESTONE ROCKS

Most ferns found growing naturally on limestone or other lime-rich rocks are relatively small in size, and hence perhaps are ideal for the small rock garden. Many will withstand some degree of exposure to sunlight, although usually they are most successful in humid, lightly shaded situations. All enjoy a moist but well-drained rocky substrate. Most have short-creeping, ascending or erect rhizomes, and so are not far-spreading. Plants in this category can often be found in the mortar of old walls—a habitat colonised particularly freely by Maidenhair Spleenwort and Wall Rue.

Asplenium trichomanes L. (Maidenhair Spleenwort—fig. 66c) is an attractive small rosette-forming species with narrow serpent-like fronds usually 3-4 ins. long, yellow-green in colour with a shining black midrib. Besides its preference for old walls, it occurs naturally in limestone clints and fissures and in other base-rich situations. Very similar to it, but less common, is the Green Spleenwort, *Asplenium viride* Huds., which differs chiefly in having a green midrib instead of a black one.

Asplenium adiantum-nigrum L. (Black Spleenwort—fig. 66a) has larger, more or less ascending triangular fronds up to about 6 inches high, which are usually shining mid-green above with a black base to the midrib. The plant is chiefly one of rock crevices in the west of Scotland.

Asplenium ruta-muraria L. (Wall Rue—fig. 66d) is a small fern with triangular fronds seldom much more than 1-1½ ins. in length, common throughout Britain on basic rocks and especially on the mortar of old walls.

Ceterach officinarum DC. (Rusty-back Fern—fig. 66b) has fleshy, simply lobed fronds with a characteristic thick covering of brownish or copper-coloured scales on the undersides. It is most common in the south

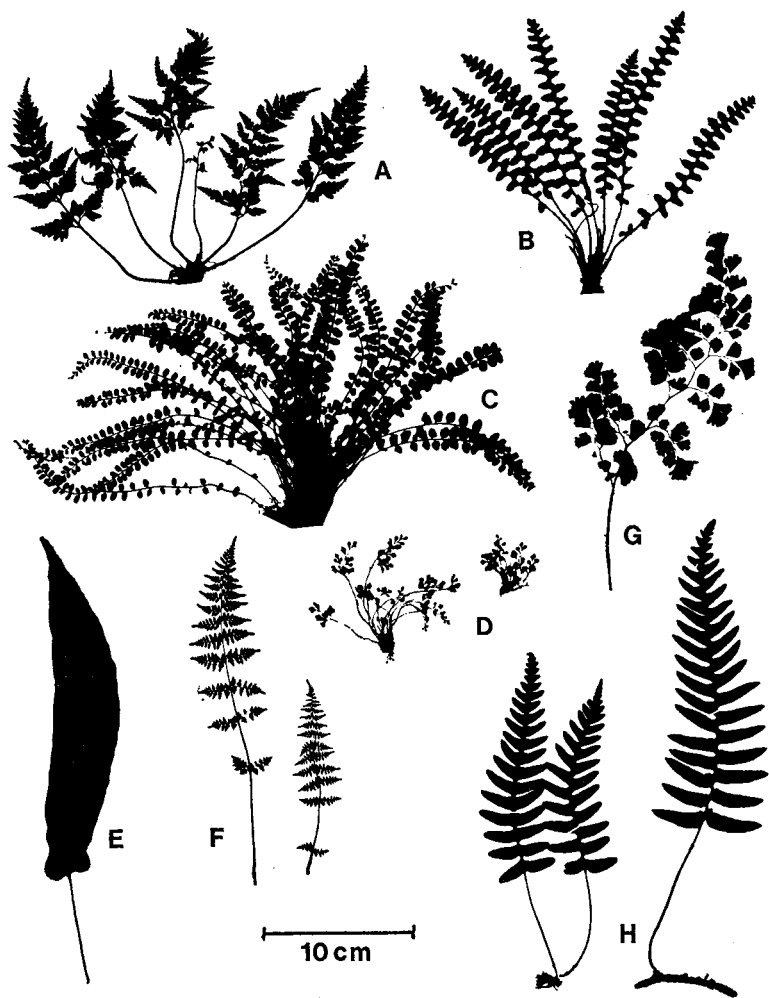


Fig. 66 Silhouettes of some British ferns of limestone rocks
 a, *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* b, *Ceterach officinarum*
 c, *Asplenium trichomanes* d, *Asplenium ruta-muraria*
 e, *Phyllitis scolopendrium* f, *Cystopteris fragilis*
 g, *Adiantum capillus-veneris* h, *Polypodium vulgare*

and west of Britain and is particularly widespread in Southern Ireland. It can withstand exposure to full sun.

Phyllitis scolopendrium (L.) Newm. (Hart's Tongue Fern—fig. 66e) is a particularly attractive fern for cultivation, having bright green simple fronds up to a foot or more in length. It enjoys moist basic situations with a high humidity and shelter, and can be vigorous in cultivation. It is common in limestone areas in clints and fissures, especially in the south and west of Britain.

Adiantum capillus-veneris L. (Maidenhair Fern—fig. 66g) is an especially attractive and delicate species, with a finely dissected bright green frond usually 4-10 ins. or more in height with many fan-shaped segments and a black midrib. It is a rare plant in the wild in limestone clints in milder localities, and would probably need some protection in cultivation in Scotland.

Cystopteris fragilis (L.) Bernh. (Brittle Bladder Fern—fig. 66f) has 4-8 in. finely cut fronds, and is a common fern of damp sheltered base-rich rock faces, especially in the west. It is hardier than the Maidenhair Fern, and seems likely to make an attractive and delicate plant in cultivation, particularly in damp, dark, rocky situations.

Polypodium vulgare agg. (Polypody—fig. 66h) is a slow-growing plant with surface-creeping scale-clad rhizomes giving off 4-12 in. simply pinnate fronds at 1-2 in. intervals. It is widespread in the British Isles, usually growing on rocks (but not always base-rich ones) and can also be found growing as an epiphyte. There are three closely related species in Britain, plus three hybrids. Once established, Polypody is likely to make an attractive rock-garden fern creeping over boulders. It can withstand considerable exposure, although it grows better in moist, sheltered, lightly shaded situations. In common with many epiphytic ferns, Polypody seems to dislike feeding.

The principal non-British fern suitable, on the whole, for more basic situations is *Adiantum pedatum* L., a Maidenhair fern from North America, which has larger fan-shaped segments than the native one, and seems to tolerate more neutral soil.

SOME FERNS OF NEUTRAL TO ACID SITUATIONS

Most ferns found in the wild in neutral to acid situations are species of woodland or woodland margins, and tend to be larger in size than

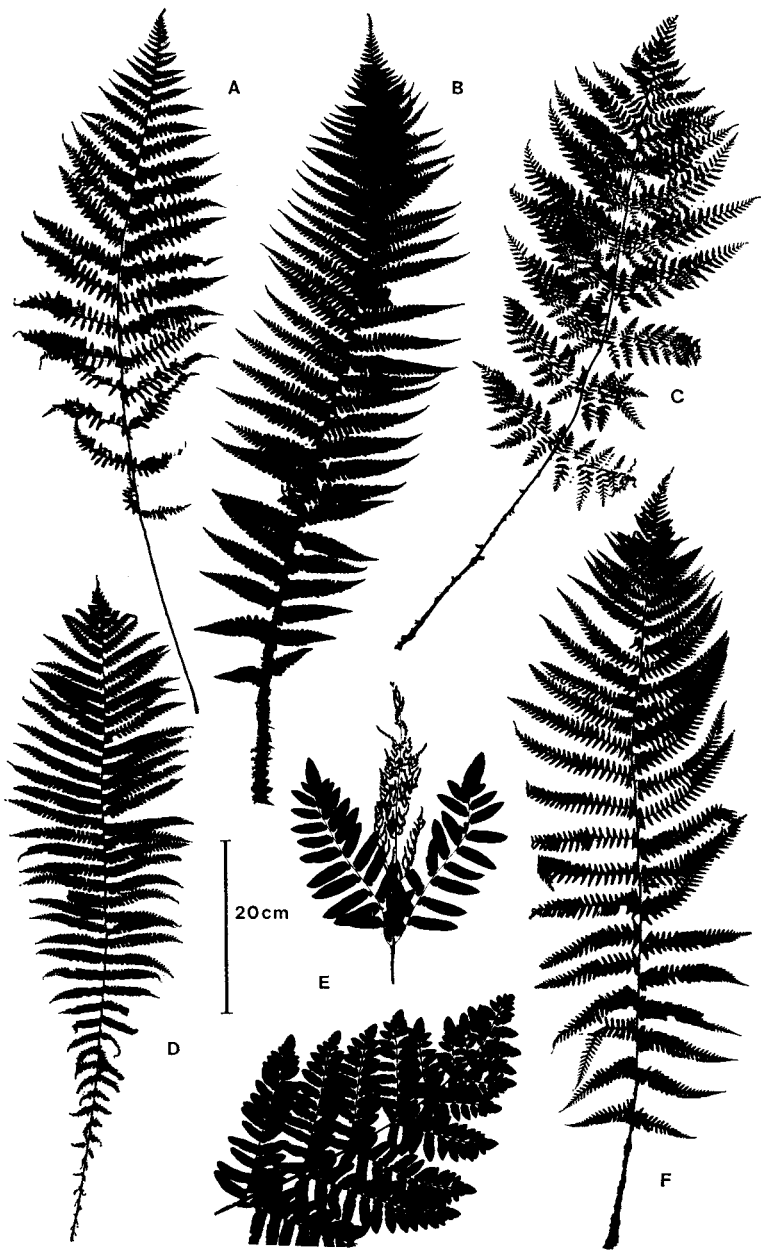


Fig. 67

Silhouettes of some of the larger ferns of neutral to acid situations

a, <i>Athyrum filix-femina</i>	b, <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>
c, <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	d, <i>Matteucia struthiopteris</i>
e, <i>Osmunda regalis</i>	f, <i>Thelypteris limbosperma</i>

those found in lime-rich situations. Most also grow directly in soil rather than on rock, although are often present in larger rock fissures. Most are vigorous in cultivation and likely to be successful in damp but not waterlogged lightly shaded situations. A few, however, like the Golden-scaled Male Fern, will withstand full exposure. They are thus plants suitable for the larger rock garden or as a backdrop, where they are especially suited to group planting, and can look particularly attractive overhanging water.

Dryopteris filix-mas (L.) Schott (Male Fern—fig. 67b) has large semi-erect fronds up to 2-3 ft. or more in height, and is one of the commonest species in Britain. Its near relative *Dryopteris borrieri* Newm., Golden-scaled Male Fern, differs principally in being slightly smaller and having a yellower green frond with golden-brown scales cladding the base of the midrib. Both are especially frequent on open hillsides in the Highlands, often in large numbers.

Dryopteris dilatata (Hoffm.) A. Gray (Broad Buckler Fern—fig. 67c) has finely dissected broadly triangular fronds up to 2-4 ft. or more in length and is a particularly common species in woodlands throughout the British Isles. *Dryopteris aemula* (Ait.) Kuntze (Hay-scented Buckler Fern) is superficially similar, but its natural distribution is more restricted to the west. Both seem suitable for shady sheltered situations with rich damp soil.

Polystichum setiferum (Forsk.) Woyнар (Soft Shield Fern—fig. 68d) and *Polystichum aculeatum* (L.) Roth. (Hard Shield Fern—fig. 68e) are both somewhat similar to the Male Fern in appearance with rather narrow semi-erect fronds, but these are more finely divided and have spinulose margins to the pinnae. The Soft Shield Fern is more common in damp rocky woodland sites in the south and west of Britain, whilst in the north the Hard Shield Fern more or less replaces it in most localities.

Polystichum lonchitis (L.) Roth. (Holly Fern—fig. 68g) is a rare plant of Scottish mountains. It is a smaller version of the last two species, with conspicuously spinulose-margined fronds 4-8 ins. in length.

Cryptogramma crispa (L.) Hook. (Parsley Fern—fig. 68a) is another rare species with finely-cut parsley-like fronds. It occurs in mountain scree and succeeds in similar situations in cultivation.



Fig. 68

Silhouettes of some of the smaller British ferns of neutral to acid situations

a, *Cryptogamma crisa*
 c, *Blechnum spicant*
 e, *Polystichum aculeatum*
 g, *Polystichum lonchitis*

b, *Thelypteris phegopteris*
 d, *Polystichum setiferum*
 f, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*

Gymnocarpium dryopteris (L.) Newm. (Oak Fern—fig. 68f) is a particularly attractive spreading species with fronds which are very broadly triangular and usually 6-8 ins. in length, whilst *Thelypteris phegopteris* (L.) Slosson (Beech Fern—fig. 68b) has similar-sized fronds, less finely cut. Both are plants of upland woodland in Scotland, and enjoy a high degree of shade and shelter.

Athyrium filix-femina (L.) Roth. (Lady Fern—fig. 67a) is an attractive and variable species with remarkably finely dissected semi-erect fronds 1-2 ft. in length. These vary from pale lemon-green to deep green in colour, and may have a reddish midrib. Plants are common in acid situations throughout upland Britain, especially near water. It seems vigorous in cultivation.

Blechnum spicant (L.) Roth. (Hard Fern—fig. 68c) has simply cut (herringbone-like) blue-green shining fronds, the vegetative ones of which form a basal rosette in the centre of which the fertile ones arise later in the season. Like Lady Fern, this species enjoys particularly acidic peaty situations and is common near water in upland Britain. Plants seem tolerant of considerable exposure.

Thelypteris limbosperma (All.) H.P. Fuchs (Mountain Fern—fig. 67f) is superficially somewhat similar to Male Fern in size and appearance, but is a species of relatively sheltered ditches and other wet acid places throughout upland Britain, and is common in the Highlands.

Osmunda regalis L. (Royal Fern—fig. 67e) is a particularly large and characteristic species, mature plants of which may form massive clumps. It is rare in most of Britain, though it occurs widely in south-west Ireland where it is a plant of wet acid situations along lake margins. It is hardy, and a particularly useful and attractive plant for damp situations at the waterside.

There are probably many non-British ferns suitable for growing in neutral or acid situations in Britain. I list below a few which I have seen well established in gardens in Scotland. *Blechnum penna-marina* (Poir.) Kuhn is a smaller version of our native Hard Fern from the sub-antarctic islands, which can thrive here in soil rich with leaf litter. *Blechnum tabulare* agg. from southern South America is a much larger member of the same genus with fronds 1-2 ft. or more, and can be vigorous in milder parts of the west. *Dennstaedtia punctiloba* (Michx.)

Moore is a useful plant with fronds 12 ins. or so and creeping rhizomes adaptable to a wide range of soils and exposures. It comes from North America. *Hypolepis millefolium* Hook. from New Zealand looks somewhat similar to the last and it is also adequately hardy in Scotland. *Onoclea sensibilis* L. (Sensitive Fern of North America) succeeds well in damp ground in Scotland where the soil is humus-rich, and in similar situations *Matteucia struthiopteris* (L.) Tod (Ostrich Fern from central and northern Europe—fig. 67d) has established itself so well in Scotland that it now occurs as a naturalised escape in some parts of the west.

A Collecting Day above Arolla¹

by REGINALD FARRER

IT IS always with a sense of approaching the most boundless botanical possibilities that one penetrates into the mountain valleys southward of the Rhone. For there, high in each secluded glen, dwell species that scorn the crowded slopes of the Oberland. In the Saasthal, in the uppermost scree, lives *Campanula excisa*; in the Turtmann Thal *Linnaea borealis* meanders through the mosses of the woodland; in the Val de Bagne *Saxifraga diapensioides* huddles passionately into the inexorable sun-baked precipices of the Pierre à Voir. And with these specialities grow also all the commoner glories of the Alps, so that, for one ambitious to collect in the hills, and unable to go so far afield as the Tyrol, the mountains of North Italy, St. Martin Vesubie, or that gardener's Eden the Col de Lautaret, no more profitable advice can be given than that they should put money in their purse and fare hopeful forth to Saas-Fee, Meiden, or Arolla.

At Arolla, indeed, I had my first experience of these tributary valleys of the Rhone. For the wanderer's guidance I may mention that opposite each notch in the vast mountains overhead that wall in the bed of the Rhone three thousand feet and more beneath, there sits in the flat lands over which the great river flows, a little town, with a

¹This material appeared as a chapter in Reginald Farrer's book "Alpines and Bog-Plants", published in 1908. Since only few copies were printed it will be unknown to many members. It must be realised that taxonomists have changed many of the names of plants in the interval.—*Editor*.

station on the railway. Thus, immeasurably far above the tiny hamlet of Turtmann hangs the opening of the Turtmann Thal, and Sion, Sierre, Martigny, each corresponds with the gap that opens up towards the terrific snows above. By false guidance, however, I alighted one steaming afternoon at the wrong station, and had two hours to wait before a train would take me back to Sierre, whence, it appeared, you climb dizzily up the rampart of the mountains until you come into the Val d'Hermance, and so, past Evolena, to Arolla.

Few situations of life can possibly be more overpowering than the valley of the Rhone on a hot afternoon in July. It is so very large, so very flat, so very hot—and, above all, it is so straitly bounded, in front and behind, by so crushing, so annihilating a wall of mountains, which in their turn—oh horror!—are divined, even from the depths, not to be themselves the pinnacles of the world's roof that they appear, but mere subordinate pedestals to the real snow region above, whose awful teeth appear here and there as one raises one's eyes to the distances overhead. The first part of the journey from Sierre, however, is made luxuriously by carriage, and it is wonderful in what serene majesty the mountains open up before one as one goes, no longer made terrific by personal fatigue. For, in a carriage, somehow, one loses that appalling sense of utter personal insignificance, minuteness, nonentity, that always paralyses me when first I set my lonely feet on the austere territory of the hills. In a carriage—and a carriage for which one has to pay—one feels once more in comfortable relations with the world into which one has been born and bred, the world of amenities, humanities, personal importance, where one's mortal personality has its place, and where the gaunt enormous hills are not actors in a fearful super-human drama, but a mere painted *mise en scène*, a pleasing background to the human comedy.

In long loops, curling and curling upon each other like the rings of a vast python, the white road mounts over pleasant slopes of shelving vineyard, orchard, corn-strip, towards the upper valley. Here and there amid the golden stubble gleams the profound velvety sapphire of *Delphinium ajacis*, a rare cornfield weed in England, parent of our multicoloured, lovely annual Larkspurs, and one of the consecrated plants which have their name from sad memories of strength and beauty vanished long ago, for whose disappearance the tears of earth are shed eternally—for Aias, for Adonis, for Hyacinth. Sheer below us, far below, lies the valley of the Rhone—the broad river looking ridiculous and undignified in such a bird's-eye view, with its worm-like

wanderings, the mapped spaces of its meadows, its fringe of toy poplars, its punctuation of little toy villages, each with a toy church perking in the midst. Away to the left and passing out of sight, the depths are blocked by the fairy palaces and temples of Sion on its crags; and as one mounts higher, so does the opposite barrier of mountains grow every minute more high and wide and awful, broadening and swelling at each step, as the eye, dazed by their prodigious mass, follows the line of their development till it ceases in the snowy spires away towards the St. Gothard.

And from this height one feels the double influence of the two colour schemes that fill the Alps. Far away below, the valley of the Rhone lies dreaming in gold and golden green, a soft territory of sleep, with the sleepy blue thread of the river running through. Everywhere as one looks down, there is green and the kindred tones of green, while the depths of the air themselves are swimming with a dust of infinitesimal gold in the sunlight. And then above, abruptly, begins the dominance of blue. Long slopes of pale cobalt, soft indigo falls of forest, then the high and naked sweep of sapphire, fading into distance after distance of serrated colour, far up against the gentle azure of the sky, across which, in the rosy haze, huge curling ranges of cloud go soaring in shades of coral, ochre, amber. Here and there in front of their denser volumes, the pinnacles of the mountains are violet, scarred on this side and that with the rich white of distant snow, while the peaks round the St. Gothard reverse the process and are all of warm, rosy ivory, set with irregular jewelled ridges of amethyst, against the faint pink and purple of the thunderous cloud-masses behind them, a score of miles away. And the whole prospect, beautiful beyond our poor mortal comprehension, is on so vast a scale of grandeur, so inhumanly immense, so contemptuous of such dear human details as roads, towns, railways, that every time one meets it at a turn in the loop one gasps anew with shock, as under a sudden deluge of icy water.

But at last the shoulder of the hill is turned, and we say farewell to the valley of the Rhone. Now the road continues directly up the Val d'Hermance—for we are here, by kindly fate, still in French-speaking Switzerland.

To describe the vein-system of the Swiss waters one must adopt the most severely scientific terms. In fact the venation of the Swiss rivers is perfectly pinnatifid—at least, I trust, I am right, as well as impressive, in so explaining it. In milder words, the arrangement of valleys is as follows: there is, first of all (to put the cart before the horse, for the

sake of clearness), a great and first-class river, such as the Reuss, the Aar, the Inn, the Rhone, flowing down a deep and broad valley that it has carved through the mountains. This valley lies quite low as regards sea-level, and is fed by contributory streams that come in at right angles from secondary valleys high up in the hills on either side. In their upper reaches it is the habit of these to flow along a fairly level course, and then to achieve their final descent into the main body by a series of crashing leaps that disposes of the two or three thousand feet they may have to descend in about a quarter of a mile. A notable instance is the Reichenbach, which foams imperiously enough down from Rosenlauri, and then takes its leap to join the Aar in the most imposing of Swiss waterfalls. (For its rival, the Handegg, offers no such *coup d'oeil* as the Reichenbach, slinking down in all its volume through the concealment of a cañon, with an unmanly coyness as indecent and grotesque as if Moses were to coquet behind a fan.)

The Rhone and the Aar flow among cultivated lands and cornfields, their tributaries from above through the dense pine woods. But these tributaries, in turn draining the lower mountain-mass, are fed by yet other streamlets pouring down at right angles again from the open fell above—(and thus, roughly speaking, parallel with the big river five thousand feet below). And then again, these very streamlets from the upper barrens have carved glens for themselves between the topmost ridges, and are nourished by little filaments of water, trickling down from right and left from innumerable gullies and screes in the high snows. Thus, from ever higher and higher, one stream is perpetually flowing at right angles into another, until you reach the last faint runnels that have been washing the feet of *Ranunculus glacialis*, or carrying vigour to the opening gaze of *Eritrichium nanum*. I hope I have sufficiently shown that the water system of the Alps is perfectly pinnatifid?

The drive up the Val d'Hermance is beautiful but without event. There is only the one great thing to see at the end of the valley, far up beyond invisible Evolena. Now on one side goes the road over open lands and past sun-beaten banks aglow with the rare yellow *Ononis*. Then loom into sight a row of poentents—enormous, big-hatted monsters aligned across the way. These are the Pyramides d'Euseignes. Water, it seems, has in the interminable course of years eroded all this valley. But certain huge stone blocks have sheltered the light friable tufa on which they rested; with the result that each block stands up, like a gigantic toadstool, on a tapering twenty-foot spire.

And here these fantastic mushrooms rise aloft securely on their stems, and bid fair to outlast the valley, and grow taller as its soil is washed away. Only man has ever been successful as their enemy. Some perverted mind once conceived the idea of using the pyramids for targets in gun-practice. Popular indignation, however, stopped the irreverence before much damage had been done.

After Euseignes the road crosses to the other side of the valley, and mounts and mounts. At a dizzy depth below, by the foot of the precipice, the river brawls downwards over its rocky bed. The roadway is a mere wrinkle on the face of the cliff. Overhead, as the air clears, hardens, deepens to the cold calm of sunset, the high snows begin to appear, chill and sombre above the last pines. But neither precipice, nor pyramids, nor yellow Ononis can hold one's attention for long against the dominant presence of the Val d'Hermance. For one has not been bowling for long through the upper valley before one comes into sight of its reigning deity. Snow here, snow there, high overhead, is our right; we expect it. But snow is one thing, ordinary white teeth of mountain are one thing; the Dent Blanche is quite another. Away, away at the uttermost extremity of the valley the mountain-spire leaps into sight, and the unrelenting majesty of it is like the blast of trumpets. As I have already said, all these secondary streams flow from some big mother-peak, and these mountain glens end always in a pre-eminent height of snow. The Val d'Hermance is formed like a Y, and while the right-hand branch brings a stream down from Arolla and the Mont Collon, the left arm is called the Val d'Hérens, and descends immediately from the Dent Blanche. And at the junction of the Y stands Evolena, where the traveller may spend the night.

It was on a blazing morning that I set out from Evolena for Arolla, up the steep valley to the right, upon whose bare slopes of grass a pitiless sun was beating. There is nothing but a track after Evolena, so that one must either walk or jog it on a mule. Where, in the lower valleys, it is a question of tramping endlessly upwards through sweltering forests, I myself prefer the mule as the least unpleasant of unpleasant ways to achieve a necessary piece of drudgery. (This may sound irreverent. Remember that I speak as a gardener. Opulent as the pine-woods are, they give a gardener very little of interest. And no one will deny that they can be stuffy and hot to an infernal degree.) But from Evolena, standing so high as it does, only desultory fringes of woodland are to be feared on our upward way to Arolla. So that with an un-

daunted heart one can set out to walk the six miles or so that lie between the two.

Very soon one has to say good-bye to the Dent Blanche, which passes out of sight as one diverges from the Val d'Hérens. And it is almost with relief that one escapes from that overpowering presence. All ranges and peaks seem to me to have a personal character of their own. Indeed, this is inevitable. Since all things organic and inorganic, all rocks and mountains and trees must ultimately become Buddha, perfect and unchanging, it follows that, of these enormous pilgrims in the road of salvation, some must be farther advanced on the way than others—that all must, in fact, have personalities of their own. And, far down in the scale as the rocks must be, the Dent Blanche is surely farther down than many of its rivals. The Matterhorn, arrogant and terrible, has splendour and generosity; the Wetterhorn is obviously good-tempered; Mont Blanc and Mont Rose are two stout and cosy dowagers, Mrs. White and Mrs. Pink; even the Weisshorn has in its beauty an energetic fury that suits well with a pilgrim on the Way—although that energy be sometimes turned to evil. And Fuji-yama is surely not so much mountain as Bodhisatta. Very near the close of its journey is Fuji-san, and no one could be surprised to discover, some morning, that it had faded out during the darkness, and passed away in the Peace, which is Nirvana. But about the Dent Blanche there is a cold and sluggish malice, unsleeping, unhasting, which owns no kindred with the stolid, fund-holding respectability of Mrs. White, the fierce nobleness of the Weisshorn, or the divine tranquility of Fuji-san. The Dent Blanche, as far as hills can have a heart, has an evil, unfriendly heart, which is very far indeed from learning that Love Catholic, which is the way of Release. The Dent Blanche, indeed, has beauty for its only merit, and therein lies its salvation. For it is unorthodox folly to say that handsome is as handsome does, and that plain faces can hide lovely souls. If the soul be lovely, the face must have its beauty too, by the law of inevitable consequence, that we call Karma, even though that beauty be rare, exotic, hard to see. And, on the other hand, nothing beautiful can ever be altogether evil, since beauty can only co-exist with inner loveliness, or the possibility of inner loveliness, no matter how remote, how deeply buried in vanity, malice, and frivolity. And therefore, in the enormous course of years, there is as sure an ultimate hope for the beautiful Dent Blanche as for any beautiful man or woman who has ever followed desire through selfishness and treachery. For in the very fact of outward beauty lies

the promise of inward good. The seed is there, though many a load of soil must be cleared away before the Great Light can penetrate its husk and ripen it to germination.

Over the sun-trodden slopes of grass the mule-track mounts to Arolla. The scant, browned herbage wavers in the heat. Little lizards pant in ecstasy on the burning stones of the low wall that skirts the cobbled ascent. A hot fragrance of life and flowers throbs round one as one goes, and from each burning surface of rock rise on stiff, sticky stalks the rosy star-clusters of *Sempervivum arachnoideum*. Rosy I call them, and rosy they are in our pale air, but there, in that blaze, they are fire-red, glowing, incandescent. And their mats of round rosettes, too, are silver white with dense tomentum. In England we can rarely hope to see the bloom as brilliant, the little balls as snowy with down. The heat it is that achieves both miracles of beauty, and my climate, to speak for myself alone, has no friendly torridness for the Houseleeks. They live—oh yes, they live—and even thrive in a pallid way, but never do they attain the solid silver, the intense glow, that transfigured them on a sun-baked slope of Switzerland. My wet winters martyrise them, my uncertain summers perplex and bore them. On one rock, indeed, in the Old Garden, I had once *tectorum*, *arachnoideum*, and *laggeri* thriving excellently. Then my manager and I read Clarke's book on Alpines, put our heads together in a pious and humble spirit, and, as the author warmly enjoined, planted all our *Sempervivums* anew in a mixture of clay and cow-manure. With the result that they unanimously languished and expired.

All the *Sempervivums*, in fact—and they are legion; I might consume pages in analysing and noting the minute differences that make up the two hundred species or more that are cultivated—are sun-worshippers of the purest Zoroastrian zeal. Of them all, *arachnoideum*, with its lovely variety *transalpinum*, is my favourite. *Tectorum*, our English Houseleek, is good and useful. Not far off are *triste*, *wulfeni*, *reginae-amaliae*. *Rubicundum* is smaller than these last, rare, and very rich in colour, the whole rosette being deep ruby-claret. But of the larger species the finest, to my taste, is the rather uncommon *gaudini* from the Southern Alps. The rosettes of this are big, ball-like, clear green, and furry with innumerable small bristles. It sends out babies on long feelers, and carries a stout head of lemon yellow flowers like Catherine-wheels. *Gaudini*, too, thrives here far better than most of its kindred, and in more ordinary soil. *Sempervivum calcaratum*, if what I have is true, and not confused with *calcareum*, is magnificent in

size and shape; and *laggeri* is a charming wee thing, half the size of little *arachnoideum*, but otherwise similar, with the same downy white globes. For all these—at least in the rainy North—I advise as little soil as possible, some mere crevice in a rock with a pinch of earth, exposed to every ray of sun, and as little troubled by rains as you can manage. And if you wish to specialise on *Sempervivum*—and you could have no worthier subject—there are Houseleeks beyond number, as the sands of the sea, all more or less casuistically differentiated from the species I have mentioned, which represent the typical beauties of the race,—dainty and delightful as is every other *Sempervivum* that has ever been glorified with a name to itself.

The way grows hotter as it mounts, and there is no stick or twig of shelter. The heat seems almost too much for all flowers except the Salamander-hearted *Sempervivums*, for the only thing which the slopes above Evolena yielded me was a single, narrow, purple spike of *Campanula spicata*. But ere long the way leads on into a scattered woodland where *Campanula pusilla* runs riot over the sun-dappled stony slope between the rare trees. In light and shade it thrives equally, and under the lee of every stone its little china blue-bells dance lightly on their almost invisible stems.

It was here, just before the trees began to thicken, that I found the dainty silver-pale variety that I call *pusilla pallida*. Pallid is a word with evil connotation, and I am sorry I chose so dishonouring an epithet for so exquisite a colour as the silvery French-grey that you get in this form of *Campanula pusilla*. Then the path passes wholly into dense shade, and skirts a mossy boulder as large as a young church. After that it emerges and moves through endless vicissitudes—up and down, in and out of meadow and woodland, peaceful and pleasant to pursue. Somewhere in these parts is to be found, so M. Correvon tells me, the very rare, tall yellow Valerian *Hugueninia tana-cetifolia*, but alas! I never saw it, though it frequents damp, mossy corners where such rank splendours as *Lactuca alpina* are to be met with.

The great excitement at this part of the ascent is one's first sight of the Arolla Pine. About all waning, dying species, such as *Saxifraga florulenta*, *Lilium krameri*, *Campanula allioni*, there hangs a flavour of almost Stuart romance; but *Pinus cembra* is the protagonist of nature's tragedy in the Alps. Only in its young stages could the tree possibly be mistaken for anything else. As it grows older it develops a dense, club-like shape, which enables you easily to distinguish its dark, stout

columns from several miles away, amid several thousands of its rival species. *Pinus cembra* is probably a very ancient species. It is certainly very slow-growing, and, I believe, not in the front rank for fertility. In any case, it is being crowded out of the world by younger species. In the Valais it lingers, in Tyrol, and in Siberia. You first sight it when half-way up the path from Evolena to Arolla, in the Arolla valley, and after that it goes with you all the way to the glaciers at the foot of the Mont Collon, becoming the reigning tree as you get higher. Though in the past it has suffered fearfully from the prodigal destructiveness of the peasants, movements are now on foot to establish plantations of *Pinus cembra* in favoured places (at Bel-Alp, I fancy, among others), so that its approaching extinction may perhaps be retarded indefinitely. For the forester and landscape gardener *Pinus cembra* has no value; for the rock-garden, on the other hand, its slow growth and its dense habit give it very high merit. As a wind-break it acts admirably, and, for general use, ranks only second to the genuinely, permanently dwarf *Pinus montana*.

Even at Arolla itself you do not escape entirely from the forests, which still linger above you to the right. But the way becomes more open as you advance, skirting shaggy slopes of long grass and summer flowers. Not here, though, can *Campanula barbata* be seen in such unexampled splendour as in the meadows above Meiden. There its Campaniles seem taller, its great, fringy bells larger, more numerous, more shaggy, more blue than anywhere else in the Alps. I have already praised this plant; now, deliberately, I must say that my praise was altogether insufficient for its merits. *Campanula barbata* is one of the most perfectly lovable plants that lives. No other epithet is so apt. Other things are more flamboyant, other things are more startling in their colours, but very few plants in the garden have the gay pleasantness of *Campanula barbata*, the serene, large-hearted charm. Last sight I had of it, I remember, was abloom with all its usual generosity in the depths of London, on a rock in the Physic-Garden at Chelsea.

But if the way to Arolla is not famous for *Campanula barbata*, in revenge, the sunniest, driest slopes are ablaze with the coralline loveliness of evil-tempered *Dianthus sylvestris*, most ungrateful of plants. But, indeed, the Pinks are a difficult race; I am reminded, by my memories of Arolla, that certain seedling Pinks, of which I held out great hopes in *My Rock-Garden*, as due to bloom that year in unheard-of loveliness, turned out, after all, to be dull, fringy dowdies of a most vapid and milky description. These came to me under such high titles

as *cinnamomeus* and *pruinus*. Only *cinnabarinus* failed to bloom, and so, most likely, to disappoint. The postponed disappointment, I already fear, is no less certain than the bloom.

And so, past copse and meadow, the track leads on and on, until at last we come to the Mont Collon Hotel itself, sitting lonely at Arolla (which is only a name) above a marsh full of *Saxifraga aizoides*. And in front of this there is nothing but the gaunt, promising desolation of stone stretching up to the feet of the Mont Collon, whose vast bulk closes in the grim little valley. To the right rises another big humped mountain, the Pigne d'Arolla, carrying a few sparse old specimens of *Pinus cembra* on its rust-coloured screes. But the hotel stands on the fringe of the last woodland, and the other slope of the glen is clothed rather with copse and tangle of *Pinus montana* than with any more notable tree. High and high above all this stretches, against the blue, the saw-line of the mountain-ridge, so fiercely planned as to be hardly patient of any snow. Midway stands up the Aiguille de la Za, a stark pinnacle like some gigantic saurian's tooth, no less waspish and deadly than its hissing mosquito-cry of a name. Standing there before the hotel, as darkness gently cools the air of the mountains, a gardener alone will understand perhaps how the heart of a gardener bounds to think that he has escaped the fertile, unprofitable land of meadow and forest, that he has come at last to the territory of great open spaces, of that illimitable, gorgeous desolation, which is the home of so much brilliant beauty, such enormous peace (fig. 69).

The tutelary deity of the Arolla valley is *Androsace imbricata*. And for the *Androsace* you needs must go very high up into open spaces to which the open space below the Mont Collon is a crowded jungle. Looking out across the acres of stone, grim evidence of altitude, that stretch before the hotel, it is hard to realise that only far and far above all this do you come into the real openness, the real freedom of heart and soul and eye. The upward way leads you first of all across the rocky wilderness, where little dwells but *Sempervivum montanum*, and then across the stream, along whose further bank it continues for some time a mild ascent, beneath the shadow of a precipice. *Sempervivum montanum* need not detain the searcher. It is a rather undistinguished little Houseleek, with lopsided rosettes of pale green, and heads of sad murrey-coloured Catherine-wheels. So, unheeding the small fry of the mountains, one pursues one's way upwards in the grateful shadow of the cliff. *Campanula pusilla* is rampant everywhere, the immense violet bells of *Campanula scheuchzeri* glitter imperially wherever water distils,

on wet rocks *Pinguicula* lifts its purple Gloxinia-blooms above its flattened star of viscid, carnivorous leaves, and everywhere *Saxifraga aizoon* shows its stout little creamy spires. Only in the moraine garden shall we ever be able to achieve the full charm of *Saxifraga aizoon*. On rock-work, in cleft and border, it has high value and charm indeed, but set it thickly on a slope built only of small limestone chips, and there, alone against that background of broken stone, so lovely in its innumerable lights and shades, its tones of lilac, white and grey, will you get the full effect of the Saxifrage, its tidy masses of blue and silver rosettes, the serried solid blooms in their rounded spikes on abundant, sturdy stems.

I have already sufficiently lauded the easy temper of this group of Silver Saxifrages, but their pictorial effect is apt to be undervalued, owing, as I myself have too readily admitted, to the dull or greenish tones that sometimes damage the brilliance of the flowers, as seen against the uncompromising background of English rock or English soil. But at last I learned my lesson one day below the Laemmern Glacier on the Gemmi. From a lawn of purple Pansy, snow-white dazzling *Ranunculus alpestris*, and the amazing blues of *Gentiana bavarica* and *Gentiana favrati*, I came suddenly, unexpectedly, on a high steep shoulder of broken limestone. The whole surface of the ground was covered with white chips, and everywhere, over its expanse, rose crowded colonies of *Saxifraga aizoon*, gently waving its sheaves between the gorgeous violet stars of *Aster alpinus*, while *Biscutella laevigata* made showers of pale gold at intervals, and the hot orange of *Senecio doronicum* blazed here and there against the cool soft silver of its leaves. And to harmonise the whole there were frail, rare grasses, plummy, cloudy, that shivered among the flowers. And there, in an instant, I learned the full decorative value of *Saxifraga aizoon*.

But here, on the way from Arolla to the Plan de Bertol, *aizoon* is abundant enough on the stones. Sometimes the blooms are heavily peppered with crimson dots; sometimes they are almost pure in their white; sometimes dull and stodgy. And then, all at once, my companion—why should I conceal that this was M. Correvon himself?—darts forward with a cry. There, on a flat rock, thick-set with its ordinary kindred, shines before our eyes the long-sought yellow variety of *Saxifraga aizoon*! Though not brilliant, this yellow—it is quite clear and soft and pure—is very easily distinguishable among the duller tones around.

In my rhapsodies over *Eritrichium* I have touched on the gardener's

joy of discovery. This has a quality which can belong to few other successful quests. For what can equal the delicious moments while one sits down in glory at the side of one's discovery, and finds the moments far too holy and precious to be cut short by the premature introduction of the trowel upon the scene? The thing is there, for us to deal with at our reverent pleasure; meanwhile we must adore every detail of our find, lovingly touch the upturned petals, mark the growth, the health, the beauty, the whole delight of the plant. There is no hurry about precipitating the end. So there, on that flat rock overhanging the precipice, we loiter in worship of the yellow *aizoon*; then, when our satisfaction has been fully savoured, the trowel is introduced, cunningly and with piety, so as to remove only a little fraction of the clump—Anathema sempiternal on those who would rend away the whole, and leave the rock widowed of its chief pride! And this, again, is generously divided, that finder and companion may share alike. So we go happy onwards, secure in our knowledge that every rosette and rosetting of these Silver Saxifrages is safe to make a solid little plant by autumn.

Now the track, having passed the precipice, suddenly takes it into its head to mount. And mount it does, with fire and fury, in abrupt, violent zigzags, over a slope as steep as the side of a house, and surfaced with fine herbage, polished and slippery as glass. So quickly goes the climb towards the upper levels that gigantic Mont Collon, now close at hand to our right, seems to sink down beneath us as if through a trap-door. Up and up and up curls the track, still in the shadow of the hillside. The grass is starred with little plants of *Silene rupestris*, and the dark sapphire globes of *Phyteuma pauciflorum*. Here and there occurs the one-flowered form of *Campanula barbata*, which, so far I have never proved constant in cultivation. Then, high above, solid rock, reddish, granitic, begins to loom overhead. The track reaches it. Now we are on the territory of *Androsace imbricata*. *Androsace imbricata* is within reach—perhaps even within sight. But the keenest search fails to discover any of those expected silvery cushions nestling into crevices of the cliff.

So our upward way continues. Suddenly there is nothing more above us. In another instant we have topped that long dark slope, and emerge, dazzled, into the full glare of day. Up and down before us lie unrolled the lawns of the Plan de Bertol—one golden fire, in the sunlight, of *Geum montanum* and other little yellow glories of the grass. Looking back across the invisible deep gulf beneath us, we seem on a level with the midmost snow-patches of Mont Collon itself. Our vast,

sun-flooded tract of colour is closed on the right by a barren wall of mountain. To the left, high above us, stretches a huge amphitheatre of granite cliffs, from whose feet a wilderness of broken stone flows away down towards the grass. A moraine—ice and stone and glacier-mud and water—mounts beyond this from the stream's head to the head of the glen, and on the right, above other stone slopes, a snow-field, daunting, cold, and azure (for the sun has not yet touched it), leads upwards to the Col de Bertol. Now I know that my quest is achieved, for, all around that amphitheatre is a classical station for *Androsace imbricata*. Meanwhile my companions are more eager to scale the Col de Bertol, whence, from the Hut, the climber is rewarded by a view over the Val d'Hérens to the Dent Blanche. I, for my part, having no love for snowfields in themselves, prefer to spend my day in the more placid delights of the Plan de Bertol. Accordingly the others depart on their way, and I am left alone.

To be alone in wide, great places is sometimes too terrible a thing for little mundane man. In the high valleys of the Alps, where the silence is so vast that it seems as if a single uttered word would shatter the roof of the world, the nearness of the Gods is either purifying or appalling, according to one's strength of mood. All the Lords of Life and Death, all Gods and Saints, all Buddhas and Bodhisattas out of the infinite past and the infinite future, they are all there, making part of that immeasurable beauty, chanting in the choir of that eternal silence, incarnate in the radiance of that unstained mountain sunlight. They are the irresistible Powers of the air; the lucid diamond air is THEM. So that, if one be strong enough, from hours of solitude in upmost Alps, one can drink big draughts of immortality, can leave behind for a wholesome hour the unrealities of earthly life, and lose consciousness of the phantom daily self in reunion with the divine eternal Self.

However, if such a mood be not upon you, be careful how you venture into the mountains. Be careful how you go there accompanied by unworthy thoughts, petty ambitions, hopes and fears. For the pure Spirits of the hills are not patient of such affronts, and they will have none of such thoughts in their presence, nor of you that bring them. You will be unhappy in such august neighbourhood—feel ill-attuned, unwanted, disliked. In such a mood, or when weakness and the love of human comradeship is upon one, let us stay happily at the Schweizerhof, or parade the streets of Zermatt. For the terror of the hills is dreadful, cold, annihilating. It strips man of his dignity, denies his



existence, reduces him to an ineffectual ghost, a mere ἀμαυρόν εἶδωλον of his decent Bond Street entity. On level lawns in the Alps I have felt a spiritual terror so glacial and overpowering that I have scarcely been able to put one trembling foot before the other. Not, for a moment, that there was anything tangible or obvious to fear for one's bodily safety in the way of cliffs, glaciers, crevasses, but simply that my spirit, on those days, was too little to cope with the universal Godhead of the world, too fast-riveted in egoism to sink itself in the divine personality. On the other hand, there are days when one is more worthy of that divine companionship, capable of losing one's self and becoming God. And, on such a day, loneliness among the hills is strengthening and sacred.

Nor does the beauty of the place go for much in one's feelings. I don't know that the Plan de Bertol is particularly beautiful, beyond the intoxicating loveliness of clean, empty air, of uncontrolled light and space. Yet there I felt solitude most blessed, whereas high up on the Col that leads over Meiden to St. Luc, in surroundings far more dazzling, and with the dizzying magnificence of the Weisshorn ruling all the mountain world, I yet was glad of companionship; felt the whole thing a magnificent painted scene, stood far outside it, without desire for solitude or closer communion.

Over the grassy knolls of the Plan de Bertol one wanders on, trampling the golden glow of *Geum montanum* as one goes. The close lawn becomes a carpet of colours—Pansies, Primulas, Gentians make its tissue. Then comes the streamlet, dancing down among the glacial buttercups from the stony moraine above. On this, in the sodden blue clay between the blocks, one comes on plants of *Saxifraga biflora*, drenched and draggled with mud. And here, too, though we are in full granitic formation, I came on one plant of *Campanula cenisia*. As for *Rancunculus glacialis*, it is everywhere, now, in wet places among the shingles. Its large, solid flowers shine white as snow, and in the course of years each unit has developed into a solid clump of a hundred plants or so, each separate crown, almost, carrying one of those gleaming brilliant blossoms, waxy-pure against the gold of their stamens, except where the fertilised flowers are fading to a dim, sad pink. And then, joyous find, comes an isolated mass of *Geum reptans*. *Geum montanum*, the golden Mountain-Avens, is a common little glory enough, quite dwarf and vigorous, with bright yellow flowers as large as a florin. And this, in cultivation, is as thrifty and easy a thing as you could have for any sunny rock-work or raised border—healthy,

spreading, floriferous—though in cultivation its stems shoot up to six inches or so. But its big cousin, *Geum reptans*, is very different in every respect. You are generally very high on the last moraines of all before, far ahead of you, on the unbroken grey of the stones, you see a sudden flare of gold. As almost all flowers except the smallest and dullest are now left behind, you cannot imagine what the yellow vision may be. It is *Geum reptans*, making one compact colony at that point, and not occurring again over the whole moraine. It is much bigger in growth than *montanum*, the pinnate leaves standing erect, and the whole plant reaching eight or ten inches in height. The flowers are, I think, the most magnificent in all the high-Alpine flora, from the point of view of combined brilliancy and size. They conquer even *Aster alpinus* and *Senecio doronicum*—great golden St. John's Worts they are, as large as a crown-piece—yes, and much larger, too. From the stock each parent-plant sends out a thin pink runner like that of a strawberry, which produces a young growth. Thus the species multiplies, yet stays perpetually in the same spot.

In cultivation, unfortunately, *Geum reptans* is uncertain. It lives perfectly well, even multiplies, with some success. But it very rarely flowers. I am convinced, though, that it will prove (I haven't yet tried it so, but mean to this season) a first-rate moraine plant, since what it obviously requires is to be kept awake by sheer starvation, in the thinnest, rubbliest scruff of stone and grit, instead of being allowed to sink into sybaritic sleep in rich garden soil.

Crossing the moraine at last, one sets oneself to climb towards the sun-steeped granite cliff on which one hopes to find the *Androsace*. As a matter of fact, there is no such delirium of excitement about this present quest as there was about that of *Eritrichium nanum*. For there all was uncertainty—the place, the moment, everything. Now, on the contrary, I know for absolute fact, that in those baking cliffs overhead I shall soon be seeing *Androsace imbricata*. And sure enough as I clamber up the last steepest slope to the foot of the precipice, I see the treasure before me immediately—three or four powder-white balls of down, wadded immovably into a crevice. Immovably indeed. Nothing can I do to stir them. Gently as you urge them, they resist indomitably. Pull them, and they break at the neck. It is true that in a covered frame of moist sand, shaded, with plenty of air, you can strike cuttings of many difficult things, such as *Eritrichium* and *Androsace*, as easily as *Violas*; but the pious collector's instant ambition is always to get perfect roots. So I quest along the face of that amphitheatre, beneath

a daunting heat beyond words to express, and nowhere do I discover a single amenable plant of the silver *Androsace*. From every chink its little cushions leer out at me in derision; but in the face of abundance, it seems I must ironically starve. Finally, having perustrated the whole semicircle, I retreat baffled, and drop down to the moraine again, to eat my four Marie biscuits to the accompaniment of glacier water. Fortified by this repast, however, I decide after lunch to make another effort to secure my lovely prey. I mark a certain little jagged tooth of granite far overhead, standing aloof from the main amphitheatre, or rather its last desultory outcrop. There, if anywhere, the rock looks rotten and friable. I set myself a-climbing. Steep is the rocky slope, in all conscience, under the sun. But it is nothing to the space beyond. For here, the tension of the hill's angle relaxing for a couple of hundred yards or so, enormous boulders are heaped and piled in the loosest and most distracting confusion. They are the size of little houses, these blocks, and one's only progress is to climb laboriously up one, then drop into dismal depths on its further side, and so up the face of another. And so on, and so on, and so on, until one feels like an ant in a sugar-basin. At last, however, I reach my little jag of rock, and there have the joy of finding my hopes justified. For the cliff is quite loose and disintegrated here, slab lifting off slab in the easiest and most delightful way. And between these two separable slices, *Androsace imbricata* in abundance makes the jam of this 'satisfying sandwich' (alas that there is no one present to finish the tag 'and broach the exhilarating marsala' in honour of the occasion!). Delightedly, then, I lay bare the whole ramification of its silky roots, and take a fair proportion of plants, blameless in my certainty that I am doing them no wrong, but giving them as fair a chance of thriving as any collector's skill could offer. And so, at last, as the sun's majesty goes westering and the air glows with a ruddier gold, my companions are seen far-off, black specks on the snowfields, and when they rejoin me on the Plan, we all continue our rejoicing homeward way together, almost too deeply sated with success to feel more than a passing thrill when, not half a mile from the hotel, as we return along the path, *Aquilegia alpina* is seen nodding two of its glorious blossoms at us from a bush.

The ascent on the right from the Arolla Hotel takes one on to a different geological formation, which produces astonishing differences in the flora. *Androsace chamaejasme* is replaced by *A. obtusifolia*. *Aster alpinus* is abundant in the higher reaches, with *Ranunculus pyrenaicus* and *Androsace carnea*; and of larger things the big gentians are

very abundant, every possible hybrid of *purpurea* occurring in every conceivable shade of colour, from dull tawny to claret.

Androsace carnea is a pretty treasure, whose merit has been obscured by the greater merit of his major *eximia*, and his minor *laggeri*. The type *carnea* is a thin and wiry-leaved species, quite dwarf, with a head of rather pale little Primula-flowers. *Eximia* has much broader, solidier, glossier leaves, with bigger flowers, more abundant, and of a much deeper pink. The type, however, is very well worth growing, and, with *eximia*, has the strong recommendation of being perfectly easy to grow, quite trustworthy and robust, preferring a light, rich peaty soil, and needing no glass protection in winter, as do the downy-leaved species from the higher Alps and the Himalya. In point of fact, the cultivator can always tell the easier Androsaces by the fact that their leaves are thin, leathery, and devoid of down.

Another in this blessed category is *A. vitaliana*—sometimes called *Aretia vitaliana*—pardonably, too, as it is so unlike the other Androsaces. It makes a prostrate mat of dark green, furry branches, and then emits a quantity of brilliant golden-yellow flowers, in shape and almost in size recalling those of *Jasminum primulinum*. This plant, though perfectly easy and safe in any soil and any decent aspect, must yet be bought with caution. There is a thin-leaved, sparse-blooming, small-flowered form of *A. vitaliana*; and there is also a stalwart form, with leaves slightly broader, more robust-looking, hemmed with a ciliation of white down, which produces a splendid abundance of big flowers, whose colour is of the richest, softest, imperial yellow. Do not overfeed *A. vitaliana* with too rich soil, and you will never have any complaint to make of him.

There are some other noteworthy species, too, in the *carnea* group. *Brigantiaca* makes larger rosettes, but is otherwise very similar, with bigger heads of rather pallid pink flowers; *hedraeantha* is much more brilliant, yet broader-leaved, with flowers of a fine rose. This is a novelty, hailing from the Balkans, and both species are quite decently easy in any fair cultivation. I have *hedraeantha* in the moraine, where it throve splendidly for a time, and will probably do so again as soon as it has recovered from the oppressive attentions of a mouse.

All these rosy Androsaces, of course, would be even more beautiful than they are—this is horrid ingratitude, but also truth—if they did not have that faint, faint lilac-magenta tone which so frequently interferes with the purity of colour in the Primulas and their near relations—of whom, of course, Androsaces are about the nearest. *Laggeri* is,

by many lengths, the best of its kin, a tiny version of *carnea*, so minute in growth that its spreading tufts might be taken for those of some small *Hypnum*. However, it soon enlightens you as to its charms by sending up a dozen little stems or more, each crowned with a head of golden-eyed rosy flowers, the most brilliant of all their kind—if you except the impossible *glacialis*. *A. laggeri* loves a warm, loose bank of gritty peat—at least, it does here in a moist climate, and is a lovely treasure beyond price—especially as, being a wiry-haired species, it needs no apparatus to ward off winter-rain.

Androsace lactea is a link between the others, and the annual and biennial species. It is, as a matter of fact, very pretty; and yet, so very misrepresentative of the name it bears that I can never love it quite as much as it deserves. It has big rosettes of smoothish dark green leaves, and sends up the most admirably floriferous stems of bloom, carrying large, pure white flowers, in graceful great loose umbels. It is a sound-hearted, thrifty, good-natured plant, thriving almost anywhere, even in more or less shade—a condition, I find, generally fatal for *Androsaces*. (They say *A. laggeri* will also do in shade; well, it may; but I have always found that every single one of the genus prefers sun.) It is truly perennial, too, and goes on blooming all the summer in a very delightful, pleasant way. I am doing all I can for the poor dear, after so frankly owning that I cannot pay it the debt which I admit I owe. I respect it deeply; love no one can command, and *Androsace lactea* is too like the dreadful little annuals and biennials for me ever to feel quite fond of it. As for them, they too have neatness and floriferousness. But, with one or two dazzling exceptions, such as *Linaria alpina*, and *Gentiana nivalis*—if anyone could ever get it to grow—I regard all annual plants in the rock-garden as out of place. They are frauds there, come in on false pretences. Your true alpine is a sturdy soul, who battles with the vast elemental forces of life for half a score of years;—not a little, frivolous ephemera that grows up in a month, and flowers and seeds and dies all in a summer. So away, briefly, with *Androsace filiformis*, *coronopifolia*, *chaixii*, *raddeana*, *septentrionalis*, and their synonyms. They are all pretty, mind you—some of them very pretty indeed; but I personally happen to have that prejudice against annuals or confessed biennials—my dazzling exceptions being only species that are too cogently beautiful to be left out—*Linaria alpina*, *Ionopsidium acaule*, *Saxifraga cymbalaria*—(I don't say this is cogently beautiful, or that I want it; but it came, and where *Saxifraga cymbalaria* comes, it comes to stay). Therefore I'll commend these annual *Androsaces*

generously, but I won't grow them.

Some of them don't even bear commending, either. A few years ago I got seed of an *Androsace* called *macrantha*. I bought it because the name sounded so alluring. A big-flowered *Androsace*, bless me, what a joy! Who would have suspected a trap? But up came the seed, so thick that I at once smelled out a disappointment; it is only weeds that germinate so eagerly. The seedlings grew like Jonah's gourd, and then appeared the spikes that were to bear the eponymous big flowers. Well, that plant bore the smallest flowers I have ever seen, and in the most enormous calyces. Beware, then, of *Androsace macrantha*, all ye that have Greek! And as for that rarest of Italian new-comers, *Androsace mathildae*, I have not yet tried it, feeling a presentiment that it belongs to the not too easily distinguishable cousinhood of *A. wulfeniana* and *A. ciliata*.

As for propagating; the high Alpines may, with great care, be raised from cuttings struck in moist silver sand, duly shaded. All the *sarmentosa* group may be pulled to pieces at pleasure, and every piece will grow;—a little more care, please, with *villosa* and *arachnoidea*. Most of the others can be divided with ease, and *lactea*, with the annuals, of course, comes profusely from seed. Raising the rest from seed is hopeless unless the seed be fresh, and, even so, is doubtful, slow work, though ultimately, perhaps, a gain.

Where have all the Flowers gone?

by Miss PIERA V. PEYRANI, Turin

YES, WHERE have they? I often wonder.

The object of the present article is not to solve the problem, but only to relate the experiences of a garden amateur in what one would imagine the ideal setting for an alpine garden.

It was sixteen years ago when I started mine in the Cottian Alps. It was my third—2300 square yards at 3300 ft. on a wedge between two mountain streams. All round, tops over 10,500 ft. cause an almost constant breeze to blow from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and make the spot as dry as possible, notwithstanding the evaporation and consequent heavy dews from the waters below. Being a slope from S.E. to N.W., perfect

drainage is assured. Half the ground had been untilled from time immemorial and looked and felt like coffee dregs—a real dream.

By a list I made at the beginning, no less than a hundred different species, a gamut of wild beauties, seemed to thrive easily, from the early tiniest form of *Eranthis hyemalis* to the late *Colchicum autumnale*. So I thought it a good number to start with.

Hail is unknown and rains are rather scanty from June to the middle of August. Then the weather breaks and one can reckon on an almost daily shower after 4 p.m. Still, by the middle of August or a week before, mildew appears, despite spraying. Apart from the voles, so greedy for my bulbs, I can complain of no pests. The area is protected for many square miles. Birds rid me of insects and I don't mind if they peck at my cherries. I get a good help from a band of hares, which I am told dance by the full moon during my long winter absence. When the snow is three or four feet deep and food is scarce, they gnaw at the bark of my fruit trees, including even the poisonous bark of *Cytisus laburnus*. As a compensation they leave me a good amount of welcome manure. Owing to the rather large area of the ground for an elderly single-handed person, I let three quarters of the flora go wild. Where the soil did not look ideal I added a large quantity of sphagnum found in the woods and two lorry loads of conifer bark and chips from the local sawmill. I found the bark, together with peat, a very useful mulch for keeping the soil moist—and very economical too. I remarked the fact that roots cling to bark as they do to tufa. The latter could be had just for the gathering across one of the streams, but I had not the means to carry it owing to the relatively high weight. Then I began to gather seeds in the neighbourhood to enlarge my plant collection. At that time I was ignorant of the existence of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

I was not always successful. One of the first failures I met with was *Globularia cordifolia*, so plentiful and apparently so easy, even growing along the roadside. I sowed it several times but never obtained a response. More failures with *Gentiana cruciata*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Dryas octopetala* and *Pulsatilla alpina*. Going back to *Globularia*, the road was tarred and *Globularia* disappeared, though it can still be found, together with *Armeria montana*, some specimens of *Carlina acanthifolia* and *Carlina acaulis* var. *caulescens* struggling for survival against coarse grasses.

Referring to both *Carlinas*, there was a boom in dried flower arrangements recently and plants were plundered by the hundred. I

am told they flower every seventh year and consequently the loss was terrific.

One of my own *Carlina acaulis*, already extant on the ground, still grows under a *Pinus nigra*, whose branches are now so long that the little plant will soon be smothered.

There was quite a family of Crocuses in a ditch at the foot of a retaining wall. I lost them long ago and I cannot account for their disappearance.

Hyoscyamus niger and *Berkleya macrocephala* are probably not what I should call precious or beautiful plants, but I liked to keep a specimen of both. Last summer (1974) was so dry that they failed to flower. The same for *Hyssopus officinalis*—the wind, the lack of rain and the position were all against one of my best bushes. The same plants across the stream and facing South fared no better.

Years ago I promised a friend we should find heaps of *Lavandula spica* (?) in a secluded valley. When we reached there not a plant was to be found. What was the cause? I cannot make any supposition. Higher up the same valley there was what I call the largest field of *Delphinium consolida* ever seen. In summer the field was ploughed. *D. consolida* could not set seeds and it was lost for ever. *Clematis tangutica* used to occupy every empty space in the neighbouring village, Bardonecchia. Cottages were built and goodbye to *C. tangutica*!

Trollius europeus, *Gentiana verna*, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* were a feature together with *Linum montanum* and *Primula farinosa*. They used to populate a favourite track of mine so thickly that it was often impossible not to tread on them. A new road was opened and all went amiss. Once more it was the work of man. Progress?

Building the road changed the course of three rivulets along which grew *Pinguicula alpina*, *Orchis militaris*, *Myosotis alpestris*, *Atragene alpina* and others. Very little survived of that show as the ugly new road drew too many pseudo-tourists.

Another secluded track flanked with *Lilium martagon*, *Geranium montanum* and *Tulipa sylvestris* met another path where, in full shade, one could find *Aquilegia montana* and *Atragene alpina* hidden in the thick dark green.

Even the ever-present *Saponaria ocymoides* was disturbed by a quarry and took refuge on the dirty steep banks of the railway.

Across my road there were plenty of *Chrysanthemum arvense* (?) which made plants three feet in diameter. I measured one in my garden where it received moisture and fertilisers. The spot on which they grew

was moist. The water was canalised and the *Chrysanthemums* vanished in a couple of seasons. At two hundred yards from my site the field was incredibly thick with *Muscari botryoides*. The ground was sold and ploughed to build two cottages. *Muscari* disappeared together with a variety of yellow chives so good in a salad.

Parnassia palustris and *Gentiana ciliata* will be very scarce next year as the seeds cannot have ripened in the very cold September we had in 1974. Raspberries are not flowers, but I used to gather a lot twenty minutes from my cottage. Now I am lucky that I have my own. The same for edible mushrooms. Too many people go in search of them, gathering them without leaving a bit of root. I am glad they are so kind as to grow under my conifers!

Dianthus alpinus and *Dianthus carthusianorum*, *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, *Linum montanum*, *Myosotis alpestris*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Erysimum sylvestri* and *Soldanella alpina* still grow and flower here and there far from the paths where cars cannot reach, but how long will they last? There could be more and more cases to be mentioned, but it is sad enough to consider how the local flora has dwindled and vanished in the last sixteen years.

The counterbalance is rather scanty in my garden. The winds brought one seed of a sweet white orchid, *Cephalanthera longifolia*, to an unusual spot, the foot of a *Syringa vulgaris*. It was a delightful discovery to see the little flower quite by itself. I hope it will stay. *Malva moschata* and some *Papaver rhoeas* were welcome gifts from an unknown garden. But what strikes me more is the consideration that out of a dozen adult conifers bearing seeds, in so many years only two plants have sprung up and are thriving. One in a fresh spot under a group of conic Junipers, and that I can understand. But the other is at the top of the moraine of pure gravel from an excavation. The place is where the winds rage the highest. This *Pinus nigra* never receives water except from the sky or from the drips of a nearby washing line. Really a most incredible, curious, impossible place for a seed to germinate! It is now 5 ft. high. How strange are the ways of Nature and often so different from the ways of humans!

Summing up the experience of these sixteen years I would say that Man is the worst destroyer of the ecological equilibrium. Nature acts ever so unpredictably but with the ups and downs of rains and droughts she causes only the fittest plants to survive. Let us bow our heads and never act athwart her ways.

Conference for Beginners

ARE YOU a rather new Member who doesn't know how to begin and hesitates to ask for advice? Then this is for you.

A residential Conference for Beginners is to be held on 3rd/4th April 1976, in the Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Cramond Road North, Edinburgh 4.

The aim is to help novices over the first hurdles in Rock-gardening. The number will be limited to 40 and there will be ample opportunity to discuss your problems with each other and with the speakers. The Programme, which is outlined below, has been planned to cover the basic essentials and to enable you to get more enjoyment out of your hobby.

'The Answer lies in the Soil', by Ben Barrett, well-known to radio listeners

'Rock Garden Construction' by James R. Aitken of Perth

'Plants and Places', practical advice from Mrs. S. Maule, Mrs. J. Stead and Ross Kirby of the R.B.G. staff

'Simple Propagation', by Dr. & Mrs. I. Simson Hall

The Librarian will show a selection of useful Books, and the President will lead a visit to the Royal Botanic Garden

The College is modern and has comfortable single bed-sitting rooms, with facilities for making tea or coffee in each Hostel. The inclusive cost from lunch on Saturday to tea on Sunday will be £7.30. Members from a distance who require a room for Friday or Sunday nights may book this when registering.

Owing to the limited numbers any Member who wishes to attend should apply as soon as possible, enclosing remittance of £7.30, to:

The Registration Secretary,
Mrs. KIRSTEEN SCOTT,
51 CLUNY DRIVE,
EDINBURGH

No applications can be accepted after 1st March 1976.

First Interim Rock Garden Plant Conference

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, U.S.A. July 18-22, 1976
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA July 23-25, 1976

Theme: "ALPINES OF THE AMERICAS"

Pre-Conference Tours: (Optional) 2 or 3 day Field Trips to:

- (1) Olympic Mountains (2) Wenatchee Mountains
- (3) North Cascade Mts. (4) Olympic Rain Forest & Mountains

Conference Programme: SEATTLE

Lectures: Plants and their habitats in North and South America
(Penstemons, Bulbs, Ferns and other subjects)

Field Trip: To Mount Rainier

Garden Tours and Educational Displays

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Lectures: Woodland Plants of North America
Cultivation of North American Alpines, etc.

Garden Tours: U.B.C. Botanic Gardens. Van Dusen Botanic
Garden. Private Gardens.

Post-Conference Tours: (Optional) Gardens of Victoria, B.C.
Field Trips to Olympic Mountains, Hurricane Ridge.

The Conference will take place in the University Campus at both centres.
Accommodation: Seattle, Single Room \$6.50, Double \$4.50 per head per
night, excluding meals. Vancouver: \$15 per head, including meals,
per day.

Registration Fee: \$50 includes all lectures, garden visits, Receptions
and Field Trip to Mt. Rainier. Banquets extra.

Pre- and Post-Conference Tours: the cost has not been received at time
of going to Press, but there should be more information by the time
this appears in print.

Travel: In 1975 the return fare to Vancouver is about £145. The whole
party must travel out together, but it should be possible to return in
3, 4 or 6 weeks, which will allow members to make other plans if
they wish.

Anyone who is interested in going and is not already on the mailing
list should write for further information, enclosing stamped addressed
envelope, to Mrs. I. Simson Hall, 93 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh
EH4 6JT.

Show Reports

EDINBURGH AND MIDLOTHIAN

THE SHOW was held in the Horsa Hut, former Royal High School Buildings, Regent Road, on Saturday 22nd March. This is the second year this Show has been held, incorporating the Penicuik Show with the Edinburgh Show, and as last year it was a great success. The benches were very colourful, a welcome sight after a long dull winter. The quality of plants has never been higher and one member remarked that he had never seen so many excellent plants in a Show since the International Show in Harrogate—high praise indeed! Nine Certificates of Merit were awarded. Thanks are due to our exhibitors, some from over the Border, Ayrshire, Glasgow and Aberdeen, but regretably not many from Edinburgh.

The Corsar Challenge Trophy was won by Mr. D. Livingstone for 3 pans primula (who also won the Reid Rose Bowl for the highest pointage in Section I). Dr. J. E. G. Good, Bonnyrigg, and Mr. G. Kirkpatrick were second and third in this class. Mr. H. Esslemont won the class for 3 pans of rock plants of distinct genera with splendid plants of *Draba mollissima*, *Primula allionii*, and *Hepatica x media* 'Ballardii' (*Anemone transylvanica* x *Hepatica triloba*) with beautiful pale lavender coloured flowers.

The Elsie Harvey Memorial Trophy, 3 pans Rock Plants, new, rare or difficult in cultivation, distinct, was won by Mr. Eric Watson of Newcastle, with 3 pans of these temperamental beauties the *Dionysias*. They were *D. aretioides* 'Paul Furse' (fig. 70), smothered with yellow primrose-like flowers, which also won him the Forrest Medal (the first time it has crossed the Border), *D. viscidula*, a very rare one with pink yellow-eyed flowers, and a really tricky one, *D. michauxii*, which also got a Certificate of Merit—quite a triumph for 3 plants. Second in this class was Mrs. S. Maule, Balerno, with *Fritillaria gibbosa*, *Dionysia tapetodes* and *Eritrichium argentium nanum*, the North American cousin of the European one; this was also awarded a Certificate of Merit. Class 4, 1 rock plant new, rare or difficult in cultivation, was won by Mr. H. Esslemont with *Dionysia tapetodes*, second Mrs. E. Ivey, Dalry, with *Saxifraga florulenta*, and third Mrs. Maule, Balerno, who showed that small charming 'woolly' *Celmisia philo-cremna*.

The class for 3 pans of plants suitable for the rock garden, chosen from Amaryllidaceae, Hypoxidaceae, Iridaceae and Liliaceae, distinct

was won by Mr. H. Esslemont with three *Fritillaria* spp., including the colourful *F. michailovskyi*, with pendant bells, dark reddish purple and a bright yellow top. Mrs. S. Maule was second with *Tulipa humilis*, *Fritillaria* sp., and *Narcissus watierii*, the beautiful small white-flowered narcissus from the Atlas Mountains. Class 8 for 2 pans, as in the previous class, was won by Mrs. S. Maule with two *Fritillaria* sp. and the one pan class as above was won by Dr. D. C. Graham with an attractive greenish-yellow *Fritillaria*. Crocuses, Tulips and Cyclamen were well represented.

Class 13 for 1 pan Iris was won with a beautiful pan of *Iris winogradowii*, brought to the Show by Mrs. M. Harbord from the garden of the late Major-General Murray-Lyon, who in the past had shown so many good plants. A Certificate of Merit was awarded to this plant.

The one pan Dionysia class was won by Mr. Garth Merelie of Newcastle with a superb plant of *D. curviflora*, which also won a Certificate of Merit. Class 26, 2 pans primula, any group, went to Mr. H. Esslemont with *Pp. allionii* and *allionii alba*, both in full flower. Mr. D. Livingstone won the one pan Asiatic class with a fine pan of *P. bracteosa*. Mr. J. R. Johnstone showed a superb plant of *Saxifraga oppositifolia alba*, a plant not often seen at our Shows. This also won a Certificate of Merit.

The class for 1 pan dwarf Coniferae had 8 entries and was won by Dr. D. C. Graham with that interesting New Zealand conifer *Dacyridium laxifolium*.

The class, 2 pans Ericaceae or Vaccinaceae, first prize went to Mr. Malcolm Adair, Glasgow, with a superb entry, *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, which also was awarded a Certificate of Merit, and *Cassiope* 'Muir-head' smothered in flowers and at the peak of perfection. The class for 1 pan as above was won by Mrs. S. Maule with *Epigaea intertexta* 'Aurora' (*asiatica* x *repens*). The second and third prizes for the same class were both awarded to the sweet smelling *Arcterica nana*, to Mr. D. Livingstone and Mr. Malcolm Adair respectively. A magnificent *Rhododendron leucaspis* was winner in the one pan rhododendron class, shown by Dr. D. C. Graham, which was also awarded a Certificate of Merit. The dwarf Shrub Class was won by Mrs. E. Ivey with the lovely *Lithospermum oleifolium*, well flowered.

It is interesting to note that plants which used to be shown in the 'new, rare or difficult' class are now shown in other classes, thanks to the skill of the exhibitors. The class for cushion plants show specimens that have graded up from being 'thimbles' to 'Cushions'. This class

was won by Mr. J. D. Crosland with a beautiful *Raoulia eximea*, and a smaller one got second prize for Mr. D. Livingstone. In contrast to the other two, third prize went to Mrs. Ivey's *Gypsophila aretioides caucasica*, a hard dome of tiny leaves.

The Bhutan Drinking Cup, awarded to the exhibitor of the best species *Primula* in the Show, was won by the Regius Keeper, The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, with a pan of *Primula sherriffae*. This must be one of the most beautiful primulas in cultivation, and it was a pleasure to see this lovely exhibit.

The Boonslie Cup, awarded for a Miniature Garden, was won by Mrs. E. H. Hart, Edinburgh, with a well planted garden which included *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, a tiny salix and *Armeria caespitosa*.

Mrs. S. Maule won the trophies awarded to members exhibiting who reside in Midlothian and Peebles: the Midlothian Bowl and the Midlothian Vase, for the highest pointage and the best plant respectively.

The Kilbryde Cup was won by Mrs. J. Sleigh for a very attractive arrangement of Spring rock garden flowers and foliage.

SECTION II

(Open to Members who have not won a Medal or Trophy at any previous S.R.G.C. Show)

This is the section the Show Secretaries like to see well filled, for the exhibitors are the future showers and growers!

The Henry Archibald Rose Bowl, awarded for 3 Rock Plants, distinct, of generally easy cultivation and grown in the open ground, was won by Mr. D. Herkes, Bonnyrigg; his entry consisted of *Primula bracteata*, *Saxifraga* 'Elizabeth' and *Polygala chamaebuxus* var. *purpurea*, a good trio. Second prize was won by Mrs. J. A. Murray and Mrs. Edith Lawrie was third. Classes 51 and 52 were also won by Mr. D. Herkes. Mrs. E. Lawrie won first with a fine plant of *Rhododendron leucaspis* in Class 59. Mrs. E. Lawrie also won the Bronze Medal for most points in Section II.

SECTION IV (not for competition)

A selection of plants from the Himalayas and Nepal was shown by Mr. Eric Watson of Newcastle, most of them not yet in general cultivation. A lot of interest was shown in this exhibit. In the same section Mr. K. East had instructions for making small troughs, and had the materials necessary for their construction and also brought a

finished and planted up specimen. We are also indebted to him for a beautiful collection of coloured photographs of flowers and butterflies which decorated the hall, and which he kindly put up and which many people enquired about and admired.

The trade stands are always an attraction to the public and add interest to the Shows, and it is easy to buy a plant straight from the stalls. The three Trade Stands were:

Ponton, The Gardens, Kirknewton; Edrom Nursery, Coldingham; and Miss Alison Home, who had pleiones and dried flowers for sale.

Last and by no means least the Show Secretaries thank all the willing helpers without whom we could not stage a Show. Also the exhibitors, many of whom come a considerable distance with their plants, and without whose skill, trouble and work there could be no Show, and to the Judges who also give us of their time and expertise. we also give thanks.

S. MAULE

B. B. CORMACK

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

DESPITE a mild winter in the North East, a number of exhibitors from the South had to battle their way up through snow blizzards; those who came from over the Border found road conditions more amenable.

The Show, which was held in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland, Northumberland, by the S.R.G.C. and the A.G.S., was organised this year to A.G.S. rules and therefore the Farrer Medal was available for award. This award, for the best plant in the Show, was made to *Dionysia aretioides* 'Paul Furse' which was exhibited by Mr. E. G. Watson, the Show Secretary (fig. 70).

The Gordon Harrison Cup, for the best exhibit in Class 35, 3 pans Rock Plants, distinct genera, was won by Mr. G. Rollinson of Holme Firth, Yorkshire, with *Androsace imbricata*, *Draba polytricha*, and *Primula* 'Linda Pope'.

Mr. R. A. Hodgeson of Stokesley, Middlesbrough, won the Cyril Barnes Trophy for the highest aggregate of points in Section C, which was a considerable achievement considering that it was the first Show at which he had exhibited.

The R. B. Cooke Plate, a new award, was won by Mr. M. Northway for the highest aggregate of points in the open section. He was awarded,

in addition, an A.G.S. Medal for the best exhibit in Class 1 for 6 pans with a size limitation of 30.5 cm (12 ins.) in diameter.

The A.G.S. Medal for the 6 pans in the open section with a size limitation of 16.5 cm (6½ ins.) was won by Mr. D. F. Mowle of Lancaster, the competition in this class being extremely fierce. The judges, Mr. A. Evans, Mr. W. Tubbs and Mrs. Peggy Fell, awarded an extra A.G.S. Medal to Mr. E. G. Watson for *Dionysia viscidula*, which was well flowered and about three inches in diameter. He won a first prize for *Dionysia michauxii* in flower, in addition, this being entered as a new and rare plant.

In Section C, Mr. R. A. Hodgeson won the class for a new or rare plant with *Raoulia rubra*, a less commonly grown vegetable sheep from New Zealand.

A stand was arranged by the University of Newcastle to commemorate the late Mr. R. B. Cooke, who bequeathed his house and garden, Kilbryde at Corbridge, to the University. It was fitting that the new award, the R. B. Cooke Plate, was introduced by the local Group on the same day.

An attractive trade stand was provided by Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Huntley, who are local Group members, and who recently opened an alpine plant nursery in a beautiful scenic setting just West of Alston in Cumberland, their firm being named Hartside Nursery Garden.

A large sales table was provided and manned by local members, who together ensured that it was a well run and successful Show.

G. I. MERELIE

PERTH

DESPITE the increased cost of petrol and the fact that some of the usual competitors were unable to be present, it was encouraging to find that the number of entries considerably exceeded last year's high level. Sadly missed was Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon, whose kilted erect figure had been a familiar sight to supporters of the Perth Show ever since its inception. We were glad, however, to be able to include some of the late General's plants on the Show benches as a reminder of a well-loved and much respected member.

The judges—the Club President Mr. A. Evans, Mr. J. R. Aitken, Perth, and Mr. J. S. Annand, Branklyn, Perth—could have had little difficulty this year in deciding where to award the Forrest Medal for



Fig. 70—*Dionysia. aretioides* 'Paul Furse'

Photo—H. Eslemont

Fig. 71—*Iris winogradowii*

Photo—H. Eslemont



the best plant in the Show: Mr. H. Esslemont's *Androsace imbricata* was a superb example of a high alpine plant grown to perfection. This competitor had few entries, but these were choice and included the densely hairy *Draba mollissima*, which gained a Certificate of Merit, and a collected plant of *Arum creticum*.

The winner of the L. C. Middleton Challenge Trophy for most points in the Open Class gained from First Prizes was Mr. J. B. Duff, who was also awarded the Alexander Caird Trophy in Class 1 for six rock plants, distinct, and his entry was *Kalmiopsis leachiana* (Certificate of Merit), *Pleione limprichtii*, *Daphne petraea grandiflora*, *Cassiope* 'Randle Cooke', *Lewisia tweedyi* and *Lewisia heckneri*, large flowered variety. The second prize in the six pan class went to Mr. and Mrs. H. Taylor for an interesting and well-balanced entry of *Lewisia tweedyi*, *Cotula atrata lutea*, *Androsace imbricata*, *Rupicapnos africana*, *Raoulia hectori* x *Leucogenes grandiceps* and *Anchusa caespitosa*.

Class 2, for three rock plants of different genera, for which the Dundas Quaich is awarded, was won by Mr. J. Sutherland, Inverness, with *Primula petiolaris* (or should it be *gracilipes*?), *Lewisia tweedyi* and *Kalmiopsis leachiana*.

Among the many prize-winning plants staged by Mrs. E. Ivey, Dalry, were *Androsace cylindrica* x *hirtella*, *Rhodohypoxis* 'Garnet' (a particularly large red form), *Corydalis cashmeriana* and, wonder of wonders, a flowering plant of *Ranunculus glacialis*, which is extremely difficult to grow far less flower, in cultivation.

Miss G. L. Blackwood, Scone, once again dominated the Gentian classes with large pans of *G. acaulis* and *G. verna angulosa*, giving a dazzling display of blue. A sizeable pan of the rare and more difficult *G. pumila* from the late General Murray-Lyon's collection appeared in this class. The entry from Mr. J. D. Youngson included two plants of the Boraginaceae family, the delightful Forget-me-not flowered *Omphalodes luciliae* and *Lithospermum oleifolium*, the latter being awarded a Certificate of Merit. There was much interest shown in Mrs. D. M. Stead's *Calceolaria pinnifolia* and also in her good specimens of *Primula forrestii*, *Anchusa caespitosa* and *Cassiope selaginoides*.

A member of the Glasgow Group who is obviously building up a good collection is Mr. M. G. Adair and among the plants he brought to Perth were *Salix boydii*, *Celmisia sessiliflora* 'Mt. Potts' form, the Mossy Scabweed *Scleranthus uniflorus* from New Zealand, and *Rhododendron microleucum*.

A Trough, skilfully constructed by Mrs. M. Taylor and planted with living specimens of small alpinines, won the prize for a container of various rock plants.

We were delighted that the winner of the Bronze Medal for the most points in Section II was Mrs. M. Blair, who is an energetic member of the Perthshire Group Committee; we wish her further successes in Section I. A plant not often seen at Shows, but which was much admired in Section II, was Dr. D. M. Stead's well-flowered and unusually compact *Lathyrus vernus*.

Mr. J. R. Aitken of Orchardbank Nursery, Perth, as usual decorated the platform of the hall with his Trade Stand which was much appreciated. Additional attractions were the Exhibition of Paintings of Alpine Plants by Mr. Lawrence Greenwood, whose work has given so much pleasure to supporters of the Show in the past few years, and two arrangements of the Ikebana form of Japanese floral art by Mrs. Renton, Kinross.

The display of Show Posters designed and painted by a class of the children of Kinnoull School (the venue of the Show) has become a popular feature of the Perth Show, as has their exhibition of container gardens and it is no coincidence that their teacher is our Show Secretary.

Our thanks are due to all exhibitors who supported the Show, many of them having had to travel considerable distances, and to the band of willing helpers, particularly the ladies who provided and served the refreshing tea and home baking, and last, but not by any means least, to the Secretary, Miss Rhoda Fothergill, for carrying the burden of organisation and for her extra efforts in so successfully encouraging the children in their artistic displays.

J. B. DUFF

GLASGOW

ATTENDANCE figures at the Glasgow Show on 10th May were good in spite of the counter-attractions of the 'Glasgow 800' celebrations and the Rangers-Celtic Cup-tie. The well-filled benches, with entries from a wider area than usual, indicated the popular appeal to exhibitors of a one-day Show.

The chief prize-winner was Mrs. Betty Ivey, Dalry, whose excellently grown plants earned for her the Dr. Wm. Buchanan Memorial Rose Bowl, with a six-pan entry comprising *Trillium erectum*, *Primula ? sieboldii*, *Primula goebelli*, *Verbascum* 'Waithman dwarf', *Lewisia* hybrid,

Corydalis cashmeriana, and the Henry Archibald Challenge Rose Bowl for three pans, *Primula* 'Apple Blossom', *Lewisia* 'Geo. Henley', *Rhododendron* 'Pipit'. Obtaining the greatest number of first prizes in Section I, Mrs. Ivey was awarded the Crawford Silver Challenge Cup. Among prize-winning plants contributing to this award were *Saxifraga diapensioides lutea*, *Primula forrestii*, *Rhodohypoxis* 'Garnet', *Cassiope selaginoides* L. & S. form.

The three-pan class for plants rare, new or difficult in cultivation is always a focus of attention; fellow exhibitors and other Club members appreciate the skill required to produce such plants as *Jankaea heldreichii*, *Calceolaria darwinii* x *fothergillii*, *Dicentra* 'Rokujo hybrid', for which Mrs. S. Maule, Balerno, was awarded the Wm. C. Buchanan Challenge Cup. Mrs. Maule gained a first prize with *Eritrichium howardii* in the one-pan class for plants in this same category.

Drs. J. & C. Gosden, Eskbank, retained the Edward Darling Memorial Salver for three rhododendrons suitable for the rock garden with *Rhododendron* 'Chikor', *Rhododendron* 'Curlew' and *Rhododendron saluenense*. Other prize-winning dwarf rhododendrons shown by these exhibitors were *R. campylogynum* and *R. impeditum*.

The space allocated for the Ericaceae was strained to the limit by the many fine examples exhibited. Outstanding even in this select company was Mr. J. D. Crosland's *Cassiope wardii*, for which he was awarded the Forrest Medal for the best plant in the Show. Mr. Crosland also gained Certificates of Merit for his *Androsace imbricata*, *Paraquilegia anemonoides* forma *pallida*, *Pleione limprichtii*.

The James A. Wilson Trophy and Bronze Medal were won by Mr. and Mrs. J. Jolly, Dalmuir, who gained the most points in Section II. Their plants included *Ramonda myconi*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Antennaria dioica rosea*, *Gentiana acaulis*, *Anemone magellanica*.

A close challenger to Mrs. Ivey for the Crawford Cup was Mr. Malcolm Adair, Glasgow, whose *Ourisia macrocarpa caespitosa gracilis*, *Primula forrestii*, well grown conifers and other fine plants gained for him many first prizes.

Included in the wide range of plants exhibited by Mr. Norman Brown, Dumfries, was a particularly fine specimen of *Daphne collina*. In the *Primula* section Mr. Brown's *P. aureata*, *P. gracilipes* and *P. rosea* 'Delight' were prize-winners, as were his *Chamaecyparis obtusa nana intermedia* and *Chamaecyparis pisifera nana* in the Dwarf Conifer

section. Mr. Brown's versatility as a grower was further evident from his success in the classes for Polyanthus and Show Auriculas.

The name of Mrs. E. MacLean, Bearsden, is always prominent in the classes for bulbous plants and her *Iris* 'Green Spot', *Tulipa* 'Bronze Charm' and *Tulipa linifolia* won well-merited 'firsts'.

As the Show Secretaries toured the benches (and in a one-day Show it was a lightning tour rather than a comprehensive study) outstanding plants caught their attention—*Omphalogramma vinciflorum*, shown by Dr. D. M. Stead, Thorntonhall; Mrs. Joan Stead's *Corydalis cashmeriana*; *Gentiana verna angulosa* grown from seed by Mr. W. L. Morton, Bearsden, and his *Rhododendron* 'Princess Anne'; *Dactylorhiza elata* and *Cypripedium acaule* exhibited by Mr. C. Simpson, Bearsden; *Androsace imbricata* grown from seed by Dr. and Mrs. J. E. G. Good, Bonnyrigg; and a cushion of *Raoulia mammillaris* shown by Mr. H. Esslemont, Aberdeen.

The effect of adverse weather conditions earlier in the year caused conspicuous absences from the Rhododendron section. The entries from Mr. and Mrs. Neil Rutherford, Rosneath, and Mr. A. P. Cumming, Blairmore, together with several smaller entries, did, however, produce a colourful display in the rear gallery. Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford won the Urie Trophy and the Rhododendron Challenge Trophy by gaining the most points in the Section, as well as the Sir John Stirling Maxwell Rhododendron Trophy for the best individual truss, while Mr. A. P. Cumming was awarded the prize for the best hybrid.

The interest shown in the stamps exhibited by Miss Margaret MacIntyre in 1974 led to the inclusion in this year's Show of an enlarged exhibition of flowers on stamps by Miss MacIntyre, Mrs. Clark, Mr. John Maule and Master Stuart Small. The exhibits attracted considerable attention.

Messrs. J. & R. Ponton, Kirknewton, provided a well filled stand of plants for sale, of which exhibitors and visitors took full advantage. For their excellent display Messrs. Ponton were awarded a Gold Medal.

The Secretaries are very much aware that the success of the Show was due to the participation of exhibitors, helpers, judges and, last but not least, the members of the West of Scotland Group who manned the tearoom; to all they acknowledge their indebtedness.

M. G. HOLGATE
M. THOMSON

DUNFERMLINE

THE SHOW was held in The Music Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, on May 24th. A spell of dry sunny weather had helped to make the Show one of the most successful held over the last few years. Entries in the Open Section were almost double those of 1974, while the standard of the exhibits was excellent throughout the Show.

There were eight entries for Class 1 (3 Pans). First prize, The W. B. Robertson Challenge Cup, was won by Mr. J. D. Crosland with *Pleione pogonioides*, *Anchusa caespitosa* and *Omphalogramma minus*. Mr. H. Esslemont came second with *Rhododendron yakusimanan*, *Erinacea pungens* and *Iris ancilla*, for which he was awarded a Certificate of Merit.

In the new, rare, or difficult class, Mr. J. D. Crosland won first prize with *Chiloglottis gunnii*, the common bird orchid of the State of Victoria, Australia. This intriguing little woodlander was awarded the George Forrest Medal for the most meritorious plant in the Show. Mr. Crosland had taken great pains to exhibit the orchid against a background reminiscent of its natural habitat.

Second prize in this class went to Mrs. S. Maule with the aristocratic *Jankaea heldreichii*. Mrs. J. Stead exhibited the very rare *Notothlaspi rosulatum*, which came third.

There were some good silver-grey plants. *Celmisia sessiliflora* 'Mt. Potts' form took first for Mr. M. G. Adair, Glasgow. Mrs. J. Stead was second with *Helichrysum plumeum*, and Mrs. E. Ivey was third with *Helichrysum coralloides*.

Two pans from seed was an interesting class in which Mrs. S. Maule was first with *Raoulia eximea* and *Haastii pulvinaris*. Dr. and Mrs. J. E. G. Good were second with *Lewisia cotyledon* and *Primula suffrutescens*. Third was Dr. D. M. Stead with *Geranium farreri* and *Incarvillea* dwarf form.

Mrs. E. Ivey had some fine plants on show. A five-year-old plant of *Androsace x cylindrica* grown from seed took first in Class 10, *Phyteuma comosum* was another winner, while in Class 25 *Rhodohypoxis* 'Pictus' and *Rhodohypoxis* 'Garnet' took pride of place. Mrs. Ivey was also awarded a Certificate of Merit for a well-flowered *Daphne jasminea* in the dwarf shrub class.

Mrs. B. B. Cormack won the 2 pans Sedum class with *Sedum heterodontum* and *Sedum fastigiatum*, both in full bloom. A flowering *Sedum pilosum* was a winner for Dr. and Mrs. J. E. G. Good in the one pan Sedum class.

Of nine colourful entries in the *Lewisia* class, *Lewisia rediviva* led the field for Mrs. J. Stead.

Mrs. J. Stead also won the Ranunculaceae Class with a well-grown pan of *Ranunculus gramineus*. Mrs. S. Maule was second in this class with *Ranunculus asiaticus*, a plant of great beauty.

Two miniature Rhododendrons stood out in the Ericaceae Class. *Rhododendron trichostomum* won a first for Mrs. J. Stead, while *Rhododendron sargentianum* took second for Drs. C. and J. Gosden.

There was only one entry in Class 27 for one pan Orchidaceae, a lovely example of *Orchis purpurea* which Mr. Crosland had collected in Sardinia.

Dwarf Conifers were mainly of the younger generation. Dr. D. M. Stead took first in the two pan class with *Abies hudsonii* and *Cryptomeria japonica spiralis*.

In Class 31 there was a variety of excellent plants. First was *Rubicarnos africana* for Mr. W. L. Morton; second came *Phlox adsurgens* for Mr. M. G. Adair, and third was *Silene ingramii* for Dr. and Mrs. J. E. G. Good.

Mr. M. G. Adair won The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy for most points in Section I. Mr. Adair was also awarded a Certificate of Merit for a well-flowered *Celmisia bellidioides*.

The Bronze Medal for most points in Section II was won by Dr. M. O'Gorman of Stirling with a good selection of well-grown plants.

In Section IV, restricted to Fife members, there was a variety of Sempervivums and Sedums on show. Saxifrages were in full bloom this year too.

In Class 51 for 3 pans, *Dodecatheon pulchellum* 'Redwings', *Alyssum spinosum roseum* and *Erica mediterranea* 'Silberschmelze' won first prize. *Bolax gummifera* took first for Miss B. Milburn in the cushion plant class. Miss Milburn also won both the Sedum classes. Three pans Sempervivum was won by *Sempervivum arachnoideum laggerii*, *Sempervivum fauconettii* and *Sempervivum schlehanii*.

A colourful array of Penstemons was displayed in the 1 pan Scrophulariaceae class which was won by Mr. J. Muir.

The Institute of Quarrying Quaich was won by Mrs. J. L. King, Cowstrandburn, for most points in the Section.

The Committee and helpers would like to express their gratitude to all the exhibitors, many of whom travelled long distances, for staging such a beautiful array of first class plants.

MR. & MRS. J. E. CAMPION

ABERDEEN

IN SPITE of the late season Show date the weather during the week preceding, as well as on the day, was cold, wet and windy, and in these circumstances it was gratifying to open the doors on the first of our local one day Shows, to a first class display of plants suitable, by definition, for the rock garden, the alpine house or frame.

Although the number of competitors was one less, the total number of class entries was actually one more than the previous year's two days Show. The essence was colour and contrast in the plant varieties displayed; there was animation and an obvious pleasure on the part of members and visitors throughout the day, and five new members were recruited to the Group.

The Walker of Portlethen Trophy, presented by the late Dr. Henry Tod, F.R.S.E., awarded annually to the competitor gaining most points in Section I, this year passed into the hands of Mr. A. D. McKelvie, whose plants have made a notable contribution to the show benches in recent years. His many successes included seven first prizes and, noteworthy among these were *Andromeda polifolia*, *Erica* 'Silberschmelze', an interesting well-flowered *Pentstemon* hybrid suggested to be a *rupicola* x *newberryi*, a striking pink-flowered *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrid, so covered in blooms the judges awarded a Certificate of Merit, and a well-grown *Meconopsis quintuplinervia*—judged the best of six plants in its class.

There was no competition in Class 1—6 Pans Rock Plants, distinct, the only entrant being Mr. J. D. Crosland. The entry gained the Aberdeen Bronze Medal, including also the George Forrest Memorial Medal awarded to the most meritorious plant at the Show—*Daphne petraea grandiflora*—and a Certificate of Merit for *Anchusa caespitosa*, a plant collected in the White Mountains of Crete in 1972. The remaining plants of the entry were *Androsace villosa*, *Corydalis cashmeriana*, *Pinguicula grandiflora* and *Omphalogramma minus*. Of interest to the plantsman, the last three plants were all grown in the open, without any form of cover, at any season.

Class 2—3 plants of different genera, was keenly contested by three competitors. Mr. Esslemont's entry took first place with *Rhododendron yakusimanum*, surely one of the finest of recent new introductions; *Iris ancilla*—a beautifully marked *regelio-cyclus* hybrid—Certificate of Merit, and a good form of *Campanula aucheri*, collected by the late Major Sherriff of Ascreavie, Angus. A close second, Mr. A. D. McKelvie's *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrid, *Saxifraga hypnoides* and *Euphorbia*

polychroma.

In third place, *Verbascum* 'Letitia', *Stylidium graminifolium* and *Talinum spinescens*—three fine plants shown by Mr. George Simpson. First prizes were also gained by Mr. Sinclair's *Saxifraga cochlearis* in Class 37, and a well-grown *Sempervivum* species in Class 44. Champion of the Scottish Native Plants in the Open Section I was *Salix reticulata*, shown by Dr. D. G. Hardy.

Classes from seed excite special interest and a total of nine entries were recorded in the Two and Single Pan Classes 4 and 5. Mr. Crosland took first in the former with a white-flowered form of *Paraquilegia anemonoides*, seed collected by the Wye College Expedition to Nepal and sown in 1971, and *Primula reidii williamsii album*, sown in 1973. Second and third in this Class were Mr. Esslemont's *Raoulia eximea* and *Iris timofijewii*—a Pogon iris grown from Russian seed, and Dr. Hardy's *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrid with *Primula reidii williamsii*. The Single Pan Class was dominated by Mr. Esslemont's *Saxifraga florulenta*—a symmetrical rosette several inches across, seed sown some ten years ago.

In the Class New, Rare or Difficult in Cultivation, Mr. Crosland's pan of the Common Bird Orchid of Victoria, Australia—*Chiloglottis gunnii*—was placed first and awarded a Certificate of Merit. The Class also included a rare Andean endemic, *Ourisia microphylla*, exhibited by Mrs. B. B. Cormack, Edinburgh.

Silver-Grey Foliage, Cushion Plants and Orchidaceae excluding *Pleione*, were won by Mr. Esslemont's *Raoulia mammillaris*, *Draba mollissima* and *Cypripedium acaule* respectively.

A fine form of *Campanula allionii* submitted by Dr. J. E. G. Good of Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, was seconded by another good *Campanula betulaefolia* grown by Mr. Sinclair.

The outstanding plant in the Class for Compositae, filling a twelve-inch pan, was *Celmisia glandulosa*, presented by Mr. J. N. Aitken, and, for the third year running, Mrs. Helen J. Blair's Dwarf Conifers won in the Two Pans Class. Miss K. O. Kelly of Banchory brought a fine pot of *Tulipa batalinii* and, in the Class for Primulaceae, an extremely vigorous and well-flowered Dodecatheon species—reminiscent of 'Red-wings'.

The Class for a single Asiatic *Primula* was supported by five entries, adjudicated as follows: first, a selected form of *Primula reidii*, by Dr. Good, *Primula ioessa* by Mr. Crosland, and *Primula muscarioides* by Mrs. Cormack.

Only a single entry in the Class for Androsace, shown by Co-Show Secretary, Mrs. Sylvia Simpson, a small but well-flowered *Androsace imbricata*. Dr. Good's *Sedum pilosum*, in full flower, was a clear winner.

Mrs. Cormack's *Sempervivum arenaria* and *S. arachnoideum glabrescens album* took the lead and added interest to the Class.

Section II of the Schedule registered a sharp fall in entries which, it is hoped, will prove no more than a passing phase, but there was evidence of good cultivation and presentation.

The Club Bronze Medal for the highest number of points in the Section was awarded to Miss Alison Hardy for a series of first and second prize-winning plants, notable among which were: *Primula polynura*, *Antennaria dioica*, *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrid, *Potentilla megalantha* and *Sedum rosea*. Mrs. D. C. Lintott joined first prize-winners with the Scottish Native, *Antennaria dioica*, and a neat *Hebe pagei*.

Miss Jeanie Simpson created an effective miniature collection of growing plants in a nine-inch pan, and Mrs. Simpson graced the tables with a posy of cut alpine flowers and a vase of cut flowers from flowering shrubs.

In the Junior Section, Two Pan and Single Pan Classes, Miss Joan Elder set the standard, claiming firsts for her *Lewisias* and *Oxalis adenophylla*, followed by Miss Alison Hardy showing *Lewisia cotyledon*, *Erica vulgaris* 'Multicolor' and *Sedum rosea*.

Once again we enjoyed supporting displays by Aberdeen University Cruickshank Botanic Garden and, for the second year, the City of Aberdeen Department of Leisure and Recreation staged a colourful built-up rock garden. At both of these stands there was much noting of plant names; many enquiries arose. We are indebted to Mr. Sutherland of the University Garden, and to the Department of Leisure, for fulfilling such an excellent educational role.

The display was further enhanced by Messrs. Jack Drake whose large stand included primulas in variety, meconopses, saxifrages and a big show of *Lewisias* including their famous 'Sunset Strain'. Artistry was the keynote of the display by Mrs. McMurtrie of Balbithan House, Aberdeenshire, who cleverly simulated stone troughs using a series of polystyrene boxes, staging these against a background of her own beautiful flower paintings.

Entirely new to Aberdeen Show was a fine exhibition by Mr. John Maule of Balerno, Midlothian, of Postage Stamps depicting the national flowers of many countries—a display which attracted much interest

and compliment, and a well-deserved Certificate of Merit.

The Committee express their warm thanks to the Judges: Messrs. A. Evans of Edinburgh, R. J. Mitchell of St. Andrews, and F. G. Sutherland of Aberdeen for their deliberations, and to all who supported the Show.

J. D. CROSLAND

Cyclamen mirabile Hild

by R. J. MITCHELL

THERE appears to be some doubt about the authenticity of the name of *Cyclamen mirabile* (fig. 72). Professor F. Hildebrand described this species in 1906 in *Beih. Bot. Centralbl.* 19(2): 370 from a single plant collected in Smyrna. The plant died and the herbarium specimen was destroyed during the war.

In the meantime Schwarz (1955) relegated it as a mutation of *C. libanoticum*. However, collection of tubers of *C. mirabile*, identical to the plant described by Hildebrand, by Davis in 1956 and 1965, and by Albury, Cheese, Mitchell and Watson in 1966-7, subsequent to the monograph by Schwarz, show it to be closely related to *C. cilicium*. Ietswaart (1969) suggests that it should be considered as a sub-species of *C. cilicium*.

This plant is a rare species known at present from only three localities in Turkey. It was therefore disturbing to learn that 50,000 tubers imported in 1973 as *C. neapolitanum* turned out to be *C. mirabile*.

Peter Davis found *Cyclamen mirabile* in shady conditions on rocky granite north-facing slopes, while Albury *et al* found it growing on limestone hillsides. In cultivation this species requires a well-drained humus-rich soil and, being slightly tender, is best grown in an alpine house or cold frame in semi-shade conditions.

The tuber is corky and fissured. Roots arise at the lower half of the tuber. The leaves are circular or kidney-shaped and are toothed. The petiole is reddish, as is the lower leaf surface. Young leaves have a characteristic carmine pink zonal coloration and not silvery-white as in other species. Mature leaves are similar to *C. cilicium*. This is an autumn flowering species, the flowers appearing before the leaves. The petals are pale pink with a small purple blotch.

1. Anthony Huxley, 1974. J.R.H.S. XCIX, pp. 242-49. The Ethics of Plant Collecting.
2. J. H. Ietswaart, 1969. Bull. A.G.S. 37: 362-66. Some comments on two *Cyclamen*.
3. R. D. Meikle, 1970-2. Curtis Bot. Mag. N.S.t. 579.
4. Lewis Palmer, 1967. J.R.H.S. XCII, p. 89. *Cyclamen mirabile* Hild.
5. D. E. Saunders, 1973. *Cyclamen*. A.G.S. Publication.
6. O. Schwarz, 1955. Feddes Report 58: 234-283. Systematische Monographie der Gattung *Cyclamen* 1.

Plant Notes

IRIS WINOGRADOWII

THIS FINE dwarf reticulate iris, although still rare, is now becoming more readily available (fig. 71).

It is a native of the Caucasus where it grows in alpine meadows and is of course completely hardy.

The flowers are lemon yellow with an orange crest and there are a few darker spots on the falls. It flowers in February or early March.

It is a little difficult to know why *Iris winogradowii* remains such a scarce and expensive bulb, but perhaps I can suggest a reason.

About twelve years ago I acquired three bulbs of this Iris for quite a modest sum. I grew them in a pan in the alpine house for a few years where they flowered and increased slowly.

Pressure of space in the alpine house eventually decided me to plant them out of doors. I chose the edge of a slightly raised rose border in full sun.

The irises quickly settled in to their new quarters and this year had increased to a hundred flowering plants and as many unflowered ones.

The only attention they receive is a sprinkling of bone meal in January and division periodically when they become crowded.

The reason for their greater success out of doors is due, I believe, to their very short dormant period.

Out of doors their leaves do not die back completely until the end of June and if one lifts corms in the beginning of August one finds that new root growth has already commenced.

There are few insects around in February and hand pollination can add a bonus of a few seed pods in Autumn. Sown fresh they germinate readily the following Spring and provide a welcome gift for gardening friends.

This attractive Iris promises to be a good doer and can be recommended.

Aberdeen

H. E.

LEUCOJUM VERNUM SSP. CARPATICUM 'Roxie Gevjan'

Leucojum vernum is a commonly known plant, grown in gardens for centuries. This species is divided into two races on the edge of the Alps and Carpathians. To the west it is *L. vernum* ssp. *vernum* with smaller white green-spotted flowers. This plant has been usually grown in the British Isles. To the east *L. vernum* ssp. *carpaticum* occurs and it is native in Sudets Mts., Carpathian Mts. and Hungary. This one is different in having shorter, broader leaves and larger flowers with yellow spots under the edges of petals. This plant is commonly grown in Czechoslovak gardens. Millions of wild plants are in full bloom each spring on the meadows around our rockery. I had found here, years ago, a plant with shorter, semi-double flowers and considerably shorter leaves. I have named in honour of my good friend 'Roxie Gevjan' (fig. 73). Our plant has sixteen or twenty petals, but stamens and pistils are kept in comparison with typical wild form with six petals. It is as easy as another *L. vernum* and is in full bloom every year. Division of bulbs is very easy and so the propagation is very easy. I use peat and the soil which is provided by our mole.

Prague

J. HALDA

PRIMULA EDGEWORTHII

Primula Edgeworthii is a member of the Petiolaris section. It grows in the form of a rosette about 3 inches high and up to 6 or 7 inches across. The roundish leaves are covered in white meal and are toothed round the edges.

The flowers, borne on short stems and just above the leaves, are lilac in colour and vary quite a lot in colour shade. When buying a plant it is advisable to see it in bloom if possible to ensure getting the shade you prefer.

It is not too difficult so long as it is given the treatment it likes. It stands up well to frost, but it must be protected from winter wet during its dormancy. To achieve this you can of course put a cloche over it, if you can bear that. It will do quite well in an alpine house or cold frame where it will get protection from battering rain, sleet and hail. Good light and ventilation, especially under glass, are however essential. If, like me, you object to glass on your peat beds, the

place for it is in a wall either of stone or of peat blocks. It should be planted on its side under an overhang, but remember it does not appreciate much shade, and must have a reasonable amount of sun to flower well. Dryness at the root it definitely does not like, so be sure it has plenty of good soil behind and around it to guard against that.

As regards soil, this must be moisture retaining, but well drained. It should have in it a good proportion of peat and/or leaf-mould, the exact proportion depending upon the character of your garden soil.

Propagation is not difficult and plants may be divided or rooted offsets may be removed; the best time to do this is soon after flowering, which usually takes place in February or March; in a mild winter, however, you may have flowers in January. Seed if it is sown at once as soon as it is ripe, and still green, usually germinates well. Stale seed, as you may get from seed exchanges, may be difficult to germinate, but a good freezing before sowing may help. A humusy soil mixture is what it requires. Before sowing the seed, cover the soil with a thin layer of fine gravel of perhaps about one eighth of an inch diameter, then sow the seed and dust over it with a very thin layer of very fine dusty compost, then water it in lightly with a fine spray. By this means you should avoid getting the seeds washed into groups, which makes pricking out difficult. It also helps to prevent drying out. Until the seedlings come through keep the pan under light shade.

Moving or re-potting is best done as soon as possible after flowering.

Nomenclature of this primula has been rather confused as for many years it was known as *Primula winteri*, and during another period the primula now known as *Edgeworthii* was known as *sessilis*, which now of course is the name of another species of *Petiolaris primula*.

If reading about any of these primulas in an old book or article this should be kept in mind, otherwise you may come to quite wrong conclusions.

There is an albino form of this species with flowers of a good clear white.

Pitlochry

D. M. MURRAY-LYON

28-1-75

Angus Group Seed Exchange

by JOYCE HALLEY

AS SEED is now coming in from the Southern Hemisphere it is time to remind you that seed must reach me by the 31st October or, in the case of late-ripening seed, a list of the seed you mean to send must reach me by that date.

I promised to list names of plants whose seeds are not requested. The larger forest trees, omitted from last season's list and mentioned in the *April Journal*, were immediately requested from one or two members specialising in trees; obviously we can't win. However, there are one or two species not worth listing, as shown by the lack of demand for two years: *Hieracium*, large *Lupins*, *Ribes* and *Rubus*.

On the other hand, we did not have enough seed of Aretian *Androsaces*, *Calceolarias*, *Cyclamen*, *Narcissus* and *Pleiones*, particularly the better colour forms of the last, and the two members who send in bulbils so regularly could do with a little help. Even two or three seeds of those plants in great demand can make somebody happy.

All donors and overseas members will receive a copy of the seed list. Home members who wish a seed list and are not donors should send a stamped addressed envelope—8½ ins. × 5½ ins.—or a stamped addressed label, if a suitable envelope is not available, to:—

Miss J. HALLEY,
16 Abercrombie Street,
Barnhill, Dundee DD5 2NX

Applications for seed must be on the form provided in the seed list, and remember that priority is given to those who contribute seed, and overseas members come first, both in donors and non-donors sections.

The gardens have been lovely this spring, so we hope that the weather will continue to be kind and give us a bountiful seed harvest.

PREPARING SEED FOR DISTRIBUTION

We have been asked several times to give some assistance to those who find cleaning seed difficult, and while we know of no magic method to lighten a slow laborious job, perhaps our ways may help. Our first expedient is sieves. We use three: the first has about 12 holes to the inch, the second about 20, and the third is a tea or coffee strainer.

One or other should hold back the rubbish and let the seed through, or hold the seed and let the sand through.

Most of the other methods make use of the fact that seed is heavier than chaff and blowing gently gets rid of the rubbish. A gentle breeze outside can save your breath, but too windy and you will be saved the trouble of sending the seed in. Remember to have the carpet sweeper handy if you do it inside.

A lot of seed is round and will roll off a sheet of stiff paper if shaken gently.

A cheap plastic pen rubbed on your jacket and waved over liliaceae will remove the unfertile seed from the fertile, provided you don't put it too near.

One exception to all these methods, that I know of, is *Phyteuma comosum*; you crush the chaff and sow the lot—do not try to clean it.

Finally, enjoy with me the few lines of doggerel sent in, with her seed, by Mrs. Harbord.

I sieved it once,
I sieved it twice,
I sieved it three times o'er.
I blew and blew and then how strange,
There's nothing left for Seed Exchange.

MISNOMERS

I regret I have not had time to do much with some members' notes about plants being perpetuated under the wrong name, but will try and tackle one close to my heart and which needs least research on my part.

In my alpine house is a tray of beautiful flowering *Lewisias*. The label says *L. brachycalyx* and is the result of my fifth sowing of *brachycalyx* seed, therefore the tenth year of effort as they take two years to flower, and again I have raised a boxful of what I take to be *L. nevadensis*. This *Lewisia* is a very good plant, does very well in the garden, seems to be long-lived, and I would not like to be without it, but it is not the plant I am looking for. Let me hasten to add that the seed I have used over the years has come from three seed lists, the error is widespread and not the prerogative of Scotland.

In strictly non-botanical terms, I expect *L. brachycalyx* to have leaves half an inch wide at the widest part, flower stems very short, nearly sessile, which makes the bracts look like part of the calyx, and the flower does not seem to open very widely.

In contrast the leaves of *L. nevadensis* are a quarter inch wide at their widest part, flower stems up to one inch between bract and calyx, and the flowers open widely. As the petals are not all the same length, the flower has a slightly oval shape.

As a result of my remarks in the April *Journal*, a note from a member about fifteen miles away has resulted in a present of two or three seedling *L. brachycalyx*, the real one! And I haven't the slightest doubt that my benign benefactor has had *L. brachycalyx* for ten years and more!

Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee

GLASGOW—10th MAY 1975

AWARDS TO PLANTS

AWARD OF MERIT

To *Ranunculus amplexicaulis* as a flowering plant for the rock garden. Exhibited by Mrs. J. Stead, Esk Hause, Bishop's Park, Thorntonhall, Glasgow.

CERTIFICATE OF PRELIMINARY COMMENDATION

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

To *Calceolaria pinifolia* as a flowering plant for the alpine house. Subject to verification of the name. Exhibited by Mrs. J. Stead, Esk Hause, Bishop's Park, Thorntonhall, Glasgow.

AWARDS FOR EXHIBITS

CERTIFICATE OF CULTURAL COMMENDATION

To Mrs. J. Stead, Esk Hause, Bishop's Park, Thorntonhall, Glasgow, for a flowering specimen of *Corydalis cashmeriana*.

To J. D. Crosland, Esq., Treetops, Torphins, Aberdeenshire, for *Paraquilegia anemonoides* forma *pallida*.



Fig. 72—*Cyclamen mirabile*

Photo—H. Esslemont



Fig. 73—*Leucojum vernum* ssp. *carpaticum* 'Roxie Gevjan'

Photo—Josef Halda

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Dr. CARL R. WORTH

JUST as this *Journal* was going to press, information was received that Dr. C. R. Worth had died on 21 May 1975.

Those who attended the 1961 International Rock Garden Conference will remember Dr. Worth who contributed papers both in London and in Edinburgh. He was a regular contributor to our Seed Exchange and will be remembered for his collection of plants from the Rocky Mountains.

He was, for many years, Editor of the *Bulletin* of the American Rock Garden Society.

He was Professor of Mathematics at Ithaca College from 1954 to 1969. He also taught at the University of Arkansas and at Rutgers University. He held degrees from the South-West Missouri State University, from the University of Chicago and from the California Institute of Technology.

During World War II he served with the American Naval Reserve, attaining the rank of Commander.

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Mrs. Kathleen Dryden
Mr. Roy Elliott
Mr. Christopher Grey-Wilson

Details may be obtained from the Warden, Mr. Brian Jenkins, at the Residential College, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. There is a limited number of places; first come, first served.

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29 September to 17 October with Professor R. J. Hopper, M.A., Ph.D. This holiday, primarily intended for those who enjoy seeing and photographing wild, spectacular mountain scenery and visiting exciting, little known sites, mosques and Crusader castles, is nevertheless of interest to seed collectors also, since the countryside abounds in rare plants and flowers. The itinerary begins with a day or two in Ankara and continues by way of Malatya and Diyarbakir to Mount Nemrud, famous for the gigantic statues to be found at its summit, and to Gaziantep, founded by Justinian in the VI century. Then, bearing southwards, we spend some days at Antioch with its Early Christian churches and mosaics and great castle at Bagras; after which we drive to the Hittite hill site at Karatepe and on through Tarsus to Silifke on the seashore backed by snowcapped mountains. Here we spend four days enjoying the mellow autumn sunshine and visiting the fortress castle and site at Anamur, before driving back to Ankara by way of the beautiful Early Christian monastery complex at Alahan. This itinerary really is unique in interest and beauty.

FIVE NILE CRUISES

There is no better nor more restful way of seeing the landscape and antiquities of Egypt than by taking a leisurely river journey along the Nile. The *s.s. Lotus*, a happy, comfortable paddle-steamer, specially chartered for our voyage, carries about 45 passengers in single and twin-bedded cabins, all but six with their own facilities, and is ideal for the purpose. Each sailing is accompanied by a distinguished Egyptologist, our own Cruise Manager and an English doctor.

Cruise 91: October 6 to 26

Cruise 92: October 20 to November 9

Cruise 93: November 2 to 22

Cruise 94: November 16 to December 6

Cruise 95: November 29 to December 19

Prices, from £374 to £515, cover everything during the 21 days from London back to London, including scheduled flights to and from Cairo, where a few days are spent in sightseeing locally, and all visits and excursions from the ship.

HOLIDAYS IN 1976

A good range of holidays of interest to gardeners and botanists has been planned both in Europe and further afield, of which details will be available in the autumn. New centres have been found and every effort is being made to keep prices to a minimum as far as circumstances permit.

FAIRWAYS & SWINFORD (SRGS)

18 Saint George Street, London W1R 0EE

Telephone 01-629 6801

ATOL 491B