

The Journal **OF** **The Scottish** **Rock Garden Club**



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Squadron Leader J. J. BOYD-HARVEY, Hon. Secretary,
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No. 15—September 1954

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The Journal

OF

The Scottish

Rock Garden Club

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



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Editor's Notes

AND so we draw to the end of the Club's twenty-first year. What a year it has been as regards weather with us here in Scotland ! Summer temperatures in mid-winter, frost and snow in July ! Yet the number of plants lost has not been so great as at one time seemed likely. The cold Spring, following on an excessively mild winter, sent plants "hay-wire," and nearly drove Show Secretaries out of their minds (and, we expect, competitors also). Some plants were nearly a month behind normal, others were more or less unaffected ; but in spite of all the upset, Shows were good and some wonderful plants turned up. In fact the unusual season brought plants to Shows which normally do not fit in at the requisite times and are therefore seldom seen at Shows.

The new venture of having a Show in alternate years at Dundee and Perth was an outstanding success at the end of April. Mr. Stewart Mitchell deserves congratulations, and we offer good wishes to Mr. Robert Dow of Scone, whom we understand is to take over the Show at Perth next year ; he has a task in hand to surpass this year's Show at Dundee. With regard to Shows, readers will perhaps notice that Show Reports more or less divide into two groups—reports of plants shown and reports of exhibitors showing. Which interests members the more ?

Great activity prevails in the recently formed sub-group in the Newcastle-Durham area, and we cordially welcome new contributors to the Club *Journal* from that area and wish the district success in all its activities. We learn that another new group has been formed, but this time even further away—in fact about as far from the home base as any group could be. A note concerning this group, recently formed by Miss Schlesinger in Victoria, Australia, will be seen on the page immediately following our notes, and we hope that some Club members may be able to help distant fellow-members. We also extend the Club's warm greetings and goodwill to Australian fellows, and wish them "good rock-gardening."

Before leaving group activities there is one thing we would say. Acknowledgement of courtesies and hospitality received is most desirable and necessary, but some group reports read like an unending round of tea-drinking with never a mention of a single garden or plant. Surely there must have been some interesting plant worthy of note between cups of tea. We assume that the places mentioned all had gardens and feel that most readers are more interested in true rock plants than in too much "*Camellia Thea*."

We noticed in the Press earlier this summer some reference made to the possibilities of a "Plant Exchange Scheme." The official administration of such a scheme would appear to present innumerable difficulties and at the same time would seem likely to operate adversely against our many loyal and esteemed fellow-members in the Trade.

Surely the solution is already with us. What could be more simple or satisfactory than the insertion of a "Wanted" or "Surplus available" note in the "Small Ads." section of Club publications? In this way members could contact one another directly and make their own arrangements, and probably Trade members too would be glad to use this channel on occasion.

Of recent years many members have had great pleasure in trying out many of the introductions made to this country from the Himalayas by Major George Sherriff. The notice appearing on a later page of the forthcoming expedition to Saramati by Captain Kingdon-Ward and his wife encourages us to hope that new thrills lie ahead for the growers of rock plants.

The editor warmly thanks all contributors to the pages of the *Journal*, but more especially the newcomers to these pages, and asks more members still to take up an active share in the work of the Club *Journals*. He has given up all hope of ever receiving all reports up to time, but in this respect passes on a suggested motto for rock gardeners received from Rev. J. G. Hendrie of Berwickshire: "The odd half-hour gets the odd job done."

Annual Subscriptions

All Members who have not already paid their annual subscriptions of 10/- due on 1st September should do so as soon as possible to the Hon. Secretary, Sq./Ldr. J. J. Boyd-Harvey, Boonslie, Dirleton, East Lothian.

Coloured Transparencies for Australia

A SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB GROUP has been formed in Victoria, Australia. The members of the Group are rock-gardening in the hills at an altitude of 1600 feet in very suitable conditions.

The Group is most anxious to obtain coloured transparencies of rock gardens, rock garden plants, etc., and is willing if necessary to pay for these.

Would any member who may be willing to help this pioneer Group kindly communicate direct with Miss Hazel Schlesinger, 260 Union Road, Balwyn, Victoria, Australia, stating what can be supplied, and price.

JAMES C. DUNDAS

Christmas Cards

ORDERS FOR the Club Christmas Cards mentioned in last *Journal* should be sent to Stewart Mitchell, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, Muirfield Crescent, Dundee, as soon as possible. They will be supplied in dozens, either of one picture only or three each of the four pictures, complete with envelopes at 6/6 per dozen, post free. Cash should accompany order.

Lantern Slide Library

A CLUB library of Lantern Slides is being formed for the use of members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, and the collection will be available for lectures to local groups. It will contain lantern slides of the standard size $3\frac{1}{4}$ ins. (black and white, and colour), and also 2 in. colour slides. Any member who is interested in colour photography of Alpine Plants either in the garden or in their natural habitats and has colour slides to spare will greatly help by donating these to the collection. The Society will also purchase 2 in. colour slides from members at 2/- each. Those who are interested are asked to communicate with Dr. James Davidson, Linton Muir, West Linton, Peeblesshire.

Seed Distribution

After such a season as we have had it is doubly desirable that members should collect good seed of rock garden plants and send all they can spare, properly named, to Mr. R. S. MASTERTON, CLUNY HOUSE, ABERFELDY, not later than 31st October, 1954.

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- (f) Participate in the Society's Seed Exchange.

Honorary Local Secretaries have been appointed in most parts of the country and in several cases active local groups have been formed.

A descriptive leaflet may be obtained from the Secretary,

C. B. SAUNDERS,

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Plants in an Industrial Area

By D. RONALDSON

IN THE *Club Journal* for September 1953, in an article entitled "Plants and Problems," the Rev. Ernest Lodge described the difficulties encountered in the establishment of a rock garden in the polluted atmosphere of Manchester.

I faced similar difficulties last year when I decided to make a garden at the school in which I teach. The school is situated in an industrial area which is one of the worst in Britain for air pollution. Contributory factors are :—(1) Branch railway within 150 yards ; (2) between school and branch railway a privately owned line operated by one of the nearby works ; (3) gravel works, 150 yards ; (4) separated only by the road a small gas works ; (5) various engineering works ; (6) the River Tyne with all its industrial traffic approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away.

Despite these factors and the considerable one of no blessed plot, I was determined to try something. I first thought of a scree-garden with gravel-chippings, based on the concrete playground, kept in position by timber or masonry, but quickly abandoned the idea upon realising that anything low-lying would have a magnetic effect upon footballs. Finally I settled for troughs and appealed to the children. I was fortunate to receive three, which were set on a form against a wall.

The first trough was virtually useless for rock plants as it was only 3 ins. in depth. In this the children (9-10 years of age) sowed Virginian Stock and on the day the first shoots appeared I must have been informed of it twenty or more times. The eventful flowers caused much delight. The second trough was 8 ins. deep and after the normal drainage layer it was filled with a soil mixture containing about 30% peat. Incorporated into this was a few ounces of bone meal. A few rocks and a top dressing of limestone chips completed the preparation. In this trough a variety of plants were put, including a rock viola, two thymes, an encrusted saxifrage, a veronica—nothing very ambitious. I cannot say that they are now show plants, but so far none have died and most have made new growth.

Into the third trough, which was 4 to 5 ins. in depth, was put gravel chippings with only a small amount of peat and loam. In this was planted sedums and sempervivums, nothing very exciting or rare, as I wanted to see if anything would grow. So far the only loss has been a sedum which a child removed the day after it was planted.

Each day a child gained the coveted honour of being gardener, his or her job being to sprinkle the leaves thoroughly to offset to some extent the action of the atmospheric pollution. My delight in seeing an ordinary sempervivum flower and spread its rosettes can be compared with seeing some rarer species flower in a fairer environment.

Of course the "babies" of the sempervivum occasioned much wonder and delight amongst the children.

I will be the first to admit that any success has been with easily grown plants, but I would like to stress that my aim was to show that something can be grown under the most adverse conditions. Here I would like to express my gratitude to the Rev. Lodge for the help derived from his article.

I had hoped to continue the experiment by making troughs of hypertufa and filling them with choicer plants, but I have now been transferred to a school in a totally different environment. I can only hope that my experiences will encourage some gardenless-gardener to fill a trough.

Kind Thoughts !

DURING the winter months many delightful visits were paid to "Brown's Bookshop" in George Street, Edinburgh. At those "get together" functions we heard the experts—and the novices—giving their ideas and methods of rock plant culture, but many talks between various parties led to friendships which could only take place because of the great love that those people had for their gardens. One such talk at my table developed on *Sisyrinchium bermudianum*. "Had I ever grown any of the other small irises? Did I know so and so and so and so? They really were of easy culture and in my garden they almost grow wild. Would I like some?" Who doesn't say "Yes" immediately to such a kind offer and the writer at once said how pleased he would be to have some plants of those varieties.

Time passed and, hard work being the order of the day, such things as lectures, Irises and even the kind friends met at the bookshop were forgotten for the time being—but the person who made the promise had a longer memory. One day out of the blue arrived a neat little parcel containing some beautiful gems of plants, and the only note inside was: "I do hope they grow well with you"—no address, not even a name—just a very great kindness.

Not content with this, the other day arrived another parcel with this note: "Seven one-year-old babies of *Iris histriodes major*. Plant now in fairly sunny place in sandy soil. Good luck." Again no name, no address, no indication of where they hailed from or who was the extremely kindly person who sent those little parcels of sunshine.

This surely indicates the wonderful nature of our Club. The donor will assuredly read this *Journal* and will come across this very inadequate appreciation. Thank you very much indeed, donor, and may your garden reflect the wonderful nature of your good and kindly act.

J. G. COLLEE

Hardy Heathers—Part 2

By NORMAN WEBSTER

PLANTING, SOIL AND CULTIVATION

A NATURAL peaty soil is not necessary for growing heathers : nor is it essential to incorporate peat where heathers are to be grown. What matters is that the soil should be neutral or slightly acid and reasonably rich in humus, and that it should never dry out completely. These objects can be achieved by working into the soil any sort of leaf mould or compost material, but not fresh farmyard manure. If the soil on the selected area is already in good heart, then heathers can be planted directly into it without special preparation. You will get better results, however, if at the time of planting a good double handful of a 50-50 mixture of shredded peat and sharp sand is worked in among the roots of every plant. The peat should not be broken down too finely, but left in pieces the size of a hazelnut.

Specialist writers on heathers and nursery catalogues sometimes assert that peat taken directly from the moor should not be used for garden cultivation. I often suspect them of having a vested interest in the "granulated" or "horticultural" peat they recommend. They never explain how it differs from moorland peat, nor do they explain why they advise its use. Since the wild heathers of our moorlands flourish in raw peat, it is hard to see why it should do their cultivated descendants any harm. All my life I have used raw peat straight from the moor and found it excellent. What I do advise is that a certain proportion of good rough sand should be mixed with the peat to encourage rapid root formation. Builders' sand is worse than useless—it is too fine, and clogs up the natural drainage of the soil. Rough water-run sand from a river bed is ideal. Do not riddle it, but leave it in its natural state complete with any small stones that may be among it.

If your soil is naturally light or sandy then the planting mixture should be three-quarters peat and one-quarter sand : if heavy, reverse the proportions.

Planting distances must vary with the ultimate height of the variety : a good average is twelve inches except in the case of the tree heaths, which obviously require more room. Some of the dwarfest varieties may be planted as little as six inches apart if the ultimate aim is a close carpet.

Plants should always be thoroughly watered in, as this helps the soil to settle closely round the roots.

If your plants have been delayed in transit and look wilted on arrival use, instead of water, a solution of "Bio" plant food. This is a wonderful help in getting them quickly into full growth and is especially valuable if the plants are moved late in the season. Spring

is undoubtedly the best planting time, from mid-March to mid-April in an average season.

Established plants can be moved about within the garden at almost any time of the year when the soil is in good physical condition. They will take no harm, provided the root ball is not broken. Nurserymen often lift flowering plants for exhibition, covering the root ball closely with sacking, and replant them without perceptible check. I remember admiring a specially fine flowering group of one of the callunas in a nursery border. "Yes," said the nurseryman, "they are good. You wouldn't think they had spent two days on a show-bench last week, would you?"

AFTERCARE

After planting, heathers should require little cultural attention for many years. It is not desirable to hoe between the plants, as many sorts form surface roots from high on the stems, and these are fine, and easily damaged. In any event hoeing soon becomes impossible as the plants close up and cover the ground. This tendency to run over the surface is important, as in the process weeds are largely smothered and maintenance reduced. It needs a really invasive type of weed to compete with a vigorous heather; and if the ground was clean at the time of planting, the question of weed competition should never arise.

An annual top dressing with peat or leaf mould is often advised: this advice is always included in the helpful little notes which precede the heather section in catalogues. It seems to me dubious practice, especially if done in Spring. In an average summer the top dressing will dry out and be blown away by the wind. If done at all, the top dressing should be applied in late autumn, so that winter-rains may have a chance to wash it into the soil. Alternatively the surface soil may be scraped away, not too close to the plant or the roots will be damaged, but adjacent to the plant, and peat or leaf mould pressed into the resulting hollows and topped off with a sprinkling of the old soil. This is a delicate and tedious operation; and it seems to me better, if the soil is so exhausted that plants are no longer thriving, to lift them and renew the soil; or, better still, to scrap the old plants and start afresh. With a new plantation it is far better to add abundant peat by one of the methods already suggested rather than to fiddle about with annual top-dressing. As will be explained later, heathers can easily be propagated by the amateur, and reserve stocks should always be kept in hand.

Much the most important point in the aftercare of heathers is the annual cutting back of most forms. The winter flowering *erica carnea* scarcely need this attention, because they are naturally compact in habit. With them it should be sufficient to trim back any long or untidy growth immediately after flowering.

For all other forms of heather the process is rather more drastic. It amounts in practice to cutting off the flowered section of the main

shoots as soon as possible after the flower has withered. This is particularly important with the main autumn flowering group, the callunas. If this annual attention is neglected, the plants soon become leggy, woody and straggling, and flower less freely year by year.

With the late flowering Callunas especially—and some of them flower into November and even December—it is often impossible to trim over before severe frosts threaten. In this case postpone it until late spring when danger of sharp frost has passed. Since spring is such a busy time, I try to cut over as many heathers as possible in autumn, and leave a minimum over to spring, even if I risk a little frost damage in the process. If heather plants are healthy and vigorous they will soon recover from frost burn. In fact some of the most rampant growers actually benefit from such a check.

Some heather growers consider the withered flower heads of the Cornish Heath (*Erica vagans*) so decorative that they leave them throughout the winter. There is no objection to this provided they are attended to in spring. The Cornish Heaths are mostly rampant growers and cutting over is especially important with them if they are not to become straggling and woody. For my part I cut them over in autumn if time permits. I am no admirer of withered flowers.

(To be continued).

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Kongsvoll—1954

By THE COUNTESS OF LIVERPOOL

WHILE on a motoring tour of Norway this year I stayed a night at a place called Kongsvoll, 2900 feet up, and was told that there was an Alpine garden at the railway station, so I went to see it and found it was a wired-in enclosure about twenty yards long by ten yards wide, divided into plots with paths between. The plants were all native to Norway and the collection had been formed by a lady who feared that the plants would become extinct, as people were digging them up wholesale. I believe this is now forbidden. The lady is dead, I think, but the garden is well looked after and there are some very interesting plants in it. I noted the names of a few that were in flower, or that I thought were rare ; list as at end.

It was Whit Sunday when I was there but snow was still down to the level of the road in places. I was on the lookout for plants on the way to Kongsvoll but it was getting dark and I did not see anything ; on the way back four days later I saw quite a few of these plants at 3370 feet on a very cold exposed plateau. The *Anemone Pulsatilla* were over but I was able to collect some seed. Tiny mauve *Primula scandinavica* was fascinating and grew in masses on this plateau, and also a yellow-flowered plant rather like an orchis in flower but with much more lanceolate leaves, which I did not see in the garden.

List of plants seen at Kongsvoll :—

Diapensia lapponica, *Viola biflora*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Silene acaulis*, *Arabis alpina*, *Epilobium Hornemanni*, *Pulsatilla vernalis*, *Geranium silvaticum*, *Saxifraga aizoides*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Potentilla Crantzii*, *Minuartia rubella*, *Ranunculus glacialis*, *R. nivalis*, *Sedum roseum*, *Draba alpina*, *Primula stricta*, *P. scandinavica*, *Cassiope hypnoides*, and *Parnassia palustris*.

ALPINES

—o—

H. DAVENPORT JONES

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LIST ON APPLICATION

Some Favourite Rock Garden Plants

By K. C. CORSAR

EVERY gardener has his favourite plants, though why he should prefer one species or one variety to any other he probably could not explain—but they are favourites, and every effort will be made to procure these plants and thereafter to cultivate them successfully. I am no exception to this general rule; I have grown, and still grow, many species representing many genera of rock garden plants; I like them all, but some I like better than others. Why this should be could not be expressed in words; the form of growth, the colour of the flowers, the season of blooming—none of these things has anything to do with the preference; all that can be said is that they are favourites, and I propose to write a few notes about some of them.

It will become obvious that there is no factor common to all the species which will be mentioned. All are not easily grown, nor readily obtainable; some will develop into plants of considerable size, while others even when they have attained their maximum growth will be small, though never insignificant. The conditions under which these favourite plants will thrive differ considerably—but in a well-planned alpine garden provision will be made for every requirement. In my own district, and for a variety of reasons, it has been found necessary to cultivate some of my plants under conditions of permanent protection, though this does not necessarily mean that they lack hardiness, or that they are suitable only for the Alpine house.

Take, for example, the Campanulas. The members of this genus are normally quite hardy and will do well in the open rock garden; but here I have to confine them to the Alpine house because of their attractiveness to slugs, with which pest my rock garden is cursed. Slug traps and heaps of poisoned bait are alike unsightly in a rock garden so I prefer to adopt other methods in order to have Campanulas at all. Of the many species which are available to gardeners, I consider as my favourites *C. Allionii* "Rivis variety," a strong-growing plant with flowers rather deeper in colour than the typical *C. Allionii*, and *C. mollis* (syn. *C. velutina*), a very much smaller plant with light blue flowers and velvety leaves. Both are grown in scree, and the only possible objection to either species is that they spread so rapidly and wander so far afield that they tend to interfere with their neighbours and grow up through other plants. *C. mollis* in competition with strong-growing subjects has very little chance of success and will, unfortunately, perish in the fight for existence.

The great family of Saxifrages is well represented in my collection, but of all its fine members I have no hesitation in placing as first favourite that wonderful hybrid *S.* "Faldonside." I have grown this plant in the open rock garden and in the Alpine house both as a

pot plant and in the scree bed, and it has never failed me. The large yellow flowers of good colour are borne in profusion, and the compact, grey-green cushion which it forms appears to be immune from the trouble which affects so many of the *Kabschia Saxifrages*, causing the centre of the plants to turn rusty and die, an obvious disfigurement to any plant. I have found that when *Kabschia Saxifrages* are grown in the normal Alpine house they invariably do better when placed singly in pots rather than when placed two or three in a pan. The greater depth of the former provides the root-run which is so much to their liking, while the perfect symmetry of the individual plant is not destroyed as it will be when two or more merge together.

And while on the subject of symmetrical plants ; what could produce a more perfectly proportioned specimen than *Draba rigida* ? This fine scree plant forms the most perfect of domes built upon its own dead foliage ; I have one specimen which has attained a height of over six inches at its apex. The handsome yellow flowers, carried on extremely thin stalks, completely cover the firm cushion and remain erect throughout their life. This *Draba* may be grown in the rock garden, though my specimen is planted in the indoor scree where it seeds freely all around the parent plant. I would, however, be a little doubtful if *D. rigida* would develop to its maximum size if confined to a pot ; from one pot to a larger one might be a risky operation. Someone once wrote that *D. mollissima* was one of the six very best rock garden plants and while this may not be generally accepted, this is one of my favourites. Farrer has said of this *Draba* that it "is like a silky-velvety version of *Androsace cylindrica*," a not very accurate description but one which gives some idea of the general appearance of this species. I have not yet succeeded in growing *D. mollissima* in the open ; each time that I have tried the plants have either rotted off or been torn to pieces by birds, but in the Alpine house it has never failed and when a plant has died it has invariably left behind a mass of self-sown seedlings. During the winter months the cushions turn to a straw colour as the individual leaves wither, but with the advent of spring the fresh green leaves appear, and in a remarkably short time the plant has recovered its freshness. Rapid and efficient drainage are required by this *Draba* and overhead watering should be avoided.

Very different from any of the plants so far mentioned is *Calceolaria Darwinii*. A few people say that it is ugly, many consider it rather attractive, but everyone admits that it is quaint. For my part, I like this *Calceolaria* very much, though I admit that it is not at all an easy thing to grow. *C. Darwinii* appears to be perfectly hardy in the garden but it is subject to attack both by greenfly and by aphids resembling that which infests *Primulas* ; a look-out must constantly be kept for these pests, and when found they should be dealt with immediately. The essential requirements for successful cultivation are a rich, well-drained soil and a position neither too sunny nor yet too shaded ; it will be found advisable to keep the necks of plants dry as there is a

distinct tendency for rot to set in here. On the whole, I have found that the best results have been obtained from plants grown in pots or pans when water can be given by steeping. Propagation, as distinct from cultivation, is quite a simple matter and I have frequently rooted portions of plants which have been accidentally broken off.

A plant which I very seldom see in other people's gardens, but one of which I am rather fond and have never found difficult to manage, is *Statice (Limonium) cosyrensis*. This is a compact, shrubby, little plant which in late summer covers itself with fairy-like flowers which last for a surprisingly long time. I grow this *Statice* in a fairly rich scree mixture, but because of the nature of its root system it requires great depth of soil. For the same reason plants can only be moved with safety when they are very young, and I have found it necessary to lift the seedlings which appear literally by the score, at a very early age. I do not know why this attractive, compact, little shrub is not more widely grown; it has so much in its favour and it flowers at a season when there are few rock garden plants in bloom.

A plant which many gardeners find difficulty in establishing, but which I can fortunately accommodate to its satisfaction, is *Lewisia Tweedyi*. I have never succeeded in cultivating this species in the open rock garden, and as a pot plant it has not been a complete success, but in the scree bed it does really well. I have one plant, raised from seed sent to me from the United States, which must by now be at least seventeen years old and it still thrives and increases in size. I was once told that *Lewisia Tweedyi* would not produce fertile seed in this country, but this statement has been disproved and seedlings appear round the parent plants every year. These, if lifted when they are quite small, may be potted up and grown on. The colour of the flowers varies quite considerably and some forms are better than others, but if propagation of any particular colour form is intended, resort to cuttings must be made.

Edraianthus serpyllifolius, or as it is sometimes called *Wahlenbergia serpyllifolia*, has always been a firm favourite with me, most particularly in its form major. The flowers of this plant closely resemble those of a *Campanula* but the habit of growth is much more compact, nor does it wander all over the place. I have grown this species for many years both in the rock garden and in the Alpine house, where it enjoys, in both cases, a position in full sun and an open scree soil. I have no reason to suppose that there is any difficulty to be encountered in growing *Edraianthus* so that it is surprising that the members of this family are not more frequently seen in gardens; extreme drought might be harmful, but an application of water by hand during very dry spells would counteract this.

Finally, *Androsace cylindrica*, not an easy thing to grow at the best of times, and probably impossible in the open rock garden. This lovely little Alpine plant, which falls easily into the "best half-

dozen alpine," forms dense hummocks of grey-green rosettes and produces large numbers of stemless white flowers in Spring. Very well drained soil is essential and yet an ample supply of moisture to the roots during the growing season, say from March to June, must be provided; moreover, a deep root run is necessary. Bearing all these requirements in mind, it will be obvious that this *Androsace* will have to be handled with care if it is to succeed, but so lovely a plant is it that no effort should be spared to meet its demands. In order to afford the necessary depth pots must be used and one four inches across for a plant half that in diameter will not be too large; water must be supplied from below, that is by steeping the pot, and never applied by a watering can. I have raised *A. cylindrica* from seed on several occasions and have found that the only difficulty lies in the handling of the seedlings, whose roots are extremely tender and very easily damaged.

These, then, are some of my favourite rock garden plants; there are others, including of course many of the *Primulas*; but sufficient have been mentioned to show how varied can be the preferences of a gardener. Perhaps after all there is one factor common to all of these rock garden plants—they are very attractive.

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The Genus *Primula* : Section *Petiolares*

A STUDY IN PHYSIOGNOMY

By ROLAND E. COOPER, F.R.S.E.

THESE *Primulas* are found in mountainous country from the Western Himalayas through Kashmir, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan, continuing through the valleys of S.E. Tibet and the gorges of upper Burma as far east as longitude 105 E. from Szechwan to Tonkin. The centre of their field, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam and upper Burma, gets lots of rain from the south-west monsoon that drives up from the Bay of Bengal.

The Western Himalayas and the mountains of Western China get much less. The south-east trend of the ranges in Bhutan and its neighbours ensures that their southern parts get a good rainfall but their sheltered northern portions get a diminishing quantity until the climate becomes dry, i.e. Tibetan.

They occur on elevations of 2,500 feet above sea level (*P. sulphurea*) right up to 16,000 feet, well above the limit of trees (*P. hilaris*) ; the greatest range being that of *P. sinuata* which goes from 2,500 feet to 10,000 feet. Their altitudinal range is noticeably affected by the elevation of 11,000 feet, the approximate junction of the woodland and the woodless areas ; since about half of them are found in each area. Those species which cross from the sheltered conditions of the woodland to the austerities of the woodless area will promise the greatest range of character. As might almost be expected, one such species is named *P. irregularis*. The average range of the majority is three to four thousand feet up the elevations. There are, of course, quite a few isolated outliers, also of particular interest (see Fig. 25).

The range of the species from east to west indicates that those with long ranges might be looked upon as 'liaison' species, although they will be found to be in country geographically the same yet separated by political boundaries. The liaison species are *P. gracilipes* of Group "Vera," which is found from Nepal to S.E. Tibet, *Pp. bracteosa* and *vernica* of "Hookeri" from Bhutan to West China, and *P. sonchifolia* (of its own group) from S.E. Tibet to Yunnan and Szechwan in China.

Consequently the range of growth forms found within the Section extends from lushness in growth in the moist situations to reductions induced by xerophilous expressions in drier ones.

Those plants which grow amid the most congenial and least changing conditions could be considered to have their primary form the least changed. The elevation of about nine to ten thousand feet is that upon which the rain clouds come in to impinge on the mountains. The forests of this zone are so continuously moist and undisturbed that they could

be called primeval. The mist of clouds swathes them continuously and they develop long pendulous trailers and curtains of the ghostly green-grey lichen *Usnea* whose slow gentle sway amid the soundless swirling mist is the only movement. There is no sound either as the mist condensing on the branches falls, for the floor of the forest is carpeted with a deep layer of moss which envelops fallen branches and creeps up the bases of the tree trunks and adds to the general faeri-like scene. There is little change through the year here for the days and nights of this semi-tropic zone are practically equal; the humidity and shaded light are constant so that the days and the nights are almost the same temperature.

There has been little change for thousands of years. A tree may fall but its branches leave little gap in the canopy and are soon replaced. Under these conditions, then, have the earliest forms of petiolarid primulas grown. They had little need of seed, finding it sufficient if their soft greenish stems fell upon the moss to bud and grow again. Even when primeval shade gave way to primeval subdued lighting and flowers came to be, there was no need for growth to be arrested. The flowers formed seed which matured—"ripened" is hardly the word—the fruit tissue covering them just slimed away and they fell among the moss that carpets everything and grew into plantlets without any check to life's continuity: well nigh viviparously. They carry on in that primeval way still in those moist, shady woodlands.

Tracts of such country are in nearly every valley between Sikkim and the Yunnan gorges. Their extent varies where the rainfall is not so heavy. Bhutan has *P. Boothii**¹ in wet moss and *P. bracteosa* in moist, shady forest. Assam has *P. vernicosa* on the mossy floor of *Abies* forest. North Burma has *P. lacerata* of which K.W. notes its very moist situation, the washing of seeds from the capsule by rain and the peculiar development of leaves in the umbel after flowering. The Chinese province of Szechwan has *P. odontocalyx* (Farrer's *P. hylophila* from Kansu) and Yunnan has *P. sinuata* growing in damp, shady thickets and ranging up the mountains from 2,500 to 10,000 feet, a huge range and one which perhaps may show its adaptability to varying conditions. For conditions did change and certain of the woodland forms found themselves dangerously near to the upper limit of their forest home. Indeed it would seem that the more venturesome of them explored the upper tree-less regions and finding that they did not die of exposure, but could adapt themselves to its rigours, made a colony or two. After all the air was still always damp from the swirling mists and it was equable although cooler. *P. Calderiana* on Sikkim's soaking acid moors and others elsewhere found that the winter's cold was detrimental to its foliage and so reduced it to a set of weather-proof scales to enclose and protect the tender growth bud during that season. Its roots, used to diving deep into great felts of moss, fastened themselves in the ground and shrank in the

*¹for the extent of Booth's exploration see Journ. R.H.S. Vol. LXYIV, part 2, Feb. 1949, p. 69.

autumn to pull the resting bud below ground level and be covered by winter's great snow blanket.

Some of them found themselves on "stony" ground indeed. These were living in the drier Himalaya and similar West China hills. *P. gracilipes* shrank at the arid prospect at times "to the size of a penny piece"*² in the most trying situations, but flourished a little better elsewhere. *P. sulphurea* made flat compact rosettes of foliage, covering their undersides with an exuding oil which congealed to a yellow mealy wax (*farina*) to get the plant its name. Several species in sub-section Davidi growing in China met the draught by donning a fur coat, i.e. "a thick covering of multi-cellular hairs" as did *P. coerulea*; others are *P. crassa*, *P. davidi*, *P. Esquirolii*, *P. leptophylla* and *P. ovalifolia*. Yet through all such changes the original elementary way of freeing the seed for disposal has not altered so that this primeval feature is the mark of every plant in the Section. I once grew some pieces of a large clump of *P. sessilis* (at that time called *P. Edgeworthii*), sent home by Major Lowndes from India, in an assortment of soils, pure peat, a very rich mixture, a very sandy soil, and a poor mixture, mostly sand and cinders. The resulting plants were surprisingly different in foliage and in habit and also in the flowers they produced; but they seemed to offer clues if only I could have read them then.

It is also possible to *add* something to a plant by experiments in cultivation. I once saw on the Fife hills an ordinary wild primrose that had been disintegrated by the trample of a bovine hoof. Every leaf had been forced from the crown and pressed into the clay about it very symmetrically. This had happened some time before and I was interested to see how fresh they still were. I had been pioneering with raising plants from *Primula* leaves the previous year and here was natural evidence confirming it. I had judged that the swollen leaf bases of that same *P. sessilis* were potential for root production and so they proved to be.*³ So far so good, but notice what happened next.

This leaf cutting process was the very thing for quickly raising a big batch of another plant, *P. scapigera*, and was pursued vigorously. To get further supplies, the lower leaves of the young, newly established plants so made were removed and rooted. We *got* our big batch, planted them out and waited for them to flower. To my amazement the corolla lobes produced here and there an extra piece of pink tissue. As the flowers opened in quantity they showed all stages from the single extra piece, to some on every lobe of the flower. What on earth could have happened? On the whole they were a horrid looking lot and far from being representative of the species of the mother plant, so they were destroyed. One could not let them loose on other people (see Fig. 27).

In the simplest phrase "their interior economy had been upset!"

*²Hooker. Bot. Mag. c.70798 (1889)

*³"Petiolarid *Primulas* in cultivation" illustrated. The new Flora and Silva vol. 8. p.88.

“Interior economy” means chromosomes. Our members like to cultivate tiny and dainty plants. Heaven forbid that they should start to grow chromosomes, but these things come into the story, so here is something they do in other *Primulas* and doubtless, did we but know it, in the *Petiolares* too.

There is a group of allied species in Section *Farinosae* which includes *P. farinosa*, *P. scotica*, *P. scotica* var. *scandinavica* and *P. stricta*. Call them by numbers : 1, 2, 3 and 4. 1 is a British (England AND Scotland) species. 2 belongs only to Scotland. 3 is confined to Scandinavia. 4 grows in the sub-arctic and arctic lands. Their habitats are increasingly cold as they go north. Cold is a vital factor. Cytologist Professor H. G. Bruun in his “Cytological Studies in *Primula*,” Uppsala, 1932, gives the interesting information that the chromosome counts of these four species are : 1, $2n. = 18$; 2, $= 54$; 3, $= 74$; and 4, $= 126$.

Has the cold anything to do with the multiplication ? *Petiolares* primulas range up the mountains where the altitudes get increasingly colder ! An interesting corroboration came some years later. A new primula raised from my seed number 3470 was named *P. Menziesiana*. It was a pretty little thing not unlike *P. bellidifolia*, but not it. It was collected at 15,000 feet near the crest of the Himalaya, where the cold winds pierce one to the marrow. Through twenty years of cultivation it developed from its original height of two or three inches to twice that height, a nice sweet-scented thing. In the vetting of all plants that preceded “The Genus *Primula*” it was brought within the scope of *P. bellidifolia* and lost its name. Bruun found that its chromosome count was $n.40$, just double that of the embracing species. It was a tetraploid of it !

There is no doubt that the species of the *Petiolares* primulas offer in their expressions the most exciting material for the broadest range of interests. To my mind the clue seems to lie in *Primula bracteosa* for as it grows in thick layers of moss in the wet zone of eight to ten thousand feet in elevation it tends to produce, as flower production ceases, stalked leaves at the top of the scape from among the bracts of the flowers. (*P. lacerata* of sub-section *Chartacea* does the same). The ability to do so implies the existence of potential vegetative regeneration which of course allows the possibility of growth change and adaptation to varying conditions of the plant’s habitat. Other plants in its group have variation in their parts. *P. irregularis* is so called because Craib when describing it particularly noticed the “oblong calyx, variable at the apex.” *Variable* is the key.

This section of *Primula* have given me the greatest fun since I gathered ten of them from their homes. Three were new : *bracteata*, *Calderiana* and *strumosa*. I have played with more of them in cultivation since. If that gives me any advantage, it is one that I will gladly share, as you see. So please cultivate your “pets” and look at their behaviour closely. From the expression of their faces you may discover what is in their minds. That is physiognomy and is the way all plants should be approached in cultivation (see Fig. 32).

Potentillas

By F. C. BARNES

THE GENUS *Potentilla* is a large one but it is not perhaps as well represented in the affections of Rock Gardeners as it deserves. It may be that this is due to the almost invariable ease with which these plants grow and to the existence of many rampageous weeds within the confines of the genus. Be that as it may, there remain many estimable plants which will gladly grace the Rock Gardens of those who choose their plants for other reasons than their rarity and difficulty in cultivation.

Generally speaking, all the plants to be mentioned will thrive in most soils—even on heavy clay, for which they seem to have a partiality like many of their cousins in the family Rosaceae. Most come readily from seed and whilst their disposition towards the formation of a tap root or a woody rootstock precludes propagation by division, cuttings root readily. Many of the prostrate varieties indeed throw out rootlets from the base of the tufts and this tendency can be encouraged by working moist soil or peat under the plant during the growing season.

Potentillas aurea and *alpestris* could perhaps stand as the type of the smaller potentillas with their wide golden cups marked with an orange blotch at the base of each petal sitting more or less closely on the dark green, glossy, five-fingered foliage throughout the month of June. *Potentilla chrysocraspeda* is much the same except that its leaves are three-fingered and it flowers about a week later. *Potentilla verna nana* is like a diminished version of *alpestris* flowering steadily for a long period.

Potentilla ambigua is a handsome spreading Himalayan 3 to 4 ins. high with grey-green three parted leaves, the leaflets of which are neatly folded upon themselves along the midrib. The yellow flowers, of a good size, are flat and sit fairly closely on the foliage from July until the damps of winter. *Potentilla eriocarpa* is much smaller, only 1½ ins. at most. Its foliage is a delicate pea-green and its lemon-yellow flowers are in evidence for an equally long period. It grows and spreads well in a lightish soil and would not be out of place in the scree.

Potentillas fragiformis and *megalantha* are very alike with their handsome thick "felty" leaves and golden blooms in May, but they are a trifle too gross for the small rock garden.

Potentilla nitida is of course the queen of the family, its warm pink ample blossoms contrasting nobly with the silver foliage. It is by no means difficult to grow, though, as too rich feeding seems to discourage flower production, scree conditions are indicated. It is readily increased by cuttings which can frequently be found with half-developed roots.

Potentilla recta macrantha (*P. Warrensi*) is with its two-foot stems too big for the rock garden proper, but if a space behind a bed of autumn-flowering gentians can be found for it the large profusely-borne yellow flowers will provide a magnificent back-cloth to the blues of the gentians.

At the risk of being considered flippancy I would like to make a plea for a common native plant, *Potentilla erecta*, "Tormentil." Lest I am accused of importing weeds into my garden, where there are in conscience enough already, I hasten to add that there is a form of this plant which grows closely to the ground and is in no way rampant. Its four-petalled flowers which are rarely absent, nestling on the dark-green filigree of foliage, give it an air of distinction which has all but convinced me to earmark it a place in the new scree.

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Some Dianthus

By D. M. MURRAY-LYON

PERHAPS the title should be "Some Dianthi," but that somehow sounds rather pedantic. The Dianthus family belongs to the Natural Order—Caryophyllaceae—and is almost entirely confined to Europe, mostly S.E. Europe, with a few straying into Asia Minor. It contains a large number of first class rock garden plants, species and hybrids. The height of the Dianthus flowering season is usually about mid-June, but it starts in May, *D. alpinus* being usually the first. The season continues throughout July, with a few flowering even later.

They are pretty well all sun-lovers and mostly come from chalk and limestone formations. In spite of that they all do very well in neutral or even acid soils. Most of them do best in scree or crevice, and where they prefer something else I shall mention it. If four or five inches are allowed for lateral spread in the case of the smaller species, and up to twelve inches for the larger and laxer growing ones it should be enough. Of course a mat can be got more quickly by planting more closely. A top dressing of gritty soil with a little bone meal in it, after flowering and again possibly in spring, will help to keep them in good condition.

I am only going to mention those which I have grown myself, either here in Edinburgh or in my old garden in Perthshire. Taking them alphabetically, the first is *D. alpinus*, and I think one of the best. It forms a low mat of dark green leaves and the flowers are borne on short stalks just clear of the leaves. If you overfeed it the stalks may be much longer, but then it is "out of character." In a good form the flowers are up to an inch and a half across and of a good rosy pink with a central zone tinged crimson or carmine by the free sprinkling of dots of that colour (see Fig. 28).

The best display of this plant I have ever seen was in my own garden in Perthshire. There in a wall facing south-west it completely fills two horizontal crevices each about two feet long. At flowering time you could see no green at all—almost a vulgar display! The plants were put in as small seedlings, and they had been raised from Correvon's seed. There is also an attractive white form.

D. arenarius has small flowers and is not showy, but I think it is attractive in a quiet way. It has one good habit too, it flowers late—July to September, when flowers are specially welcome in wall and scree. The flowers are white and fringed and borne on rather lax six-inch stems rising from grassy foliage. It will be content with rather a cooler position than most.

D. arvernensis forms a mat of grey-green leaves from which rise two to three inch stems bearing rose-pink sweetly scented flowers

which often continue into August. Some authorities say it is not a separate species but merely a form of *D. caesius*.

D. x Boydii was raised many years ago by Dr. Boyd of Faldonside. *D. neglectus* is supposed to be one of the parents, so it is not surprising that it is a good plant. The fringed lilac-pink flowers have a similar central spotted zone to that in *alpinus*. They are borne on three-inch stems rising from a neat cushion of dark green leaves. Its flowering period is quite lengthy.

D. caesius—The Cheddar Pink—has rather sharply pointed bluish leaves and prettily fringed rose-pink flowers of good size on six-inch stems. The flowers are deliciously fragrant. The Icombe variety is said to be more compact with larger flowers of an even better pink, but I do not know it personally.

D. x cal-alpinus (*callizonus x alpinus*). This is a very pleasant pink and, while not a better plant than its parents, it is a more easy-going one. In habit it resembles *alpina*, but perhaps the flowers are a little smaller and the stems rather longer.

D. callizonus—a beauty, but temperamental. After a number of failures I succeeded in raising it from seed, and it is now growing happily and flowering in my peat scree in full sun, but with a stone shading its roots, despite the fact that experts recommend a very dry position. The flowers, on three-inch stems, are fully one and a half inches in diameter and lavender pink with a darker central zone as in *alpinus*.

D. deltoides (The Maiden Pink). This is a strong grower and perhaps rather straggly, so don't put it less than fifteen inches from anything precious. It produces masses of flowers of varying shades of pink and red, spotted carmine borne on branched stems of four to six inches. There is a white form, and also crimson forms with darker green or even bronze leaves. These crimson forms go under various names—Bowl's var., Wisley var., Hunstman, etc. All forms are easy doers and seed themselves freely all over the place; they are quite easily pulled out, though. They flower in July and August and often much later too.

D. Freynii is one of the daintiest of the family, and easy too in sharp scree. The flowers, of a soft pink, sit tight on top of the neat blue/grey cushion. Some botanists say it is merely a variety of *D. glacialis*, but to a gardener it is quite distinct (see Fig. 29).

D. glacialis differs from the last in having dark green and rather larger leaves. The flowers, of a good bright pink or rose, are held just clear of the leaves. It is most attractive if you get the true plant, which, however, is not too easy. It demands very sharp drainage in poor scree. It is a bit "pernicketty" about being transplanted, so get it into its permanent quarters as young as possible.

D. haematocalyx forms a low cushion of greyish leaves, the flower stems being rather procumbent and about four inches long. The flowers, four or five to a stem, are of a good size and substance and are a deep crimson. As the name implies, the calyces are deep red or blood coloured, the whole effect being most attractive. Variety *alpinus* is a dwarfer and more compact form.

D. inodorus is often incorrectly called *sylvestris*—why, I can't imagine, as I understand it is never found in woods, but on warm sandy banks. The tufts of leaves are almost grass-like, and from them rise eight-inch branched stems bearing good-sized flowers of a clear pink in a good form. There are, however, some forms with flowers of a very poor washy colour.

D. "x La Bourbrille." The leaves form a dwarf silvery tuft and the flowers of a pleasant pink are carried on four-inch stems. It is a vigorous and good tempered plant.

D. musalae, from Mount Musallah in Bulgaria, is also known as *microlepis*. It forms a neat cushion and is rather like *Freynii* except that the leaves are green. The reddish-pink flowers are carried on inch-high stems. It must be starved or it will become lax and straggly. Both it and *Freynii* make good trough plants.

D. mytinervis is another native of the Balkans, where it is said to be so dwarf and compact as to look like a well flowered clump of *Silene acaulis*. In this country, however, it is more lax, but still floriferous, though the pink of the flowers is perhaps rather harsh.

D. neglectus differs from most of the family in its dislike of lime. It is one of the best known, and I think one of the best of the alpine pinks. Some forms are better than others, but I have never seen a bad form. A distinctive feature is the buff colour on the back of the petals. Otherwise the colour varies quite a lot—carmine, cherry, rose, etc. The flowers, carried on three-inch stems, are slightly fringed, have a greeny-blue eye, and are most attractive. The leaves are grass-like and seedlings may easily be weeded out in mistake for grass.

D. noeanus forms a cushion of stiff prickly leaves, hence its old name *Acanthophyllum spinosus*. Its flowers are in bunches on arching stems of about nine inches and are not very showy. It is worth growing, however, for its fragrance, and because of its late flowering season—July/August. In my old garden I had clumps of it, at about nose level, growing in a wall alongside a path. The great whiffs of fragrance on a still evening were lovely.

D. x Roysii. This is a *neglectus* hybrid with the distinctive buff reverse to the petals of that species. Its leaves are greener and larger, however. The flowers are a pleasant rose colour and are carried on stiff four-inch stems. It is easy to grow and is said to come fairly true from seed.

D. simulans. This is a comparatively recent introduction from Bulgaria—1933. It has rosy-red flowers on short stems above a neat tuft of grey leaves, and is a good doer and free flowerer in poor stony scree.

D. squarrosus, another worth growing for its fragrance, has white, deeply fringed flowers on stems up to a foot in length.

D. superbus. This is perhaps rather floppy and untidy, but it produces its fringed lavender flowers right up till the first frosts, and again has the advantage of being sweetly scented.

D. x "Whitehills." This is a really good plant—neat, easy and free flowering. Its flowers are a good shade of pink with a central zone shaded with crimson.

D. x "Mars." This is the only double I have mentioned, as most doubles, in my opinion, look out of place in the Rock Garden. This one, however, is quite neat and only four inches high. Its crimson flowers are clove scented and it is very free flowering over a long period, in fact it is liable to flower itself to death. Most, if not all, dianthus species set seed freely, and the seed germinates well. As, however, hybridisation is very common, it is better to get your increase by layering or taking cuttings, and in some cases by simple division. June or July is usually the best time for taking cuttings and making layers. If you raise plants from seed you may of course be lucky and get a new and exciting plant, but unless you do it on a fairly big scale the odds are against it.

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An Alpine Trip in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State—Part 2

By LEO M. LEBLANC

AFTER pausing many times for camera work and to admire the scenic wonderland, we once again reached the meadow that resembled a sunken garden. As we topped the rise and gazed down into this beautiful area, we could scarcely believe our eyes ; the transformation that had taken place since we had visited here just two short weeks previous was quite remarkable. The small pond now was clear and sparkling in the noon-day sun ; where snow had blanketed the gentle slopes, now the *Erythronium montanum* and *E. parviflorum* were flowering in extensive displays, while Phyllodoce, Castillejas, Veronicas, *Polygonum bistortoides*, Anemones, Ranunculus, and many other flowering meadow plants, intermingled with each other to provide scenes of riotous colours. Descending into this floral delight, we stepped over a small rill that was humming a gay little tune as it went merrily on its way down through the meadow and finally slipped over the edge of the gorge on our extreme right. Here were more mountain fairies to enjoy ; *Mimulus Lewisii*, a lover of moisture, was growing in dense masses on each side of the rill ; some of them were dangling their feet in the cool water and, quite vainly, bending their pretty heads down over the whispering streamlet in order to admire their own reflections ; while close at hand was the rosy-flowered Spiraea, *S. densiflora*, and also the alpine fire-weed, *Epilobium latifolium*.

As the trail wound away from the wee lake, the mountain dock, the Valerian, *V. sitchensis*, tall stalks of *Xerophyllum tenax*, and quantities of *Veronica cusickii* added much to our inspiring walk. The tall-growing hellebore, *Veratrum viride*, formed dense clumps throughout the meadows ; the flowers are a little disappointing, but the boat-shaped leaves are quite handsome.

On the crest of the far side was growing a grand old specimen of *Pinus albicaulis*, its roots firmly anchored in crevices of a great outcropping (it was here that we had paused to fortify ourselves with some nourishing food on our previous trip) ; in the fierce struggle for existence, the main leader had been destroyed, and likewise many of its limbs, but it stood proudly upon its summit of rock, as if proclaiming to the passer-by that a good fighter never goes down to defeat. At the base of this remarkable Ancient grew a fine specimen of the creeping mountain Juniper, *Juniperus communis sibirica*, while keeping it close company was that hardy plant, *Phlox diffusa*. At the edge of this outcropping was the yawning chasm, over which I had descended part way on the other excursion ; while here, too, we gazed once more into the blue waters of the lake far below us. (On a later trip we descended to this lake, and on its shores we found *Gentiana calycosa* growing in abundance ; it is a beautiful plant when seen in full flower and growing in such numbers.

Ahead of us, and on our left, lay new grounds, and like the bear who "went over the other side to see what he could see," we did likewise. And what plant lover could refuse such an opportunity? After partaking of our lunch we now left the main trail and followed one that the deer had kindly made for us; this led us through a natural rock garden that we should all enjoy having in our own landscaping.

The formation of this huge work was in the manner of a terraced slope, gradually rising some one hundred feet above us and extending on a curve for at least five hundred feet towards the north-east. This massive structure of rock formed the final base on the south, east and north-east of the summit of the mountain that we had been climbing, which reared its head another one thousand feet above us. As we rounded this immense base, another meadow lay stretched out to the east and north of our mountain; the area in front of us appeared quite level, while on our left it descended rather steeply at first and gradually tapered off to yet another field far below.

To give us added pleasure, as we enjoyed this new expanse of scenery, a mountain grouse cautiously came forth from a group of *Abies lasiocarpa*, and proceeded to put on a grand performance. During the course of his parading he kept up quite a chatter; at last satisfied that everything was in perfect order, he gave several quick short calls, and, to our surprise, out from the grass growing at the base of the rocks appeared seven little fellows; they peered this way and that as if looking for an enemy. Finally, deciding all was well, they became very talkative and began to hop up the rocks until they were all with their proud daddy. Looking very well pleased at his little charges, he gave a quick signal, and they all disappeared into the clump of fir trees. We had indeed been quite fortunate to have witnessed one of the seldom seen little incidents that are regular occurrences in the forests and mountain meadows.

Our feathered friends having left us, we proceeded along the trail, enjoying the display given by the mountain Lupines and the beautiful *Cassiope Mertensiana*. The latter seems to be more at home on the north slopes, where there is more moisture and shade during the heat of the day. (I might add that we have had good luck with this plant in our Gardens when it is planted in at least shade, not deep shade, for the hot afternoons). Growing with great abandonment and clinging to large boulders was that good carpenter, *Luetkea pectinata*; the plants were in good form and blooming very well indeed.

We now had arrived on the steeper section of the meadow. My companions chose the lower deer path, while I climbed to the base of the cliffs and proceeded as a mountain goat would on such a strewn mass of rocks. I had hoped to find some choice plant specimens growing in the crevices and in small pockets; while a few were located, to my disappointment I found not a single plant different from others I had seen in other locales. However, the climb was most interesting and I do believe that the cliffs on the north, which I did not explore,

will prove to have plants that are valuable for our gardens ; these will require a full day's work and we hope that the summer of '54 will provide that day. Before reaching the north exposures I had to abandon my climb and descend to my companions, as time would not permit further study that day on the high cliffs. The afternoon was passing too quickly for stopping long at any one location, for we did have some distance to walk before we had completed the circle, and thus arrived back at our parked car.

The trail was now becoming quite steep, rocks were strewn about in all directions, our travelling was definitely slowed ; however, we did not mind, for this gave us further opportunities to admire the many dwarfed trees that were struggling for an existence on the rocky slope ; these included gnarled groups of *Pinus albicaulis*, *Abies lasiocarpa*, and *Abies nobilis (procera)*. The white flowered *Cassiope Mertensiana* greatly enjoyed these surroundings, for it was growing everywhere it was possible for it to send roots ; there were huge mats and also tiny plants pushing their small rootlets into thin cracks in the rocks and sending the heather-like foliage cascading down the surfaces of the boulders ; what a marvellous display was on exhibit of this pretty mountain lover.

All too soon we were back at the timber-line and walking through groves of fir and the beautiful mountain hemlock, *Tsuga Mertensiana*. Here our trail disappeared ; our deer friends upon reaching this point had each taken a different course. However, it was quite evident that we must take a south-westerly direction ; this we did and after half an hour's walk through the incensed forests, we arrived at the side of our silent machine.

We had returned in ample time to witness a glorious sunset !

The bright sun was slipping his beaming countenance behind the purpling range, painting the snow and ice-covered glaciers of Mt. Rainier, in the distance, with a warm flush of pink, while deepening shadows were creeping like silent creatures upon the surface that he had left behind in his slow retreat. A few fleecy clouds, dyed with rose, drifted slowly across the beautifully coloured heavens, hesitating for an instant over distant summits, as if pausing for a rest, only to take up their course and vanish from our vision over the Eastern Range. The faint echoes of cascading waterfalls floated up to us, while songsters near at hand sang their goodnight songs.

A sudden chill enveloped us ; it was the cool mountain air closing down for the night, reminding us that we had best be on our way. It had been a perfect field day, one that we should long remember, and surely many a happy memory would come to us as we anticipated our next venture into the high meadows of the Cascade Mountains.

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A Small Rock Garden

AN ACCOUNT OF ITS PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

By DAVID LIVINGSTONE

IN 1952 when I took up the growing of rock plants again after a break of two years, I decided not to grow them in pots and pans as I had done for almost twenty years, but to plant them out in my newly acquired garden on the east side of Edinburgh.

The size of the rock garden was limited by the fact that I wished to grow other flowers and vegetables, and a space approximately 16 feet by 12 feet was allocated to it. There was no natural site for it and, as my wife and I did not wish the rock garden to obtrude upon the rest of the garden, we decided that a rock bed would serve our purpose best. Our little rock garden therefore does not rise above the surrounding garden to a height greater than 18 inches. It sits four square to the points of the compass, being bound on the north and east by a concrete path, by a rose bed to the south and by the boundary fence between my garden and my neighbour's to the west. My neighbour grows fruit trees which cast a shadow from about 5 p.m. at the height of the summer over the rock garden nearest to the fence, and this part has proved a good spot for certain of the *Petiolarid Primulas*. The site was double dug and a goodly quantity of stones, in which the garden abounds, were incorporated. The rock garden was then constructed in the usual way, using the local stone collected from the lower slopes of Arthur's Seat. The biggest of them I was able to lift only with very great difficulty and they are buried to about two-thirds their depth. The compost everywhere in the rock bed was made up of equal parts of garden soil which is rather light loam and Sesame Compound. Where the needs of a plant demand something else, its requirements are met by the incorporation of whatever is necessary—more sand, chips, etc. The finished rock bed is in two mounds with a slight dip between them forming what is known in rock garden literature as "a valley" !

In the selection of plants, three things had to be borne in mind :—

- (1) there should be a reasonable show of colour ;
- (2) the flowering season should extend over the greater part of the year ;
- (3) there must be a corner here and there for some of the rarer plants which I had grown in the Alpine house and which I felt might with reasonable care be grown out of doors.

This may seem a tall order for such a small garden, but in the event I have been able to accommodate some 200 different kinds with a total number of plants in the region of 700.

These notes are written in the hope that they may be of some use to new members of the Club in suggesting plants that may be grown

in a small rock garden to provide a variety of interest over the greater part of the year. So many books published on rock gardens seem to presume that most people interested in that kind of gardening have a miniature estate in which to work ; that may have been true once upon a time, but now the suburban back or front garden is more likely to be all that the enthusiastic rock gardener has. Here then is my diary on the flowering of my plants in 1954 :—

3rd January : The new year was heralded today by the opening of one of the largest of the *Crocus* species—*C. imperati* from Italy. The outer petals are a pale buff with purple feathering and these open in the sun to display deep lilac flowers. A warm sunny position seems to satisfy this species and most of the other crocuses. Perhaps I should add here that this one continued to throw up odd flowers from my six corms until 15th March and then set a goodly quantity of seed which has been sown around the parent plants.

15th February : There was a long gap before any of the other crocuses braved the elements, not that this winter has been very severe. The next to appear were two forms of *Crocus chrysanthus* from Asia Minor. They were E.A. Bowles and Moonlight. The former is a fine deep yellow and the latter, as the name perhaps indicates, a pale yellow. Both have large flowers and can be relied upon—as can the other forms of *C. chrysanthus*—to produce a fine display each year. Amongst the flowers of C.c. Moonlight I noticed a rogue ; this one had very pretty off-white flowers—not white enough for that excellent form “Snow Bunting.” I lifted it and replanted it as its flowering period was coming to an end and I was surprised to find that the one corm had had thirteen flowers. The orange-red stamens against the off-white colour of the petals made a very striking contrast when the flowers were open.

17th February : *Crocus Sieberi* from Greece opened its smallish, soft purple-blue flowers today. This is quite a distinct species and its flowers are enhanced by a shading of orange at the bottom of the petals. Seeds which I had scattered around the original corms in the previous year have come up like grass.

Narcissus asturiensis from Spain, which is sometimes shown in catalogues as *minimus*, opened its little miniature daffodil flowers on three-inch stems. I have this growing in a part of the rock garden covered over with grey whinstone chips which prevent the rain splashing soil on to the low-growing plants such as this daffodil. This miniature narcissus seems to be quite easy in full sun here in Edinburgh provided it is left undisturbed.

22nd February : Two more crocuses are now in flower—*C. chrysanthus fuscotinctus* and *C. balansae*. The former is one of the less exciting forms of *chrysanthus*. It has heavy brown stripes on yellow on the outer petals and yellow-orange in the inside. The open flowers are quite pretty but they are rather dull when closed. The same

description almost fits the latter as well, except that the inner petals are bright orange and the flowers are very tiny. I rather like this one and have it growing through the carpeter *Raoulia glabra*.

23rd February : Yet another crocus is in flower—*C. Tommasinianus* from Serbia. This one is variable but mostly the flowers are pale lavender, long and narrow and rather ghost-like. It is very prolific with its seeds and self-sown seedlings pop up in the most unexpected places.

26th February : And now a crocus which I think has no place in the rock garden—at least it is going out of mine and into a flower border—*C. vernus* “Vanguard.” This is as big and bloated as any Dutch crocus and is of a silver-grey colour.

Primula Juliana “Iris Mainwaring” is the first of this type of primrose to show its flowers this year. It is said that in common with the others of this type, they need some shade and lots of water, but with me some nine or ten varieties are doing well in full sun. Each of them, however, has been planted where the roots are able to find easily the cool protection of rocks. Sometimes the leaves wilt in very hot sun but quickly pick up again and the plants do not seem to suffer. This variety has darkish foliage and pale lilac flowers with a yellow eye. Sparrows are very fond of these primroses and steps should be taken to give them some protection—black thread on wreath wires serves the purpose.

13th March : *Iris reticulata* is now scenting the air with its deep violet flowers marked with orange on the falls. The dry bulbs are inexpensive—one multiple store sells them at 2d each—and they amply repay the expenditure of a shilling or two. Five of the six bulbs planted last autumn have flowered and there are four or five flowers on a group of six left in the ground from the previous year. This iris should be planted where it will be well baked by the sun. *Iris histrioides*, an earlier blue version of *Iris reticulata*, must grace my rock garden before another year. It is more expensive, but what a wonderful sight it makes in February.

Saxifraga lilacina, the little Kabschia from the Himalayas, with lavender-lilac flowers borne on very short stems, is also out. This is one of the few exceptions to the rule that Kabschia Saxifrages like lime. This one thrives on small pieces of sandstone and, so it is said, partial shade, but mine in an open portion has been exposed to a good deal of sun without harm. Can it be that this saxifrage is satisfied if its roots are sheltered from the sun by a rock as this one is? This plant is ornamental throughout the year as it has a silver-grey cushion.

16th March : The white flowers of *Primula Juliana* “Snow White” are showing today, but my plan of contrasting this one with P.J. “Old Port”—as the name indicates, a wine coloured one—

has failed so far, but perhaps the latter will be in flower before "Snow White" is over.

20th March : The plum purple flowers of *Saxifraga* "Riverslea" have made their eagerly awaited appearance. Although classified as a *Kabschia* Saxifrage, its rosettes indicate that one of its parents belonged to the *Engleria* section. This plant is wonderful in foliage with its hummock of lime-encrusted grey leaves, and really handsome in flower. I grew this one twenty-four years ago and am glad to be growing it still. The "Glory of the Snow," *Chionodoxa Luciliae*, from Asia Minor, is now in full flower. Its blue flowers with white eyes brighten the whole place and seem to reflect the very skies. This bulbous plant is not exacting in its demands. A good soil and a fair amount of sunshine and it will keep popping up year after year. Self-sown seeds germinate readily and give a good means of increase.

From now on my fairly extensive collection of primulas will be coming into flower. Today the blue of that wonderful petiolarid *P. bhutanica* is showing. The flowers are beautifully frilled, as large as half-a-crown, and a clear light blue with a white zone. This section of primulas needs a soil retentive of moisture such as the John Innes Potting Compost, good quick drainage and some shade from the direct rays of the summer suns. As explained earlier, they get some of this shade from my neighbour's fruit trees, and if the sun is really fierce, I place slats in wire holders over them—not very attractive, perhaps, but it is well worth the trouble to witness such a splendid display of flowers in spring.

P. Juliana hybrids brighten the scene today : "E. R. Janes," one of the smallest forms with flame coloured flowers, is perhaps the best of all this tribe. The other in flower is "Romeo"; it has deep lilac-pink flowers. It is a strong grower and in the small garden must be divided every year to keep it within proportions. This is best done immediately after flowering. My plant this year caused considerable excitement amongst my neighbours, one of whom referred to it as "a bride's bouquet."

22nd March : Primula "Pandora," another petiolarid, is showing its large pink-mauve flowers. This is a hybrid raised by Mrs. C. B. Saunders of Farnborough, Kent. In some areas it will come into flower before Christmas and I have known it to continue to bloom for a period of some three months.

26th March : The lilac-pink petiolarid primula, *P. scapeosa*, which I consider to be one of the easiest and best of this section, is in flower today. It is good tempered and throws off many sets which can easily be brought to the flowering stage within a year. It also throws a vegetative bud at the end of the flowering scape similar to one of its parents, *P. bracteosa*. (My twenty plants, although they were young and carried only a few flowers each, made a very bright patch later when they were at their best). This hybrid was raised by one of our Club members, Mr. R. B. Cooke of Corbridge.

A tiny Asiatic primula is also in flower today, *P. Clarkei*. It has pink flowers borne singly or in fours or fives on a two-inch stem. Very often the flowers are out before the leaves begin to develop. This species will stand quite a bit of shade and it must not be allowed to dry out during its growing season. It is easily propagated by division after flowering and it can be increased from seed which is set sparingly for everybody I know except Mrs. Boyd-Harvey ! She seems remarkably successful, not only in getting the seed to set, but in raising seedlings which are to be found in a good number of gardens, including my own. Another patch of *Primula Juliana* hybrids is in full flower. They are Pp.J. "Mrs. Neave," "Lingwood Beauty" and "Old Port." The two first named are red and I can see little difference between them except that "Lingwood Beauty" seems to flower more freely. Since P.J. "Old Port" is now in flower, I have the contrast of the white and dark wine coloured flowers that I aimed for. The colour contrast pleases me, but I would wish that the flowers of P.J. "Old Port" were not quite so ragged.

28th March : The purple saxifrage of our Scottish mountains is showing its little purple flowers. I believe in nature *Saxifraga oppositifolia* is to be found mostly on north facing slopes in wet places, but with me it is doing very nicely on the northern side of my rock bed in full sun. *S.o. latina* has wider and more cup-shaped flowers than the ordinary species, but my plant of it is still tiny, and although thriving has not yet flowered.

4th April : This is the month of European primulas. Two natural hybrids with the same parentage, *P. Bileckii* and *Forsteri*, have unfolded their comparatively large flowers. The former inclines towards magenta, but it is a charming plant withall. The largest of my four plants has thirteen or fourteen flowers the size of a half-crown covering the whole plant so that no foliage is visible. *P. Forsteri* is a pleasant pink, but its flowers are not quite so symmetrical, each petal being deeply cut. Both are comparatively easy in a good loam or John Innes compost and make neat little hummocks of nicely serrated leaves.

6th April : Another choice European primula is in full flower, *P. Berninae* "Windrush variety." It has little cluster heads of very large deep pink flowers. Give it a choice position and apart from removing dead and withered leaves leave it alone until it requires to be broken up. *P. hyacinthia*, a blue hybrid raised by Mr. G. H. Berry, is also in bloom. Its flowers are really blue and, as the plant is a vigorous grower without being intrusive, it is well worth a place in the small rock garden. Another of the petiolarid primulas has opened, *P. gracilipes*, in the shaded corner of the rock garden. At this stage its leaves are partially covered with a yellow farina and its lilac-pink flowers with their yellow eyes nestle close on the foliage. The flowers are comparatively large and their contrast with the blue of the *P. bhutanica* next to them is very pleasing but, I must confess, accidental.

- 7th April : I have been waiting eagerly for the unfolding of the flowers of *P. clusiana*. I am amazed at the number of flowering stems showing on my six little clumps. The flowers are pink with just a hint of magenta in them which some people find objectionable. I do not share their objections because the magenta is relieved by a white eye. The flowers are borne two to five on two-inch stems. (After flowering I counted the spent flower heads on one clump which is about two inches across : there were sixty-five, a number which more than surprised me). The plants are facing south-east, are between two rocks, and get a good baking from the sun. I once read a note by Farrer in which he said that this species was tolerant of more sun than he could bring to bear. In its native habitat it is exposed to the full rays of the sun. Major-General Murray-Lyon has given me a piece of *P. clusiana*, the original of which I gave him some years ago, and he tells me that it is a much better form than this very free flowering one I now have. I only hope that it flowers half as freely ! (See Fig. 30).
- 8th April : *P. pubescens* alba has opened its cluster heads of small white flowers. This one is said to need more shade than the other members of the *P. pubescens* tribe, but here it is thriving well in full sun. It is, however, on the north facing side of the rock garden and its roots are close against a rock which I suppose serves the purpose of keeping it cool. Its little cabbage-like rosettes of leaves are smothered with sweet-scented flowers and flower buds. *P. "Ethel Barker,"* another of the smaller growing primulas, is covered with large magenta flowers. This is a hybrid, having *P. Allionii* as one of its parents, and its habit of growth is somewhat similar. It has a happier constitution than its parent and is growing well in a part of the rock garden which is liberally covered with grey whinstone chips and exposed to the sun all day long—when it shines, which has been seldom this summer !
- 11th April : Another eagerly awaited event has happened : *P. aureata** has begun to unfold its tremendous yellow and orange flowers above its heavily mealed leaves. I have seventeen plants in a group and fourteen or fifteen of them are about to flower. Later there were over fifty flowers open at the one time. The plants are on the north facing side and in that part shaded by my neighbour's apple trees. This Asiatic primula requires the same treatment as the other petiolarids already mentioned. Close by it, but receiving a good deal more sun, are *P. frondosa* and *P. marginata* "Pritchard's variety," two Europeans. They too have begun to flower, the former having little cluster heads of smallish pink flowers and the latter large purple ones which are strongly scented. *P. "Marven"* is also in bloom. It too has purple flowers but they are smaller than those on *P. marginata* "Pritchard's variety" and of a deeper shade. The cluster of flowers is, however, usually much larger and there is a very pronounced white eye which enhances the flower. This primula has silver margined leaves showing its relation to *P. marginata*.

*(See Fig. 31).

Yet another European primula species is in flower, a yellow one with a white eye, *P. auricula albo-cincta*. It has also handsome leaves covered with white meal. It is perfectly easy in any reasonable compost.

14th April : A little cushion plant with masses of white flowers on short stems, *Draba dedeana* has unfolded its beauty today. The green rosettes are ornamental throughout the year and as it grows fairly slowly it is an ideal plant for associating with other small growing things like *Kabschia saxifrages*. And now to a really wonderful European hybrid primula raised by Clarence Elliott, P. "Barbara Barker," which also has *P. marginata* blood in it, but it lacks the silver edge to its leaves. However, it has very large symmetrical flowers of cool lavender pink and is a serious rival to P. "Linda Pope," which is perhaps better known and whose flowers are somewhat similar. P. "Barbara Barker" is, I believe, a much better doer. My plants get a fair amount but not full sun and they are growing and flowering well. This too is an ideal plant for the small rock garden—even a smaller one than mine—and it is not exacting in its requirements.

15th April : Another old favourite has unfolded its one-and-a-half inch long pale lilac-mauve trumpets. *Rhododendron pemakoense* from the Himalayas is a fine little dwarf, never exceeding eight to twelve inches in height. It grows but slowly and is never likely to attempt to oust something else. In any event, if it did, it will stand gentle pruning with a pair of nail scissors ! Give its roots the shelter of a rock, no lime and good peaty soil.

Draba rigida bryoides, another little cushion plant rather like a moss which is pretty all the year round, is smothered with little sprays of yellow flowers. I have this one growing too in that part of the garden covered with chips. Perhaps I should make it clear that though this part is covered with chips it is not a moraine or scree. The stones are simply there to prevent splashing of small growing plants and besides, they set off these little cushion plants. I am not sure yet whether I shall eventually cover the whole rock garden with whinstone chips. I feel that the plants look so well against the grey background, but against that one had to balance the inconvenience caused by the stones when top-dressing with soil.

The next to flower is a little narcissus which I think may be incorrectly named. It came to me as *N. triandrus pulchellus*. It has thin leaves and borne upon five or six inch stems, two or three typical *N. triandrus* flowers—little drooping cups with reflexed perianths. My flowers are pale cream, but I cannot make up my mind whether the perianth and the cup are the same shade—one factor which would help to decide whether it is correctly named or not. In any case any of the *N. triandrus* forms or varieties is worth its place in the small rock garden.

(To be continued).

Winter Flowering Plants and Shrubs—Part 2

By J. T. WALL

WINTER FLOWERS

I SHOULD really start this section with "Winter aconites" but keeping strictly to botanical names, it will have to be *Anemone Hepatica triloba*. These in blue, white or pink forms are liable to send up their lovely flowers during any mild spell from December to March. They are good showy plants and will stand quite a lot of shade ; in the wild they are found growing beneath scrub or in light woodland. Like the Hellebores, they need a lime soil.

ANEMONE PULSATILLA in whatever form you have it is very showy, with rich purple, ruby or white large flowers from February to April. There is a delightful pink form when it can be obtained true to its name, "Mrs. Van der Elst." This is all too often raised from seed which flowers a washy pink lilac.

ANEMONE CORONARIA in the highly developed horticultural strains such as St. Brigid, St. Bavo, Creigh Castle, are most colourful flowers, and by planting in succession may be had in flower from November to May, especially in the warmer parts of these Islands.

HACQUETIA EPIACTIS, more of interest to the specialist, is a pretty little umbelliferous plant with golden yellow flowers on one-two inch stalks, like a very miniature *Astrantia*. It is easy, needing no special care, saving freedom from drought. It flowers from January to March, and a good sized clump can be quite showy. Europe.

HELLEBORUS NIGER is the true "Christmas Rose," and very showy it is too, with large white-green shaded flowers which in some forms, notably *H. niger altifolius*, can be flushed in bud and reverse of petal with pink in varying degrees. This species is found in Eastern Europe and W. Asia and varies greatly in form and time of flowering. For the best display the plants should be mulched in November with dry, fresh leaves and covered with a cloche with a little air always on ; long stems and clean flowers result.

HELLEBORUS ODORUS PURPURESCENS is the purple "Christmas Rose," with three or more semi-pendant flowers on 12-15 inch stems. There is some doubt of the veracity of this name ; it is also offered as *H.O. atrorubens*. Whatever it is, the plant never fails to flaunt its gay flowers before Christmas, a habit more credited to *H. Colchicum*, which it might well be.

The Helleborus like a cool, good rich soil with lime, and hate disturbance.

HELLEBORUS CORSICUS, somewhat tender with steely grey foliage and white, green flushed flowers in large heads of twenty or so, needs correct planting in full sun and perfect drainage. It is a most striking plant. *H. lividus* resembles this in some way, but is not so robust ; the two species hybridize freely.

HELLEBORUS FOETIDUS and *H. viridis* are native British plants for the shady corner ; the greenish flowers come in February to April.

IBERIS, the shrubby candytufts, should possibly have been under the tree section ; some of these such as *I. petraea*, *garrexiana* and *saxatilis* may flower off and on through the winter. *I. semperflorens*, as the name denotes, flowers in the winter, from November to March ; it will probably need a sheltered sunny wall or a cold house to keep its showy white flowers undamaged. It can form a bush 15-18 inches high, and as much through, a most spectacular bush in January. From the S. Mediterranean regions.

IRIS STYLOSA, or UNGUICULARIS to be correct, is a fine winter flowering Mediterranean and N. African plant giving a display from January to April. The flowers are best picked in the bud and opened indoors ; they are lilac, purple-blue or white. Plant hard against a sunny wall in all but the warmest parts of the country—the reflected heat and extra drainage aids their summer ripening. There is a lovely white form and many geographical forms ; *I.U. speciosa*, and *I.U. cretensis*, sometimes given specific rank, are very good.

OMPHALODES verna in blue or white forms will commence to flower in February and carry on to April or May. It is a great ramper and needs elbow room ; there is nothing better to cover a steep bank beneath trees. It has a wide distribution over S. Europe.

PETASITES FRAGRANS can be a weed and should only be planted where it can ramp at will over some waste bank ; in February the pale mauve heads of flowers will make rich amends with delightful fragrance for the coarse voluminous foliage. It is naturalised in Britain.

PRIMULA EDGEWORTHII, a choice plant, will often put forth its nearly lilac or white flowers in February ; indeed, I saw a fine colony in the Valley Gardens, Harrogate, gaily flowering on New Year's Eve. The rarer and more tender *P. megasaeiflora*, and the better known *P. denticulata* and *rosea*, can be as adventurous. The first two are not easy to keep.

RANUNCULUS calandrinoides is a true winter flower from the Atlas Mountains, with steely blue leaves and white, pink flushed, buttercups on 6-9 inch stems. It flowers in January and needs protection, otherwise the flowers are soon spoilt. There is a deal of variation in the plant and some indifferent forms are to be found.

SATUREIA REPANDA is a low prostrate plant with flowers of pure whiteness resembling giant Thyme flowers ; they are showy, sweet scented and beloved of bees from October to November. They need limy soil and full sun ; a dry bank or stone wall suits them admirably.

Saxifraga or what is now known as Bergenia have two species, *B. speciosa* and *B. Stracheyi*, that produce good pink and white blushing flowers respectively in February. The former makes a good edging plant and the latter is best in edge of woodland or beneath a shrub.

SCHIZOSTYLIS or KAFFIR Lily may be considered winter flowering. If it escapes severe frosts in October the flowers in spikes of pink or red will continue well into November. (To be continued).

Some Favourites—Part 2

By W. C. B.

RHODODENDRON PUMILUM, which would be my first choice as a small Rhododendron for the rock garden, was first recorded by Sir Joseph Hooker, but it was Kingdon Ward who introduced it to cultivation. He gave a most vivid description of it in one of his books, calling it his pink baby. When one sees a well-grown plant smothered with its little shell-pink flowers it is a sight not easily forgotten. The Rhododendron Association Hand Book dismisses it with scant comment ; they must never have seen a good specimen or else they don't know a good plant when they see one. Ludlow and Sherriff sent home seed of it from their Bhutan expedition and I am looking forward to seeing it in flower this spring. *R. Ludlowii* is, I believe, a yellow form of *R. pumilum* ; I got a present of a plant from a very kind friend and am eagerly looking forward to seeing it in flower also this spring. What a glorious companion it should make for *R. pumilum*. I hope it upholds the name of this great collector.

RHODODENDRON CREBREFLORUM belongs to the Cephalanthum Series and, like the last, has pink flowers. I don't think it is just as good a plant as *R. pumilum*. The Rhododendron Association think highly of it, for they give the maximum number of stars in their Hand Book. It appreciates some granite chips mixed with the soil and is one of the easiest Rhododendrons to propagate, as it suckers freely, just like a *Pernettya*.

RHODODENDRON IMPERATOR. Mr. Cox in an article in one of the *Journals* says it is not worth the name and is difficult to cultivate. Don't you believe it, dear readers. Like all the rest of these small ericaceous plants, it will not tolerate dryness at the roots during dry, hot weather. It is a mat-forming species and is a glorious sight in May with its numerous, rosy-red flowers.

RHODODENDRON DIDYMUUM belongs to the Sanguineum Series and will in time reach two feet or so in height. It is a pretty sight in May when covered with its black crimson flowers. It is the only Rhododendron of that series that flowers at comparatively early age from seed.

RHODODENDRON IMPEDITUM PYGMAEUM belongs to the Lapponicum Series and is a very small form of *R. impeditum*. Never more than four inches high, and of pincushion-like habit, it simply smothers itself with violet-purple flowers. The late W. J. Marchant called it the bunch of violets.

RHODODENDRON NITENS just misses being one of the best of all the small Rhododendrons. Its deep pink flowers have a touch of magenta in them but it is quite a pretty little plant all the same, and as it does not flower till the middle of July is all the more valuable on that account.

TROCHOCARPA THYMIFOLIA, a native of Australia, is wonderfully hardy considering its habitat. Here it has survived over 20 degrees of frost with only slight damage to the tips of its branches. It is shy in producing its dark pink flowers, but it is the best dwarf foliage shrub I know. It is beautiful at all times of the year with its small oval, sharply-pointed, reddish-tinted leaves.

PERNETTYA NANA I think is the smallest of all the Pernettyas. When not in flower or fruit it might easily be taken for some form of thyme. It is a fine little plant with its pink-tinted flowers and reddish-pink fruit. It suckers freely, like most Pernettyas. Rabbits have an intense liking for it.

VACCINIUM MOUPINENSE. It would be difficult to pick out the best species from such a beautiful race, but I think my choice would be *V. moupinense*. It is a fine sight in May and June with its vivid red-tinted young foliage and chocolate-red flowers.

TAUSIOPHYLLUM TANAKAE. We are indebted to Japan for this beautiful little shrub. It belongs to the Ericaceae and will in time grow to at least a foot high. It is very slow-growing, however, and will take many years to reach that size. It is a fine sight in June when covered with its white, faintly tinted pink, flowers.

ARCTERICA NANA is sometimes called *Pieris nana* and also comes from Japan. It is a very tiny ericaceous plant only an inch or so high and is at its best in May when covered with its small Lily of the Valley-like flowers ; but it flowers on and off all the season.

ORPHANIDESIA GAULTHERIOIDES. This relative of the Epigaeas has been known since 1866. It was first discovered by Balansa in that year growing in the valley of the Kalopatamus, a small stream running into the Black Sea, but I think it was E. K. Ball who introduced it to cultivation (correct me if I am wrong) a few years before the War. My plants were raised from seed and flowered in their fourth year. It is one of the jewels of all the Ericaceae with its big pale-pink flowers two inches across. It likes semi-shade and is quite prostrate.

Ferns have always been a sadly neglected race by rock gardeners. I don't know why, as nothing can give character to a rock garden as a few of these little plants can do. Many of you will be familiar with some of the more common (though none the less beautiful) kinds, such as Beech, Oak, Parsley, etc., but I would like to say something about the lesser-known ones in the hope that it will help to make these much neglected plants more popular.

CYSTOPTERIS MONTANA is one of our rarest British ferns ; and I think I am right in saying it has only two stations in the British Isles—Ben Lawers, where it was once fairly plentiful, and the Clova mountains. I have never been to Clova so have never seen it there. It looks just like the bracken reduced to three inches in height and is at its best in the autumn when its fronds turn russet-red.

CYSTOPTERIS FRAGILIS VAR. REGIA. Most readers have probably seen *C. fragilis*, but its var. *regia* is without doubt the most graceful of all small hardy ferns. Its fronds are like delicate lace done by the hand of a fairy. It is a doubtful native, the only well-authenticated record of it being at Leyton in Essex over a hundred years ago, but it has ceased to exist there now. It is, however, widely distributed over Europe, but always rare.

CYSTOPTERIS FRAGILIS VAR. CRISPA is a dwarf crispate form of *C. fragilis* and is almost as good as *C. regia*. Both these little ferns should be in every garden.

ASPLENIUM VIRIDIS, the Green Spleenwort, is widely distributed in our native mountains, but never common. It closely resembles the more common *A. Trichomanes* except for its green stems. Very much smaller, it is almost evergreen.

ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES VAR. INCISUM is a form of the common *A. Trichomanes* and is an exceedingly beautiful variety with plumose, deeply incised pinnae.

ASPLENIUM SEPTENTRIONALE is one of our most distinct native ferns—unlike all other Aspleniums with its forked fronds and linear segments. It is widely distributed throughout the British Isles, but always rare. At one time it was fairly plentiful on Arthur's Seat. It is evergreen.

ASPLENIUM GERMANICUM, the Alternate-leaved Spleenwort, is another very distinct native and always rare. It is usually found growing along with *A. ruta-muraria* (the Wallrue) and *A. Trichomanes* and is thought to be a hybrid between these two species, being mid-way between them.

WOODSIA SCOPULORUM comes from the U.S.A. and is very near our native *W. alpina* and *W. ilvensis*, all beautiful little ferns which grow in the fissures of rocks in bleak high mountains. I have not got our own two native Woodsias at the moment: they were lost when I came to this garden. I hope to make a trip to some of our high mountains in the near future in search of them again, but when one gets past their middle sixties the "braes get a wee steeper, and the step a wee shorter."

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Introduction to a Scots Gardener

By R. E. COOPER

TO THE wife of James Macnab, farmer at Knockcavish in Dailly parish, Ayrshire, there was born a son on 12th August 1780, one of a family of twelve, who was named William. During his boyhood he helped his father at farm work and among his boyhood friends was John, his senior by two years, the son of a well-to-do Dailly family named Thomson. In 1801 William went to London to gain further insight into his profession, and lived at Kew. Here he found himself within a circle where the personal influence of King George the Third was dominant. The King took great interest in the Volunteer movement of the time, particularly in that current of it which affected the area in or about his Kew domain. William attracted the royal attention, for it was said that the King, struck by his appearance, said that he ought to be in the army.* He was in the Corps of Kew Volunteers at the time and was serving with a Sergeant Thomas Christopher Hofland, properly engaged as an artist working in landscape. William also dabbled a little with the brush and they became friends in an artistic circle. He was to become an intimate member of it for he married a niece of Hofland's mother, a girl named Elizabeth Whiteman. By this time his boyhood friend John Thomson of Dailly was now a minister and had taken up painting as a hobby, essaying landscape.

Through the growing appreciation of the work of the painter John Constable (elected R.A. in 1829) landscape painting was attracting much attention in artistic circles). Now Constable and also William's friend John were both close students of nature, enthralled with the play of light and movement in her everyday scenes and using them as a unifying force in their pictures ; applying closely the correct relationship between broad effects and *minutiae*. Constable had said that he never saw an ugly thing for "let the form be what it may, light, shade and perspective will make it beautiful." William came from that county of lovely countryside, Carrick, and could appreciate the statement thoroughly.

In May of 1810 William returned north to take up work in Edinburgh. His friend, with whom he had kept in touch by letter, had come to live at Duddingston a few years before, and was nearby. Their old friendship was renewed and, becoming intimate, continued that way until that celebrated divine, Thomson of Duddingston, Scotland's renowned landscape painter, died in 1840.

Such friends in such a background must have affected the approach to his work of William Macnab. It was excellent work. He had been apprenticed to gardening at the age of sixteen with Mr. Kennedy of Dunure, at Dalquharran in Carrick. After three years he went to the gardens of the Earl of Haddington at Tynningham in East Lothian.

*Notes R.B.G., Edin. Vol. III No. XV, March 1908.

He went to the Royal Gardens at Kew in 1801 with a recommendation to William Aiton. In 1803 he succeeded William Kerr (the introducer of the double form of *Kerria japonica* from China) as foreman there and became its leading spirit. In a letter to William Kerr, Canton, dated April 29th, 1806 (which is a delight to read for its range) he says : "I still remain at Kew yet. But do not expect to be here much longer ; when I do leave I expect to go a little nearer to you." (Not the first young man wishing to go exploring).

But Dr. Rutherford of the Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh lost his gardener, Mr. Sommerville, early in 1810 and wrote to Kew for a successor. After some discussion over the emoluments which apparently had "to be some shillings below £50 just to avoid the Tax," William Macnab became the gardener at Edinburgh. The garden was then at Leith Walk, but a new site of fourteen acres was acquired at Inverleith (which the garden still occupies) and thither the plants of the garden in Leith Walk were brought during the years 1821 to 1823. The job of moving them was Macnab's.

Using evergreens as key points and employing certain rules whose application is evident in both Constable's and Thomson's paintings, he made a garden so satisfactorily and so charming that its outlines were evident a century afterwards and still exercised their charm. It was my good fortune to discover the manner in which this was done during my service in that garden, now much enlarged, but still holding Macnab's garden as a mounted jewel.

It shows that William Macnab was a landscape gardener of the highest ability and, since I had become one of his successors, it is my humble yet proud duty to endeavour to show how his work was done. I ask the privilege of the Scottish Rock Garden Club to be allowed to do so. His garden is part of the Scottish heritage which the world is delighted to share.

My First Morning at Las Mongie in the Pyrenees

By M. KELLY

WALKING with two members of our party, and a local guide who had offered to show where *Gentiana* grew, I was surprised to see *G. acaulis* and *G. verna* growing side by side.

I most enjoyed the sight of a violet sheet by a rocky stream of many plants of *Pinguicula alpina* with their flat rosettes firmly held in the damp detritus between the rocks.

Later I found a few Crimson flowers showing in the short grass and managed to uproot a plant with a single hooded bloom—this

was eventually named by our expert as *Vicia pyrenaica*. I have since read that the plant is prone to ramp but there was no evidence of this as I never saw another group in bloom.

A favourite plant of many years, but lost recently, was *Trifolium alpinum*, and I was overjoyed to find large clumps on this hill-side. My next plant was *Rhododendron ferrugineum* in full array of colour and its rusty foliage. Then to complete was our emblem, *Dryas octopetala*, and I wished that I would grow my plants so well at home.

Surely a satisfying morning and all within a few minutes' walk of our hotel !

Notes on Cacti Exhibit at Dumfries Show

By M. E. McLELLAN

A FEW notes on some of the "Cacti and Other Succulents" Exhibit at the Dumfries Show in April might be of interest to those who, like myself, find the strange and varied forms of Cacti fascinating, apart from their often very beautiful flowers (see Fig. 33).

The largest plant in the display—centre back in the illustration—is a cristate form of *Echeveria clavifolia* ; practically the whole plant is of cristate form, the closely packed "leaves" are all delicate shades of blue, mauve, pink and grey, and the whole plant very attractive. When I got this *Echeveria* about ten years ago, it was the size of half-a-crown, and was of normal growth. The *Aloe variegata*, to the right is a very good specimen, also ten years old, with six heads of orange/red flowers (previous year it had eight). To the right of it again is a *Mesembryanthemum*—*Oscularia deltoides*, its curious three-cornered grey/green leaves setting off its many little orange-centred mauve daisies very well. *Crassula tetragona*, to the right again, has very insignificant flowers, but its growth is like a small bright green tree, and is quite effective.

To the left of the centre *Echeveria* is a perfect specimen of *Opuntia subulata*, a deep glossy green with strong white spines. The next tall one is the pale green *Aloe mutabilis*. The six-inch pans at each end of the table contain a variety of small cacti which suit each other very well, and have thrived together for three years in the same pans. Next the one at the left is *Aloe mitriformis*, a very handsome plant of dark green with white raised spots on its leaves, each leaf edged with sharp white teeth. There is a good *Echinopsis*, with a neat little family grouped all round it. This plant is in bud now (June), and will soon have a mauve flower 5 to 6 ins. across with long white stamens. They always open first at night, and unfortunately only last about two days, but the plant is strikingly beautiful during that time. Next it is *Crassula*

lycopodioides, tallish plant below the big Echeveria ; it is pale green and pink tipped. Its flowers are so minute that, though crowded all up the stems, they have to be seen through a magnifying glass.

It is impossible to describe all the plants, as it is difficult to pick them out, but there is an interesting plant at the right side of the table near the end, second row from the front—a grafted plant which was brought to me recently from Italy by a friend, and is a perfect example of good grafting ; unfortunately the name has got mislaid. In the front row is a young plant of the rat-tail cactus, *Aporocactus flagelliformis*, which by the way has since had several vivid red fuschia-like flowers ; this was grown from one very small “tail,” otherwise the front row cacti have all been grown from seed ; they are mostly from three to four years old, and all are very healthy and strong. One, *Lobivia Jajoiana*, has just flowered for the first time—quite an event. It had two flowers about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long, salmon pink, with cream stamens and dark brown base and sepals. These lasted one and a half days, though I watched the buds growing for weeks till they reached full size.

The small round pan in the centre front is similar to the Echeveria at the back, but is of normal growth and so will flower. I may be wrong, but so far as I know, when cactus or other succulent plants become of cristate or fasciated growth, they do not flower. I have an *Opuntia* and a *Euphorbia* of this type of growth, and am told they will never flower—they are both utterly unlike their normal kind, and I always have the feeling that they were “made” by Epstein !

The difficulty of packing and conveying rock plants to the Shows are many, but not nearly as many as those encountered packing cactus plants—particularly the spiny varieties. I would like to have taken many more of the *Opuntias*, *Cereus*, *Ferocactus*, and other very spiny types, but their unwieldiness combined with sharp spines, many of which are “hooked” at the business end (very painful to get out of your hands) definitely kept me to the more solid and safer varieties—as it was, I had over 40 plants on the stand—and these, with a lot more plants for showing purposes, plus two people, all got transported the 20 miles to Dumfries, and back, in a small Austin 10 car—quite a feat !

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Two Douglasias

By D. M. MURRAY-LYON

ALL THE species of *Douglasia* but one are North Americans, and the genus is named after David Douglas, a Scot, who collected extensively in N.W. America over 100 years ago. He also gave his name to the Douglas Fir.

The one non-American is *D. vitaliana*, which is found in the Southern Alps from the Pyrenees to Venitia. I cannot improve on Farrer's description : ". . . clothing the rocks and stony patches in loose, flat, spreading masses of rambling greenish-grey shoots, finely narrow and juniperine, and delicately but wholly hidden from view by the profusion of its long-throated, wide-trumpeted flowers . . . like dropped carpets of some smaller yellow jasmine."

Perhaps in our gardens it does not cover itself quite completely with its yellow flowers. It is perfectly hardy, however, here in Edinburgh, and in Perthshire, in scree, without being given any winter protection. The variety *praetitiana* is much freer flowering than the type, and readers may have seen a plant of it at the Glasgow and Dundee Shows this year (April 1954).

D. vitaliana, and in fact all other *Douglasias* to a lesser extent, are akin to *Androsaces*, and at one time this one was known as *Androsace vitaliana*. If you treat it as an Aretian *Androsace* it will be quite happy even if you do water it overhead. It would be a good subject for a trough, or miniature garden, as it is only an inch high, and in spite of Farrer's description it will take quite a time before it spreads more than five or six inches.

The only one of the American species I have grown is *D. laevigata*.* It grows in inch high cushions of glossy green pointed leaves. From these arise in May two-inch stems, each bearing two to four rosy-pink open flowers with yellow eyes. Ordinary scree conditions satisfy it and it is quite free with its flowers. There is a white form of *D. laevigata* which is said to be very attractive, but I have not seen it.

The only other species offered in catalogues, so far as I have noticed, is *D. montana*, whose description reads much like *laevigata*'s. Then there is *D. dentata* with woolly leaves toothed at the ends, and with violet flowers. This last species is not, so far as I know, as yet offered by "the trade," and the woolly leaves may, I think, be taken as warning of possible fussiness about winter wet.

D. vitaliana is said to like lime, but it and *D. laevigata* flower happily with me in an acid scree. Both species may be divided in August and seed may be sown in Spring.

*(See Fig. 34).

Saramati Expedition, 1954-55

MY WIFE and I have just returned from a year's plant hunting in the mountains of North Burma near the sources of the Irrawaddy. The expedition was completely successful. We brought back seed of about 160 species (nearly 40 of them *Rhododendrons*), and an herbarium collection of 1200 species—many of them new. Among the more remarkable discoveries in this hitherto unexplored region were: an epiphytic lily, hardy *Nomocharis*, *Notholirion* (or possibly a new genus of *Liliaceae*), two rare *Conifers*, *Primula*, *Androsace*, alpine ground orchids, *Begonia*, *Clematis*, and many fine *Rosaceae* and *Ericaceae*, including a new rose and six or eight new *Rhododendrons*.

Local conditions being at present favourable, it is our intention to return to Burma in September 1954, in order to explore Saramati. Situated west of the Chindwin valley, in the Naga Hills on the Assam/Burma frontier, Saramati is an outstanding isolated peak of 12,600 feet, covered with snow for four or five months of the year. It has never been explored, and is believed to possess many endemic species. I have had some air photographs taken of Saramati. These show the top of the mountain to be covered with dwarf scrub (including *Rhododendron*), and the lower slopes with cool temperate forest in great variety.

We have been fortunate in receiving much reliable information from the regional Commissioner, who has only just returned from a tour in that area. He reports it free of headhunters, local supplies available, and the Naga tribes co-operative.

It is proposed that we reach a base camp on Saramati in October, and spend the next six or eight weeks collecting seed before the first big snowfalls cover the alpine plants and drive us down to the temperate forest, where seed ripens later than in the alpine region.

Our contacts in Burma are excellent, and we can expect every co-operation from the Union Government and from the Forest Department. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that the political situation in Asia is precarious, and unlikely to improve in the near future. It is obvious, therefore, that our present advantages should be exploited without delay.

It is reliably estimated that expenses will not be far short of £3000. To cover this sum, garden lovers are invited to take up shares in the expedition to any amount, in return for a proportionate share of all seed collected. It is much regretted that, owing to the great labour of distribution among many subscribers, and considerable expense involved, individual subscriptions of less than £100 cannot be accepted.

Cheques should be made payable to: F. Kingdon-Ward (Expedition Account), Lloyds Bank, Ltd., 179 Earls Court Road, London, S.W.5.

At the same time, the name and full address of the subscriber should be sent to: F. Kingdon-Ward, c/o The Keeper of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

It will be of assistance if any correspondence on this subject is marked on the outside of the envelope—SARAMATI EXPEDITION.

F. KINGDON-WARD
J. KINGDON-WARD



Photo—R. E. Cooper

FIG. 25. PRIMULA WHITEI IN LOCUS CLASSICUS—THE PILEY LA, BHUTAN (see page 120)



Photo—E. Mokrenko

FIG. 26. JASMINUM PARKERI ON TOP OF TERRACE WALL (see page 152)



Photo—R. E. Cooper

FIG. 27. PRIMULA SCAPIGERA (see page 122)



FIG. 28. *DIANTHUS ALPINUS* (see page 126)

Photo—D. Wilki



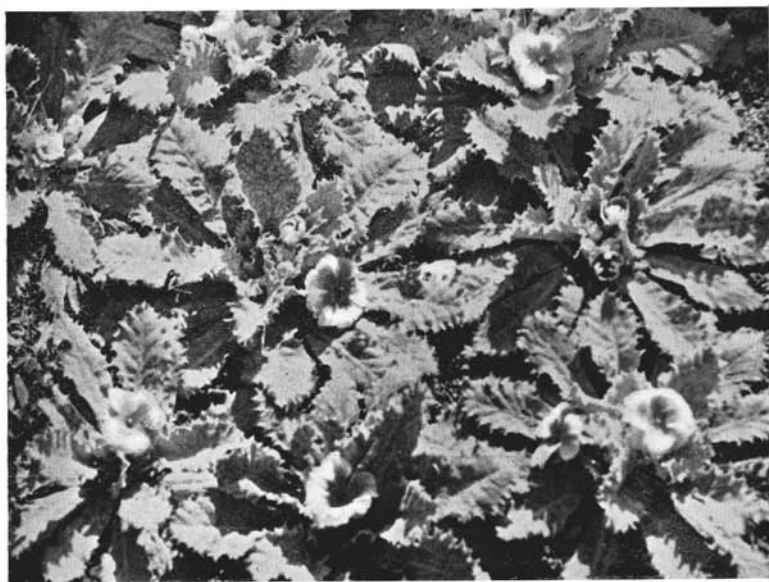
FIG. 29. *DIANTHUS FREYNI* (see page 127)

Photo—D. Wilki



Photo—A. Evans

FIG. 30. PRIMULA CLUSIANA (see page 138)



Photo—A. Evans

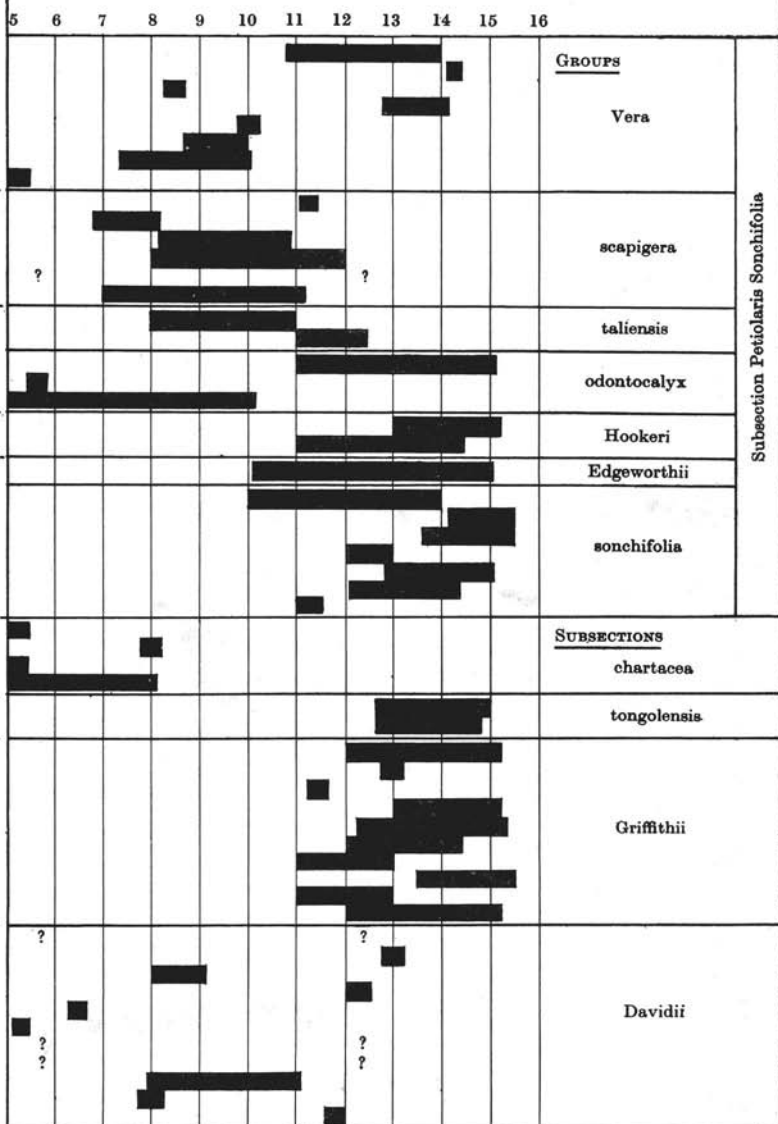
FIG. 31. PRIMULA AUREATA (see page 138)

Range of the species of Petiolares Primulae	West Himalaya	Nepal	Sikkim	Bhutan	S.E. Tibet	Assam	Burma	West China
Cunninghamii								
deuteronana								
Drummondii								
gracilipes								
Hoffmaniana								
petiolaris								
sessilis								
sulphurea								
aureata								
Boothii								
bracteosa								
irregularis								
moupinensis								
scapigera								
comata								
taliensis								
eusma								
odontocalyx								
sinuata								
Hookeri								
vernica								
Edgeworthii								
bhutanica								
chamaedoron								
chamaethauma								
chiogenes								
chionota								
sonchifolia								
Whitei								
chartacea								
lacerata								
Petelotii								
Veitchiana								
pulchra								
tongolensis								
Calderiana								
caltha								
Griffithii								
hilaris								
jucunda								
laeta								
nepalensis								
strumosa								
Tanneri								
tsariensis								
breviscapa								
coerulea								
crassa								
Davidii								
epilosa								
Esquirolii								
fagosa								
hylobia								
Klaveriana								
leptophylla								
ovalifolia								

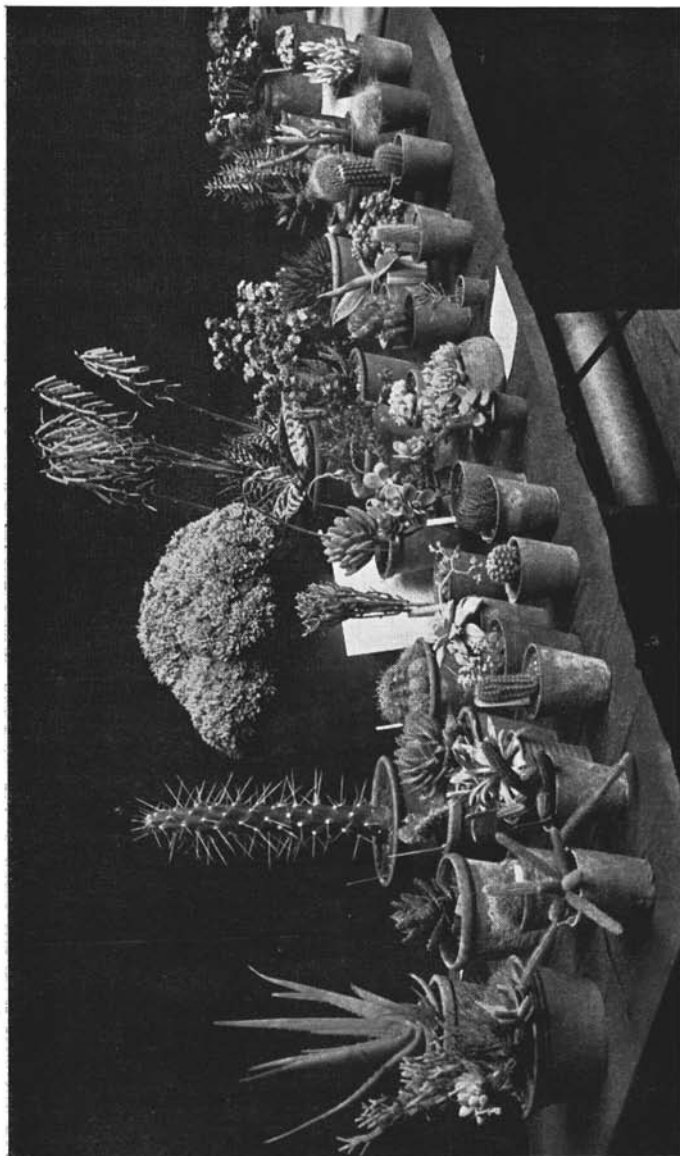
FIG. 32. DIAGRAM SHOWING RA

Altitudinal range of the species of Petiolares Primulae

Height above sea level
in thousands of feet



R. E. Cooper



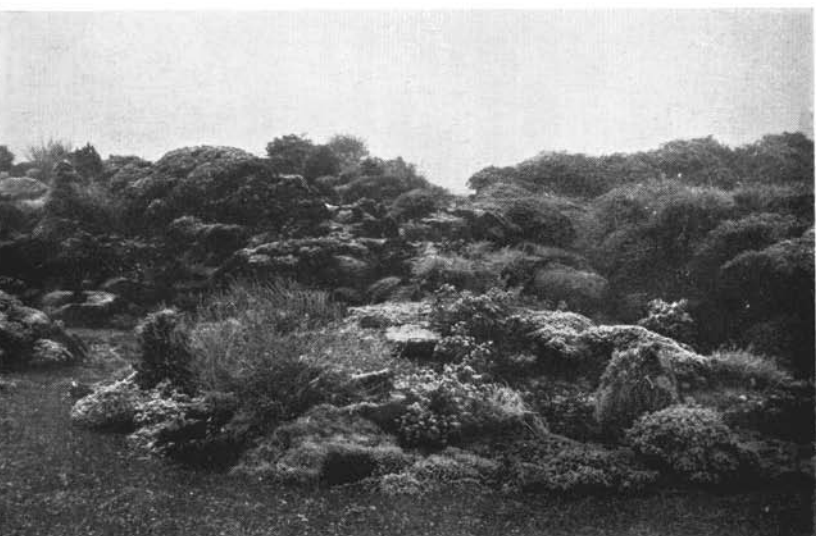
Photo—M. E. McLellan

FIG. 33. CACTI AND SUCCULENTS AT DUMFRIES SHOW (see pages 147 and 159)



Photo—D. Wilkie

FIG. 34. DOUGLASIA LAEVIGATA (*see page 149*)



Photo—R. E. Cooper

FIG. 35. PART OF ROCK GARDEN AT ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH

Plants and Problems

ANATHEMA ?

“J. D.’s OTHERWISE excellent instructions on “How to sow and raise Alpines from seed” ends with the awful warning :—

“*N.B.*—NO HEAT should be used for raising Alpines from seed.”

I am tempted to challenge this statement. It is a very real advantage to get seed to germinate early in the spring so that the resulting plants shall be well established as early as possible. In my experience it is difficult to keep small seedlings through the winter, so why not “sow in heat”? Gentle heat, of course, say a temperature of 60° during February and March.

For the past two years I have adopted this practice with excellent results, placing my seed-pans in an house where tomatoes were being grown. This year there were no tomatoes, and so no heat, and whereas in 1953 44% of all seeds sown had germinated by April 1st, this year the figure was only 15%.

Each year I have sown a wide selection of Irises, Lilies, *Nomocharis*, *Primula*, *Meconopsis* and true alpines at dates varying from February 1st to March 15th. In 1951 and 1953 the seeds included collections from the Nepal Himalaya, and as previously stated the results were excellent.

Here, in Hampshire, I find that late June and July is a difficult period for seedlings. The sun is then strong (or used to be) and the atmosphere very dry, with the result that it is not easy to prevent the top quarter inch of soil in the seed-pans from drying out, and this is quite fatal with small seedlings. So I say : “*N.B.*—When raising Alpines from seed SOW IN GENTLE HEAT,” if you are lucky enough to have it.

Hampshire.

D. L.

CROCKING

WITH REFERENCE to notes on the above subject in the *Journals* for 1952 by “RSM” and “LCBH.”

I adopted “RSM’s” procedure as his logic seemed unassailable. However, I have recently had occasion to knock out quite a number of pots for one reason or another, and have now no doubt whatever that the single crock method does NOT give me as good results as that advised in “all good books on Alpine Plant culture.”

I cannot explain why, but ‘*experientia docet*’ and I shall return to the older practice, at any rate where my more valuable treasures are concerned and where a plant is to remain undisturbed in its pot for any considerable length of time.

Hampshire.

D. L.

***JASMINUM PARKERI—DOES IT EVER FLOWER ?**

I HAVE grown this plant in my alpine house and flowered it, but it has invariably died the following winter. I now have it on top of a rock ledge in the rock garden in ordinary gritty soil, where it has stood the winter well and is looking very happy though it has not yet flowered.
Perthshire.

J. C. D.

JASMINUM PARKERI—"Yes, it does flower." But my plant is in what was once the alpine house but is now chiefly given over to tomatoes. If you have a crazy pavement, why not try a plant in it ? I find that many shy bloomers do far better planted that way with their roots under stones and the plants themselves getting all the sun-heat available.
Ayrshire.

L. S. B.

AN OLD plant of *Jasminum Parkeri*, planted in 1933 in a high pocket overhanging a large stone, now flowers regularly and freely every year and sets quantities of good seed. It is facing south-west and in poor dry soil, and in its earlier years was so shy of flowering that it was several times on the point of being condemned as "tried and found wanting." Now that it has settled down to regular flowering, I never fail to congratulate myself on my procrastination.

Fife.

J. M.

NOT ARF it don't. My plant, now three feet across, was smothered this Spring. Give it good dirt and put the boiler ash on the path.
Maidenhead.

S. B.

OXALES AGAIN

HAVING read with interest the article on Oxales in the *Spring Journal*, I venture to question the desirability of *Oxalis magellanica*, though I do not deny its attractiveness. I acquired it years ago and it very soon infiltrated itself into every established plant in the garden, and there it remains.

Oxalis repens on the other hand I welcome each Spring and find easy to control. I find *enneaphylla* a better plant than *adenophylla* in that its flowers remain open even in dull weather—an asset indeed !
Dunbartonshire.

M. E. G.

PENSTEMONS

THE PENSTEMON is a very large family, but some of them are very useful and pretty in the rock garden in the late summer.

*See Fig. 26.

The following have done well in my garden and added colour and interest when it was most needed. *Penstemon nitidus* is, I consider, a gem. It has narrow silvery leaves, and the colour is a very pure blue. I cannot say that I find this species easy to keep outside in the open in our wet climate, but it will grow in a sunny scree, though I admit with me the alpine house is the best place for it.

Another which I do not often see in other people's gardens is *Penstemon cardinalis*. This species may be considered too tall and straggly for the rock garden, but I have had it towards the back of mine for a good many years, and the red flowers make a cheerful touch of colour at the end of July and the beginning of August.

Two others are newcomers in my garden and are really attractive. One named *Penstemon* sp., flathead-like from Montana, is one with delightful coral-red flowers, with the inside of the trumpets a paler shade, and so far with me this has remained compact and not too tall. The other is *Penstemon diffusus* "Pink form," which is of a brighter and perhaps a cruder pink than the former; this blooms earlier and the flowers appear amongst the leafy stems.

Finally, a great favourite of mine is the shrubby little *Penstemon pinifolius*; this is exceptionally hardy and has survived several winters here quite happily. It is very compact and makes neat little bushes with narrow leaves and flowers of a peculiar orange-scarlet.

Westmoreland.

C. M. C.

PRIMULA CUSICKIANA

THE PLANT shown at Glasgow was one collected by Mrs. A. C. U. Berry of Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., and sent by Air Mail to Scotland a few years ago. Since its arrival here it has not, until this year, done more than produce foliage, though the rootstock of the plant has developed considerably. From all accounts, this *Primula* is invariably shy of flowering under any conditions of garden culture, although when it does so the result compensates for the long delay.

P. Cusickiana, which belongs to the small Section *Parryi*, inhabits in nature high slopes on the mountains of the States of Oregon, Nevada and Idaho in the United States of America. So far it has been found nowhere else. It grows on ground rendered sodden by melting snow in Spring, but which is dried out almost completely by the blazing sun of Summer. To reproduce such conditions in a Scottish garden is quite impossible, and even the cultivation of plants in pots or pans kept in an Alpine house—and this will be the only way with them—is not altogether easy. If there is any trick in growing this *Primula* it almost certainly lies in the correct application of water, in the correct quantities, at the correct time. Experience has shown that plants should never be allowed to dry out completely at any time of the year, though during the period of their lengthy dormancy water must be sparingly given, a discovery which disproves the previously held theory

that water must be with-held altogether once plants have died down. As to a suitable soil mixture for *P. Cusickiana*; the plant exhibited was potted up in a compost consisting of equal parts of loam, leaf-mould and whinstone chips, and this apparently suited it well enough. There is no peculiar merit in whinstone, and any other chips would probably do as well; but stone chips sharpen up the drainage of the soil, and good drainage is essential.

It is unfortunate that this *Primula* has shown itself to be so intractable as it is unquestionably a most charming little plant. The deep violet-coloured flowers, with a strong scent of old English Violets, are produced in umbels of up to four on scapes from two to four inches high. The neat little leaves form a fairly compact tuft, and a plant will develop into a sizable clump in course of time. But the life of a plant above ground is short, though the rootstock is perennial, and possibly possessed of a long life. Plants commence to die back as soon as the flowers begin to wither and within a few weeks nothing will be visible above ground. It is not yet known if fertile seed will be produced by cultivated plants in this country—the probability is that it will not—the decline into dormancy being so rapid that under our climatic conditions time will be insufficient. Stock may, however, be increased by division of plants.

It is unfortunately true to record that *P. Cusickiana* is not what is generally known as a good garden plant; the difficulties in the way of its successful cultivation are too many; even as an Alpine house subject it must remain a plant for the specialist. Nevertheless, members of the S.R.G.C. must be grateful to Mrs. Berry for the trouble she took in collecting plants and in having them sent to Scotland. But for her, this lovely little *Primula* would never have been seen here.

Midlothian.

K. C. C.

RANUNCULUS CALANDRINOIDES

WE COLLECTED this plant in 1935 in the Middle Atlas Mountains in Morocco, where it was growing in the famous Blue Cedar Forest in partial shade in soil which resembled a claggy red clay, which incidentally became as hard as brick when allowed to dry round the roots of a collected plant.

The *Ranunculus* was flowering in between the snow drifts in March. Even in the forest there were good and poor forms. In the best the flower was like a large apple blossom, white with a strong tinge of pink.

I planted the collected plants in (a) pot, (b) damp, wet clay as like the natural soil in which I found the plants as possible, (c) in granite scree.

Plants at (a) continued to exist for a few years, but never flowered; those at (b) died promptly; those at (c) did well. One of these is still

flowering well this year at the age of 19 and has increased in size considerably.

I have grown plants from seed. Germination seems very uncertain. Sometimes seed sown as soon as taken from the plant does fairly well ; at other times seed kept till January and sown then has done better. In no case, however, has a really high percentage of seed sown germinated, and I find the seedlings difficult to bring through the first winter when the seed germinates in autumn.

The flowering season with me is in the scree from January to May, and in the alpine house or frame never.

Perthshire.

J. C. D.

SEED-SOWING

LAST YEAR as seed ripened I tried sowing some in a prepared bed in the open ground, covering them with tent cloches the ends closed with pieces of glass. In this way they are so much easier to look after than a lot of pots—especially if one has to leave home for any length of time.

So far *Primula scotica*, *Dodecatheon pauciflorum*, *Lapeyrouisia cruenta*, *Anemone sulphurea*, and a white Broom have germinated. Others which I still hope may germinate are *Dianthus alpinus*, *Lewisia Heckneri*, *Delphinium nudicaule*, *Lithospermum graminifolium*, and *Aster Purdomi*.

Fife.

E. D. W.

SOME WATERING TIPS

JAM POTS are most useful—especially if one is in a hurry—for watering pans with plants whose foliage must be kept dry. Place the jam pots over the plants and water the pans as much as you like overhead, for the water will slide down the glass into the soil. Remove jar when the water has drained away and there's your plant perfectly dry on top.

I have found also that plants like *Primula Allionii*, *Draba mollissima*, and some of the more difficult Androsaces, etc., like an occasional gentle wash overhead, provided that all surplus moisture on the foliage is blown off with an empty syringe.

E. D. W.

Have you managed to get it yet?

If it is a plant or seed you want, try one of our small advertisements *vide* page 191.

Review of the Year

By THE PRESIDENT

AT THE end of the Club's 21st year of existence it is interesting to look back as well as forward.

Mr. Cooper's article in the last *Journal* told how the efforts of a few enthusiasts brought the Club into being in 1933. From then onwards until the war it grew steadily. Its Shows, few in number and small at first, gradually expanded ; its publications, starting with the "Life of Forrest," developed into regular issues of a *Journal* of wide interest to Rock Gardeners. At the outbreak of war the Club was becoming known outside Scotland. We owe much to the enthusiasts who nursed the Club in its infancy.

The war reduced the Club to a state of suspended animation and when it ended the active membership was negligible. As a result, however, of the efforts of a small band of stalwarts, headed first by Mr. Corsar and then for four years by Major Walmsley, the Club rose Phoenix-like and, thanks to the policy of decentralisation pursued by the Council, expanded in every direction until today its membership is in excess of 2500, including more than 220 in England, a number in Northern Ireland and over 100 Overseas, and its limits of expansion do not seem to have yet been reached. Its publications are widely read and, thanks to able editorship, are each half-year containing matter of more general value. Its seven Shows per annum in different parts of Scotland do much to further the objects of the Club.

Truly the Club owes much to the few who after the war did so much with so little material to work on.

As to the future : provided that we retain our friendly "Club" atmosphere and continue to cater for all types of rock garden plant lovers from the expert to the tyro, from the owner of a large garden (a rare bird in these days) to the owner of the pocket handkerchief garden (the large majority) and provided that we do not become a high-brow society for experts only, I foresee a great future.

We cannot, I think, expect to increase the number of our Shows, but we can look for the maintenance of a high standard and, what is of as great importance, increase in the number of entries, especially in the Novice Classes, which this year have been rather disappointing. Why are our Novices so shy of entering ? They grow plants of real merit and often bitterly regret after the Shows that they did not enter them. Courage, mes enfants !

Financially the year has been satisfactory in spite of heavy running costs. The Board of Inland Revenue has decided that the Club is not a "Charity" for purposes of exemption from Tax, but it is not anticipated that Income Tax will prove a heavy burden. Shows overall have ceased to make a profit but provided that the deficit under this

head can be kept within reasonable limits it is worth while to take this risk.

In previous years I have referred to our Shows in detail but as reports from the Show Secretaries appear in this *Journal* and repetition is tedious, I would only say that they were a credit to those who worked hard to organise them. We welcomed once more the co-operation of the Gardens Committee of the National Trust for Scotland in staging the Rhododendron Show at Glasgow. We were also glad to see Dundee make such a good start, and Aberdeen demonstrate what good growers there are in those parts and what they can put on the show bench when they can be induced to.

Everyone is agreed that the Coming-of-Age *Journal* was an outstanding success, and our Editor deserves the greatest credit. I personally think that enlargement and improvement of the *Journal* should be one of our main objectives in the years to come. Many members out of reach of our Shows obtain their greatest value for their subscription from this source. For this we depend, firstly, on a large membership to provide the necessary finance and, secondly, on an adequate supply of material being forthcoming. The unfortunate faithful few cannot carry the burden of filling successive and larger *Journals* on their shoulders. I do appeal to the generality of our members to volunteer articles or notes on plants or gardens or any other subject suitable to the *Journal*. Will not more Overseas members help in this ?

The Seed Exchange under its hard-worked Manager again proved an attraction. This again is one of the Club's functions which appeals to members overseas or otherwise out of reach of Shows and nurserymen.

A Slide Library was instituted during the year and this will, it is hoped, help those who give talks throughout the country. May I appeal to any members who can do so to give slides to the Library. The Club is prepared to pay the cost of producing these if desired. Dr. Davidson has kindly undertaken to run this Library.

The Council during the year set aside a sum of £30 to enable lectures to be given at places far distant from centres of population. Only one County took advantage of this. I hope that if similar provision is made in the coming year more advantage may be taken of this.

In conclusion I would like, not only on my own behalf but on that of all our members, to pay a tribute to our very hard-worked Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Editor whose labours increase as the Club progresses ; to our other Office-bearers, without whose strenuous work the Club could not exist ; to those who have contributed to the *Journal* ; to Show Judges, Lecturers and many others too numerous to specify who have helped to secure the Club's prosperity ; and, last but not least, to those who at considerable inconvenience opened their gardens and entertained their fellow members.

J. C. DUNDAS

Show Reports

MIDLOTHIAN AND PEEBLES DISTRICT

THE FIRST Midlothian and Peebles District Show was held in Penicuik on 6th March 1954. Through the kindness of the Penicuik Horticultural and Industrial Society we were given space at their Bulb Show for our own competitive classes. Their Show Committee were more than kind, having everything "laid on" for us, and they made us very welcome. The hall (St. Mungo's Hall) was an excellent one with very good roof-lighting, but unfortunately the weather was far from kind. Our two Trade exhibits, from the Edrom Nurseries and Mrs. Laing, were both snowed up and unable to come, which was also the fate of one competitor, while another had to be dug out and hauled clear of a snowdrift on his way in with his own and another's plants. Then, too, the dull cold weather had delayed the opening of many flowers, so that exhibits tended to be only showing colour in the bud and not fully open. In spite of this, however, twenty-four exhibits were staged by eight competitors (one competitor and a total of thirteen more exhibits not being able to appear) and the Show was quite a successful start to what it is hoped will become an annual feature.

Mr. Finlayson had two very fine pans of Irises (*II. reticulata* and *danfordiae*) and some very good pans of Sempervivums. Dr. and Mrs. Davidson had a pan each of Sax. x Mother of Pearl and *Sax. griesbachii* Wisley var. which were really notable exhibits, and other Saxifrages (Kabschias) on show in the same class were also of good quality. Mrs. Errington won the European Primula class with a good pan of "Wanda," while the Show Secretary had "Pandora" for the Asiatic class. Other exhibits in the various classes were *Crocus etruscus*, *sieberii*, *versicolor picturatus*, *ancyrensis* and *tommassinianus*, *Narcissus asturiensis* and three cushion plants, *Draba dedeana*, *Androsace pyrenaica* and *Kelseya uniflora*, *Morisia hypogaea* in full flower and a very fine dwarf Cupressus, the latter being shown by Dr. Davidson.

We were delighted to see a number of members who came out from Edinburgh to see our first effort, and also our hosts' Show, which was of extremely high quality, the competition being very close. Altogether it was a cheerful little Show, and the writer, at any rate, enjoyed it thoroughly. Next year's date will be 5th March 1955, when it is hoped that there will be a few "open" classes as well, since several members from other districts expressed their regret that they had not been eligible to show this year.

Admittedly it is a *very* early Show, but the early bulbs, Saxifrages and Primulas are far too seldom seen on exhibition and in a more normal March there would have been far more plants available. It was particularly unfortunate that both the Edrom Nurseries and Mrs.

Laing of Hawick, who were going to put up exhibits, were snowed up and unable to come, as there was a lot of local interest aroused when they agreed to take stands at the Show.

HENRY TOD, C.R. Midlothian and District,
Show Secretary.

DUMFRIES

AS PLANTS were somewhat later than usual this year that perhaps accounted for a drop in entries over last year, but the entry of 350 was quite good and quality was better than in previous years.

Mrs. J. Barbour of Dumfries, who performed the Opening Ceremony, was full of praise for all plants and flowers shown and spoke highly of all the exhibitors' work. After receiving a bouquet, she was presented with a thimble-size pot of *Androsace pyrenaica*, which had been gifted by a member.

Mrs. Barbour presented trophy and medals as follows :—
George Forrest Medal for best plant in Show to Mrs. McConnel, Knockdolian, Girvan, for a pan of *Primula Allionii*, shown in perfect condition ; this pan also secured a special prize as the best softwood plant in the Show. The Club's Bronze Medal this year went to a young member, Mr. Alister Thomson, Dumfries, for most points in Section II, and also a special prize for best cactii or succulents in beginners' section. The best hardwood special prize was won by Major Walmsley with a pan of *Rhodo. patulum*.

Dumfries Show this year was presented with a Silver Challenge Cup, the gift of Mrs. J. Lewis, Southwick, Dumfries, for annual competition by beginners resident in the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire ; it was won by a new member, Mrs. Stewart, Dumfries, with a lovely pan of *Primula Clusiana*, in full flower.

As usual several Trade stands gave a fine background of colour to the Show and it was a pleasure to welcome a local firm to our midst—"Learmonts," Florists, Dumfries, who provided a display of floral crafts and were awarded a Gold Medal. Their senior florist gave a demonstration on "Flower Arrangement for the Home" on the Thursday afternoon to a large audience.

Our C.R. from Kirkcudbrightshire, Mrs. McLellan, was awarded a Gold Medal for a very fine collection of cacti and succulent plants, some in flower and very much admired by the public (see Fig. 33).

The Crichton Royal Institution always provide a floral display for the Hall staging, and tables of alpines in pots or pans, and this year showed many items brought on specially for our benefit. Their alpine table had many pans of Haberleas, Ramondias, and such Asiatic and European primulas as *P. Bilekii*, *carniolica*, *scapeosa*, "Barbara Barker" and *Clarkei*.

The large Gold Medal awarded to Longmuir and Adamson, Holywood, Dumfries, for a built-up rock garden, was well earned by many fine alpine and shrubs shown in good condition. Amongst shrubs, *Magnolia Soulangeana*, *Corylopsis pauciflora*, *Berberis Lologensis*, and *B. linearifolia*, the double *Prunus triloba*, Camellia and Azalea Amoena all provided wealth of spring colour. *Sanguinaria canadensis fl. pl.* *Pulmonaria* "Munstead Variety," *Cassiope lycopoides*, *Anemone pulsatilla* and *Sax. Grizebachii* were fine. *Primula* "Lady Greer," *P. Boothi*, *P. helvetica alba*, *P. irregularis*, *P. gracilepes* and *P. marginata* were all represented, and many spring flowering Heaths.

Messrs. Harper & Son, Stranraer, as usual provided a very colourful display of bulbous plants, mostly Narcissi, and were awarded a Large Gold Medal. All types of Narcissi were well represented and colourful bedding hyacinths.

Edrom Nurseries provided us with a Gold Medal display of Primulas and Rhododendrons suitable for rock garden, and many bulbous alpine plants. Primulas were *P. bhutanica*, *Edgworthi*, *gracilipes*, red *denticulata*, the double primroses so popular once more, and several Tulipa species. Blacklock, Farries & Sons, Dumfries, presented a collection of books covering all garden work. Thomas Craig, Deansgate, Dumfries, provided a large table of *Primula malacoides* grown in fine condition and was awarded a Certificate of Merit. Floral Handicrafts, London, gave us another stand of their work, which created a lot of admiration from the ladies present.

In the competitive section pans of *Shortia uniflora*, *Anemone vernalis*, *Saxifraga lilacina* were very fine. A huge pan of *Pr. Clarkei* from seed was good and there were some fine pans of *Sempervivums*.

Pot Plants and Cut Flowers were well competed for, but there was a drop in Children's classes this year.

R. FORBES,
Hon. Show Secretary.

GLASGOW

AS IN FORMER years the Show was held in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 20th and 21st April 1954. This year, in conjunction with the Gardens Committee of the National Trust for Scotland, the Scottish Rhododendron Show was held at the same time. This necessitated the booking of a third gallery and so numerous were the entries that every inch of space was required.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Countess of Stair in the gallery set aside for the Rhododendrons. In her opening remarks the Countess stressed the beneficial results that must ensue from the co-operative efforts of two such societies as the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the National Trust for Scotland. Both societies had increased their membership greatly in recent years, and their appeal was general to all classes of society.

Entries for the various classes were greater than last year and numbered 376, while the Rhododendron Show reported 260 entries. In this section the Sir John Stirling-Maxwell Trophy for the highest aggregate of points was won by J. & M. Noble, Strone, Argyll, and a new cup, also gifted by Sir John Stirling-Maxwell of Pollok for certain classes was won by E. H. M. Cox, Glendoick.

In Section I there was keen competition in many of the classes—notably in those for primulas, saxifrages and rhododendrons. The individual exhibits were generally of a high quality, well staged, and accordingly set a difficult task for the judges on more than one occasion. This was fully exemplified in the award of the GEORGE FORREST MEMORIAL MEDAL for the most meritorious plant in the Show. Finally and after much deliberation this coveted award was given to *Dionysia curviflora* grown by A. D. Reid of Edinburgh. Mr. Reid, among his other successes, won the Henry Archibald Challenge Bowl for his collection of three rock plants. The Dr. William Buchanan Memorial Rose Bowl and Silver Medal for a collection of six rock plants was again won by Henry Archibald, Carnwath. Runner-up was W. Urie, Turnberry. Seen for the first time in Scotland was a rare American primula, *P. Cusickiana*, which won first prize for Kenneth C. Corsar, while in the classes of primula other than Asiatic, Mrs. C. B. Jamieson's pan of *P. "Linda Pope"* was an outstanding exhibit.

Section II told the same tale as last year. Here we have 24 classes set aside for those who wish to try their apprentice hand on the Show bench. This section should appeal to at least 75% of our members, yet less than a dozen members entered exhibits. Can it be, as one member remarked, that the term "Novice" is abhorrent to many, and they prefer to bide their time and compete with the experts at a later date? In this section A. B. Lamont, Kilmacolm, was an easy winner of the Bronze Medal. William Goudie, Barrhead, was runner-up. Both these members should make their presence felt next year in Section I. The non-competitive section showed increased and varied entries. Special mention must be made of two lovely paintings of *Clematis montana* and *Azalea montana* by Doris L. Reid, Helensburgh. The daughter of Mr. Urie of Turnberry received a Certificate of Merit for a separate display of rock plants, rhododendrons, and other flowering shrubs, which earned much favourable comment.

Competition was keen in most classes of Section IV. There were a number of entries of outstanding merit in the two classes set aside for cut flowers, and entries for the various classes in Narcissi showed a welcome increase over former years. However, we have not yet resolved our difficulties over what constitutes an Alpine Auricula, and a Garden or Border Auricula: several entries were disqualified in both classes as not being according to Schedule.

This year the Glasgow and District Branch of the NATIONAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY staged an exhibit of Cacti and Succulents which attracted much attention and for which they were awarded a Certificate of Merit.

The exhibits put up by the Trade were all excellent. Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, showed their usual fine range of Polyanthus mainly of American strain, of large size and wide range of brilliant colours. Prominent also was their strain of *Primula denticulata*, a mass of flowers ranging from pale to dark blue and from pinks to deep red, carried on stiff strong stems. Of interest, too, were fine clumps of *Primula gracilipes* smothered in warm pink flowers; one clump, a leaf-cutting of 1952, being six inches across and a mass of flowers. *P. bhutanica*, too, with its desirable ice-blue flowers, was shown in good form, as were *P. obtusifolia* and *P. clusiana*. Plantings of dwarf Narcissi and tulips helped to emphasise a pleasing and attractive group. The Lavex Company had their usual colourful display. They had on show a range of pot plants to show the versatility of their most useful range of composts, compounds, sand, peat, etc.

The Kennishead Nurseries (D. A. Wintersgill), Thornliebank, had their usual attractive stand. They specialise in shrubs suitable for the rock garden and for general garden purposes, and nestling among the shrubs was a varied collection of choice alpiners. In addition to their stand Mr. Wintersgill undertook the decoration of the platform, and this he did gratis, a gesture much appreciated by the Show committee.

Messrs. Harper & Son, Stranraer, again put up a stand of Narcissi that excited admiration, and special mention must be made of "Cargan," an extra good yellow with a large cup, "Kanchenjunga" with its giant white trumpet, and "Greeting," lemon cup with large white perianth. Two seedlings Nos. 33/51 and 33/141 appealed to many. The first had an extra good white trumpet and the second was large, red and yellow. Amongst the miniatures the following were extra good: *Triandrus* "Sidhe," a lemon yellow; "Pipers Barn," a good jonquil hybrid; "Cherie," a good white and pink jonquil hybrid. For this display a Large Gold Medal was awarded.

A Large Gold Medal was awarded to Jack Drake, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, for his collection of alpiners grown in pots. Asiatic primulas predominated and among the many varieties singled out were *P. sonchifolia*, *P. macrophylla* and variety *moorecroftiana*, *P. bhutanica*, *P. berninae* "Windrush Var." and *P. pubescens*—"Blue Wave." Other outstanding plants were *Androsace pyrenaica* and *mathildae*, *Phyllodoce coerulea*, *Anemone pulsatilla*, *coccinea*, and *vernalis*. Castlehill Nurseries (Miss Mary Guthrie-Smith), Helensburgh, had a stand with flowering shrubs, rhododendrons and conifers as a background, and clumps of primulas, ericas in many varieties, and some choice dwarf rhododendrons.

Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson, Hamilton, were awarded a Gold Medal for their stand of choice rock plants and shrubs suitable for the rock garden. Dwarf Rhododendrons in great variety, with ericas of the carnea type, rhodohypoxis, and primulas made up a most colourful stand. A Large Gold Medal was awarded to William B. Boyd, The Nurseries, Barrhead, for a stand that was ablaze with

colour. There was the usual background of evergreen and flowering shrubs and here and there were colonies of dwarf roses, primulas double and single, rhodohypoxis, and ericas of the carnea type. The stand of Messrs. Jackson & Son (Booksellers), West George Street, Glasgow, provided all and sundry with an opportunity of studying, and acquiring if necessary, books on every aspect of horticulture.

To sum up, the Glasgow Show was a success, or better still, in the words of one of our oldest members: "It was the happiest Show ever." What made it so? Undoubtedly it was the co-operative efforts of members, who rallied round the Secretary and gave such generous help. On the clerical side, too, there was no lack of assistants, and Miss Pauline Browning of the West of Scotland Agricultural College made herself responsible for the compilation of the Prize List.

Finally, it must be emphasised that the present Show Secretary took over the duties three years ago on the understanding that he would be relieved in the following year. Running the monthly meetings from October to April, and organising the various outings in the summer, leaves him little or no time to look after his rock garden. Is there no one in the West who will take over the correspondence and look after the financial side of the Show? He will have a hard-working and efficient committee behind him, and his presence on Show days would not even be necessary. What about it?

EDWARD DARLING,
Hon. Show Secretary (*pro. tem.*)

DUNDEE—28th and 29th April

TO HIS manifold voluntary duties as Hon. Treasurer of the Club and as County Representative for Angus, Mr. Stewart Mitchell added this year the very formidable task of organising the first Club Show ever to be held in Dundee.

The opening ceremony was performed by Major George Sherriff, O.B.E., V.M.H., after introduction by the President of the Club, who observed that no one connected with rock garden plants could be unfamiliar with Major Sherriff's name. From 1933 on he and his wife had been collecting wonderful plants from the high hills in the east and the show benches that day could be seen to owe a great deal to their endeavours. It was very fitting, therefore, that he should open this Show on the Club's 21st birthday. Major Sherriff said how very glad he was to do so and commented that when collecting seeds he had often wondered where they would go and had pondered over their unpredictable behaviour in cultivation. So frequently something which looked very fine in the field failed to impress in the garden. In announcing the prize-winners Colonel Dundas expressed great pleasure at finding so many novices exhibiting. It is hoped that they will follow up their initial successes by showing plants at the Show in

Perth next year, and again when the Show returns to Dundee in the following year.

A bar to his Forrest Medal for the most meritorious plant in the Show was awarded to Mr. Jack Drake, Inshriach, Aviemore, for a wonderful plant of *Cassiope lycopodioides* raised from seed sown by him in 1937 and now a perfect specimen about two feet in diameter smothered in bloom. Ill health unfortunately prevented attendance by Mr. Alexander Caird, whose handsome new challenge trophy for 6 pans rock plants, different species or hybrids, was awarded to Mr. A. D. Reid of Edinburgh, who also won the Dundas Quaich for 3 plants of distinct genera. As competition for both cups was very keen, with plants in excellent condition and flourish, his double achievement was all the more noteworthy.

Some idea of the complex problems faced by the judges, Messrs. G. F. Laurie, Alfred Evans and Miss Logan Home, in deciding the winner of each cup may be gauged from the fact that scarcely any plant exhibited by one competitor appeared in an entry by any of the others for either cup. The resultant truly catholic range of plants included :—*Androsace imbricata*, *A. Halleri* x *Laggeri*, *Anemone pulsatilla*, *Arcterica nana*, *Armeria caespitosa*, *Celmisia* x *Verbascum*, *Corydalis cashmeriana*, *Cytisus Ardoinii*, *Daphne retusa*, *Douglasia vitaliana praetitia*, *Draba imbricata*, *Erodium Reichardii*, *Lewisia brachycalyx*, *L. Heckneri*, *L. Howelli*, *Paraquilegia anemonoides*, *Phyllodoce aleutica*, *P. empetriformis*, *Pleione formosana*, *Primula Calderiana*, *P. Forrestii*, *P. hyacinthina*, *P. marginata*, *P. obtusifolia*, *P. pubescens* in vars. *alba* and “Mrs. J. H. Wilson,” *P. rosea*, *Rhododendron imperator*, *Saxifraga* sp. (*Lowndes*) and *Vaccinium Nummularia*. Indeed the Show as a whole provided a wider range of plants than is usual, because even the weather co-operated. For three weeks prior to the Show the weather in the district remained generally fair, but narrow belts of mist persisted well into the day over coastal gardens and the resultant cool conditions held plants longer in their prime whilst only a short distance inland sustained sunshine from dawn to dusk brought later subjects on very quickly. Thus, whilst several members from the coast were showing *Primula denticulata* in excellent condition in the class for plants of generally easy cultivation, inland members were showing plants such as *Geum montanum* in full flourish.

In the class for rare or difficult plants, Mrs. Wilson took first place with a tight little plant of *Veronica pulvinaris*, whilst Mr. Stewart Mitchell showed a *Paraquilegia* sp. Neither was in bloom but each plant was in splendid condition. Also shown was a well-flowered *Primula Allionii alba*. Unfortunately the native plant classes were not so fully supported as they might have been, but among the few exhibits there were excellent plants of *Salix reticulata*, *Mertensia maritima*, *Saxifraga granulata* and *Phyllodoce caerulea*. Of exceptional interest in the cushion class was Mr. Reid’s *Dionysia curviflora*.

As usual the *Primula* classes attracted very fine exhibits and specially noteworthy was Mr. R. S. Masterton’s *P. atrodentata*, Mr. Weir’s

pinker than usual form of *P. rosea*, Gen. Murray-Lyon's *P. aureata*, Mr. Gilchrist's *P. Forrestii* and Dr. Dunbar's *P. frondosa* in the Asiatic group. The European and American group were splendidly represented by Mr. Weir's well-flowered prize-winning pans of the Caucasian *P. darialica* and the hybrid *P. Bilekii* (*minima* x *hirsuta*), Mrs. Wilson's *P. x "Barbara Barker"* and *P. pubescens* "Blue Wave," and Mr. Stewart Mitchell's *P. pubescens* and *P. marginata* "Linda Pope." Mr. J. B. Russell showed *P. magellanica* and Gen. Murray-Lyon won the single pan class with a very well-flowered plant of *P. frondosa*.

Mr. Stewart Mitchell showed two well-flowered Androsaces in class 15—*A. imbricata* and *A. hirtella*—and Major Neish won class 16 with *A. villosa*. In the classes for Ranunculaceae Squadron-Leader Boyd-Harvey showed an especially good purple form of *Anemone pulsatilla* with a pan of *Aquilegia viridiflora*. Mrs. Stewart also showed an excellent form of *A. pulsatilla*. A very fine pan of *Narcissus juncifolius*, well-flowered and grown really dwarf, was shown by Mr. Stewart Mitchell in class 22. Mrs. Jack's exhibits in the 3 pans class for bulbs, corms or tubers included *Tritelia uniflora*, which is not very often seen, although it deserves to be. The bulbs are inexpensive and it flowers well beneath a south wall. She also showed a very fine pan of *Fritillaria pyrenaica*. Composites were scarcely represented, but there was no doubt about the quality of Mr. Mitchell's prize-winning *Townsendia Wilcoxiana* or of his *Lewisia brachycalyx* in class 31, where Colonel Dundas showed a very fine *L. Tweedyi*. Major Neish showed the rare *L. leeana*.

Class 36 for 1 pan Papaveraceae, not included at the previous Perth Shows, proved very popular, and very fine exhibits of *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Meconopsis integrifolia* and *Dicentra oregona* were seen. Sempervivums shown included very good pans of the type species *S. arachnoideum* and its varieties *tomentosum* and *minor*. The inclusion of Cotyledons in the schedule produced a very good plant of *C. spinosum* shown by Mrs. Gilchrist, whose rare *Lomaria pennae maria* took first place in the hardy ferns. The addition of a special class for Ericas brought in good plants of *E. mediterranea*. Dwarf conifers of excellent quality were shown by Mr. C. Halley—*Retinospora pygmaea*, *Picea clanbrassiliana* and *P. nidiformis*—and Mr. Weir—*Picea Albertiana conica* and *Juniperus squamata Meyer*. Mrs. Gilchrist's *Salix reticulata* in class 49 was full of catkins. In class 51 Mr. J. B. Russell showed a well-flowered *Douglasia laevigata*.

Section II was very well supported with exhibits of excellent quality and so the winning of the Bronze Medal by Mrs. Pattullo was indeed a praiseworthy achievement. Her noteworthy exhibits included *Atragene alpina*, Tulipa "Mme. Lefebre" and *Narcissus juncifolius*. Others included Mrs. Tetlow's very fine pan of *Sempervivum or natum*, Mr. Dorward's *Sedum Sieboldii* and Dr. Dunbar's *Rhododendron pemakoense*.

The non-competitive exhibits were extremely interesting ; Certificates of Merit were awarded to Major Sherriff for his screens of magnificen

colour photographs of Tibetan flowers, scenes and peoples, and to Captain Paul Furse for his infinite variety of meticulous water colour illustrations of Gentians, Crocuses, Tulips and Fritillarias. The Botany Department of University College, Dundee, showed a very interesting range of plants raised from seed collected by Major Sherriff. In Section IV Mrs. Halley's magnificent azalea was the star attraction—the wonder grew that one small pot could carry all that bloom. Mrs. Jack showed perfect specimens of *Mammillaria bocosana* and *M. pusilla* in class 81. The various Narcissi classes were well supported and the judges found these sections no easy task. The principal prize-winners were Mr. Moon, Mr. Phillip and Mrs. Stewart.

The Trade exhibits played a very valuable part in the success of the Show. A Large Gold Medal was awarded to Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson of Hamilton for their built-up rock garden containing a colourful and comprehensive collection of shrubs and rock plants. That sunshine had been unrationed in the west was evident from their showing *Rhodohypoxis Baueri* in bloom. Edrom Nurseries won a Gold Medal for a built-up rock garden containing a good well-flowered clump of *Primula gracilipes*, laced and other polyanthuses, double primroses and Fritillarias.

Jack Drake won a Large Gold Medal for his display of rock garden plants in pans, including the superb *Cassiope lycopodioides* already mentioned, *C. mertensiana*, *Sanguinaria canadensis flore pleno*, *Primula glabra* and the very reliable *Androsace* hybrid, *Halleri x Laggeri*. A Large Gold Medal for their floral display was awarded to Thomas Harper & Sons of Stranraer, who showed a very wide range of narcissi. Noteworthy blooms were the large-cupped "Dick Wellband," "Duke of Windsor," and the very appropriately named double yellow "Camellia." Colonel J. H. Stitt, Blairgowrie, staged an attractive built-up rock garden containing a peat wall. Plants included a very good collection of double primroses, dwarf rhododendrons and conifers, ericas and the attractive *Eriogonum ovalifolium*. Messrs. Lauries of Dundee staged an interesting rock garden containing very fine polyanthuses and ericas, but probably most noteworthy were their shrubs, which included *Magnolia stellata*, *Acer dissectum* and *Euphorbia Wulfeni* IN BLOOM. The Lavex Company showed their excellent "Sesame" range of composts, peat and sharp horticultural sand on a stand tastefully decorated with Tulips, calceolarias, cinerarias and ferns. The Lime and Shell Grit Company showed various grades of washed sand with stone and chips suitable for the rock garden; Messrs. Laird & Sinclair, sundries and cacti; "Floral Handicrafts," attractive perspex floral brooches. "McGregor's Bookshop" provided a very comprehensive selection of the best of both the older and the more recent gardening books to suit all horticultural tastes.

Again this year no entries were received for the "Second Day Competition."

R. G. Dow

ABERDEEN

THE ANNUAL SHOW held in the Music Hall, Aberdeen, on Thursday and Friday, 13th and 14th May, was an unqualified success. The Committee are considerably heartened by the support which the Show had this year and look forward to even better things in 1955.

Colonel Dundas, the President, introduced Professor Matthews of the Botany Department, Aberdeen University, and in his introductory remarks referred to the coming of age of the Rock Garden Club, and added that he was pleased to see the ever-increasing membership ; in Aberdeen itself the membership had increased considerably since the first Show was held some years before the War. Professor Matthews who opened the Show said that he was delighted to see such a well-supported Show ; he recalled that in 1937 and 1938 Exhibitions had been held in a small way in his Department at the Cruickshank Botanical Gardens, Old Aberdeen. These had been very successful indeed, and just when the interest had been starting to grow, the War came along and all thought of Shows had to be put aside. It was then, he said, very encouraging to see the re-appearance of Rock Garden Club Shows soon after the end of the War, and he hoped that there would be an increased interest in them in years to come. Mrs. Matthews then presented the principal awards and Mrs. Gray proposed a vote of thanks.

The Show itself presented a gay and very pleasing spectacle ; this year we staged it in the Ballroom which we think is much more suitable than the two rooms which we have been using for the past year or two. As previously mentioned, the Standard of Exhibit was high, and a large number of very well-grown plants were on show. Our Schedule had 35 Classes and we had entries for all but two of them. It cannot be said that the entries for some of the Classes were large, but nevertheless the all over representation made a very comprehensive showing.

The first prize for the class of rare, new, or difficult plants was awarded to a fine pot of *Androsace imbricata* exhibited by Mr. H. Esslemont. In this class, too, was a good plant of *Corydalis cashmeriana* with flowers of striking blue shown by Mrs. Anderson. For a pan of Rock Plant generally easy in cultivation Mr. Stewart Mitchell of Dundee took first prize with his *Armeria caespitosa*. Mr. Benken followed up with *Saxifraga* "Sir Douglas Haig," and Mr. Esslemont with *Primula* "Red Paddy." In Class 3, the Native to Scotland Class, *Antennaria dioica*, *Saxifraga granulata* and *Sedum Rhodiola* were the winners in that order. These were exhibited by Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Boyd-Harvey of Dirleton. Mrs. Anderson won the first prize in the Silver Grey Foliage Class with *Paraquilegia grandiflora*, Mrs. Barclay Milne took second place with *Raoulia australis*, and Mr. Esslemont followed with *Asperula arcadiensis*. The President, Colonel Dundas, was first in the Cushion Plant class with *Draba mollissima* ; second and third were Mr. N. Sutherland and Mrs. Barclay Milne.

Curiously enough the *Primula* groups were not represented in quantity. Mrs. Boyd-Harvey of Dirleton took first place in the Asiatic Group with her specimen of *Primula obtusifolia*, and Mr. Esslemont's *Primula obconica* took second place. In the class for any other group, he took second place with an *Auricula* "Beppo," first place going to Mrs. Barclay Milne with *Primula frondosa*. For the Iris, Narcissus or Tulip Class best place went to Mrs. Barclay Milne with her large pot of *Iris Willmotiana alba*, seconded by Mr. Esslemont with his *Tulipa Batalini*; third place went to Mr. Stewart Mitchell of Dundee with a nice pan of *Narcissus juncifolius*. Other bulbous plants were shown in Class 9, where Mrs. Barclay Milne was again successful with *Fritillaria pyrenaica*, seconded by Mr. Stewart Mitchell of Dundee with *Rhodohypoxis platypetala* and followed by Mrs. Robertson of Edinburgh with *Rhodohypoxis Baureii*.

Mr. Aitken exhibited a plant of *Phyteuma comosum* which got first prize in the Boraginaceae or Campanulaceae Class. Mr. Stewart Mitchell followed with *Campanula pilosa superba*, Colonel Dundas taking third place with *Campanula Aucheri*. In Classes 11 and 12 the prize winners were the same in both. Mrs. Anderson took first place and Mr. Esslemont second. *Schizocodon illicifolia* was a fine specimen. *Dodecatheon meadia*, of Mrs. Barclay Milne, won first in the Primulaceae or Ranunculaceae Class; Mr. Esslemont was not far behind with *Anemone obtusiloba*, and Colonel Dundas came next with *Ranunculus graminifolius*.

Class 14 was for Ericaceae, excluding *Rhododendron*, and in this class the Judges, after some deliberation, awarded Mr. Stewart Mitchell the first place, following up with a fine *Phyllodoce aleutica*, and *Cassiope lycopodioides*. Mr. Mitchell's plant was a first rate one, and was one of the best-grown *Cassiope lycopodioides* that one could wish to see. The other two prize-winning exhibits were by Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Gray. Among the entries for the *Lewisia*s was one very lovely plant of *L. brachycalyx* with which Mrs. Gray took first prize. Mr. Esslemont's *Tweedyi* was a close second, and Mrs. Barclay Milne's *L. hybrid* took third. *Rhododendron glaucum*, a good-sized specimen, got first prize for Mr. Esslemont in Class 19. Mrs. Barclay Milne with a smaller but very nicely formed "Hino Mayo" followed, and Mrs. Shearer with *Rh. fastigiatum* was third. The three prize-winners in the Coniferae Class were *Juniperus siberica*, *Cupressus nana compressa* and *Juniperus chinensis stricta*, shown by Mr. Esslemont, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Barclay Milne. For Dwarf Shrub class Mrs. Anderson was first with a *Vaccinium moupinense*, Mrs. Barclay Milne with *Daphne retusa* was second, and Mr. Stewart Mitchell's *Salix reticulata* was third. In the class for any plant other than those already specified, Mr. Esslemont showed a *Saxifraga Grisebachii* "Wisley" which deservedly took first. Mr. N. Sutherland followed up with *Saxifraga Doerfleri* and Colonel Dundas came next with *Meconopsis integrifolia*.

In Section II we had nine classes and in addition to the normal prizes three special prizes were given. The entries from members who had not previously shown were numerous and this was very encouraging indeed. Mrs. Ross of Netherton Lodge did very well in this section and was awarded the Bronze Medal. Mr. Youngson took first place in Class 25 with an attractive little plant of *Salix Boydii*, and also a special prize for this Class. Mr. J. H. Taylor was second. In the Bulbous Plant Class Miss Mavor took first prize with a good pot of *Tulipa* species. In the Ericaceae Class, including Rhododendron, the local Show Secretary was first with Azalea "Orange Beauty" in full bloom, followed by Mrs. Oxford with *Andromeda polifolia*. For Dwarf Shrubs Mr. Youngson was first with *Cassiope tetragona*. *Calceolaria Fothergillii* in Class 32 was awarded first, shown by Mr. Aitken ; Miss Gill followed with a pan of *Viola bosniaca* and Mrs. Ross's *Sempervivum* came third.

Winners of prizes for bowls of cut flowers arranged for Table Decorations were : Miss Pulford, Mrs. Barclay Milne and Miss Mavor. In the last Class, for a Pan of Greenhouse or other plant in Flower, first and third prizes went to non-members. Mr. Fraser of Aberdeen won first prize with a *Schizanthus*, Mrs. Barclay Milne second with a Saintpaulia, and Mr. Thomas Emslie of Drumoak with a plant of *Primula* was third. In the Section for non-competitive entries from members, Mrs. Cozens Hardy took pride of place with a really first class exhibition of Rock Plants. A Certificate of Merit was awarded for this exhibit.

Mr. Esslemont, in addition to showing in many of the classes, had a representative showing of Rock Plants in the non-competitive class, as also had several other members who are loyal supporters of our efforts in the north-east. There was an exhibit of Drawings by Mrs. McMurtrie which was much admired and indeed was awarded a Certificate of Merit. Coloured photographs were on show too, and in this connection thanks are due to a member, Mrs. A. L. Stott, of Messrs. James E. Henderson, Ltd., Aberdeen, for the loan of the various viewing apparatus.

Without the Trade, our Show would not have been the success it was, and we would like to thank all Trade stall-holders for coming to Aberdeen. The following firms had stalls : Jack Drake, Inchriach Nurseries, Aviemore ; Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire ; Lavex, Soil Specialists, West Calder ; Mrs. McMurtrie, Mannofield, Aberdeen ; Springhill Nurseries, Aberdeen. We do hope that all stall-holders were pleased with the results of their exhibitions at our Show. The Large Gold Medal for the best display of Rock Garden Plants in Pans was awarded to Mr. Jack Drake for his exhibit ; to him also went the George Forrest Memorial Medal for a truly wonderful plant of *Soldanella montana*. This fine exhibit had a solid mass of beautiful blooms, and was the most outstanding of many excellent plants on the stall. Others of special merit were *Atragene alpina* and

Primula macrophylla. The Large Gold Medal for the best built-up Rock Garden went to Messrs. Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwickshire, and Mrs. McMurtrie got the Gold Medal for her display which was of a similar nature, built up with stone and peat, etc. Last but by no means least mention must be made of the first-rate exhibition of plants from the Cruickshank Botanical Gardens, Old Aberdeen. We are grateful to Professor Matthews for sanctioning this display, which has become quite a feature of our Shows in Aberdeen. Thanks too must go to Mr. Sutherland for all the trouble which he takes with these exhibits, and for the many assistances which he renders to the Show Secretary and Committee, all of which are greatly appreciated. The Cruickshank Botanical Gardens exhibit got a Certificate of Merit, with special mention of a beautiful plant of *Ledum palustre*. Wonderful specimen plants of *Rhodo. obtusum* and *Polemonium reptans* were also on show.

W. MITCHELL,
Hon. Show Secretary.

DUNFERMLINE

GLORIOUS weather and a record number of entries heralded the opening of Fife County Show, which was held on Friday and Saturday, 4th and 5th June. It was again housed, by courtesy of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, in the Music Pavilion, Pittencreiff Park. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. R. H. Robertson, wife of the Provost, who was introduced by our President, Lt.-Colonel J. C. Dundas.

The principal awards were as follows : (a) The Institute of Quarrying Quaich, for the highest aggregate of points in the Fife section, went to Mr. C. J. Halley, St. Andrews, for the second year in succession ; (b) The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy awarded for the highest aggregate of points in the open section, went to Mr. Stewart Mitchell, Dundee ; (c) The Mrs. W. B. Robertson Cup for the best three pans of rock plants of distinct genera, was awarded to a group of outstanding merit, consisting of *Ramonda pyrenaica*, *Gypsophila repens* and *Saxifraga cotyledon norvegica*. It was shown by Mr. J. G. Collee, Bo'ness.

The award for the best plant in Section I went to *Saxifraga* "*Tumbling Waters*," shown by Mr. C. J. Halley, and in Section II to a magnificent specimen of *Dianthus arvernensis* shown by Mrs. A. Buchanan, Guardbridge. In Section III the award was made to *Boykinia Jamesii*, shown by Mrs. A. W. Wilson, Dunfermline.

The entry, in both sections, for plants native to Scotland, was very large and made a fine display. *Antennaria dioica* appeared to be the most popular choice this year. Among the cushion plants *Draba mollissima* was noteworthy and though the Saxifrages were not numerous they were among the best plants in the Show. A large number of Sedums and Sempervivums was shown and these also were

of a high standard. There was a good display of Primulas, among which *P. rotundifolia* was outstanding. The Dianthus classes were good but, had the Show been a week later, they would have been superb.

Outstanding exhibits in their respective classes included *Clematis macropetala*, *Globularia incanescens*, *Erinacea pungens*, *Veronica "Lodden's Blue,"* and a truly magnificent specimen of *Cypripedium calceolus* stood out in a "bulb" class of outstanding merit. Mention must also be made of *Veronica pulvinaris* exhibited in the class for new, rare or difficult species. The large number and high standard of the Conifers made a really splendid display and one which attracted considerable attention. The Cactus class was bigger than before and also attracted much attention. The miniature gardens, though few in number, were most attractively laid out, and two at least contrived to give the impression of having been established for a long time.

The number of entries in the Children's Section was enormous. Some of the Miniature Gardens were extremely good and there was a decided improvement in the Wild Flowers class.

The Trade Stands covered all requirements for the garden. Maryfield Nurseries, Leslie, with a fine display for which they were awarded a Large Gold Medal, gave us a varied choice of plants. H. T. MacPherson, Dunfermline, displayed books for our instruction. The Sesame Products, West Calder, showed us composts and fertilisers. Fife Redstone Quarries gave us a choice of garden chips. Coull & Matthew, Dunfermline, had all kinds of garden tools, not to mention deck chairs from which one could view the finished job. Touches of personal adornment were provided by Floral Handicrafts, London.

C. I. SMART

EDINBURGH

THE 1954 Edinburgh Show had two new developments: firstly, it was about a month later than usual, and secondly it was reduced to two days for the first time for a number of years. The change in date brought many plants to the benches that are seldom seen, but the change in length caused a very appreciable financial loss. The standard of the exhibits was very high, and the number was well up to the usual level.

The Corsar Trophy was won by Mr. R. S. Masterton, with two pans of Rhododendrons, an *Incarvillea*, a *Lewisia*, *Primula reptans* and *Nomocharis oxypetala*. Mr. Archibald was second with *Calceolaria Darwinii*, *Androsace spinulifera*, *Nomocharis Mairei*, *Heli-chrysum virgineum*, *Ramonda* "Wisley Rose" and *Primula Kingii*.

There was an excellent entry for the Carnethy Medal, with very close competition. It was won by Mrs. McConnell with beautiful pans of *Rhodohypoxis* "Harlequin," *Tulbaghia acutiloba* and *Ramonda*

Myconi alba. Mr. Masterton was runner-up with *Nomocharis nana* *Saxifraga pasumensis* and, almost unbelievably, a second and equally fine pan of *Primula reptans*. As Mr. Wall remarked at his lecture in the evening, one well-flowered pan of "reptans" is an event; two is almost unique. Other notable plants on the "top table" were *Verbascum pestallozae*, *Lilium sherriffae*, *Veronica pulvinaris* and a finely-flowered pan of *Boykinia Jamesii*. This latter is a plant which is extremely easy to grow and extremely difficult to flower at all, let alone well as this one was. The Archibald Rose Bowl for three easy plants grown in the open was won by Mrs. Bell with *Penstemon Davidsonii*, *Erinus alpinus albus* and *Dianthus* "La Bourbrille."

The classes for Native Plants and Plants with Silver Foliage were well filled with plants of good quality, and owing to the later date there were a number of good pans of *Incarvillea* and *Meconopsis*. The Saxifrage Classes attracted good entries but with entirely different types from the usual ones, most of them being "encrusteds." The late Show brought out good entries in the *Campanula* and *Dianthus* classes, while the *Sedums* and *Sempervivums* were more colourful than usual, as they were flowering. Unfortunately it was rather late for the Dwarf *Rhododendrons*, but the other *Ericaceae* were good.

One interesting contrast struck the writer. In 1937 one pan of *Nomocharis* was shown, created a sensation, and won the Forrest Medal—almost automatically—while this year there must have been at least a dozen pans on show, and they were quite taken for granted! Some other interesting plants on the benches were *Vaccinium arctostaphylos*—a very fine pan, *Kalmia angustifolia*, *Cassiope selaginoides* and *Verbascum dumulosum*. Unfortunately the Novice Classes were even worse supported than usual, but the entries which were there were of good quality, as for example a really fine pan of *Wahlenbergia serpyllifolia*, and a rather unusual plant, the real Cranberry, *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, in the "Native" Class. This plant is a rare Scottish Native and has little pink flowers just like tiny *Dodecatheons*. The Floral Classes were also very poorly supported, though the entries themselves were of excellent quality.

The Forrest Medal was awarded to a really wonderful pan of what is in the opinion of the writer a far-from-wonderful plant, *Lewisia columbiana rosea*, shown by Mr. Jack Drake. This pan, about 12 ins. in diameter, was filled from rim to rim with tightly packed rosettes, in perfect condition and in full flower. Last year one of the Forrest Medals was awarded to *Syringa palibinii* and the result was a large number of this beautiful and very fragrant little shrub on show on the benches this year—let us hope devoutly that this year's Forrest award does not have the same effect!!

There were extremely good entries in the *Primula* classes, Mr. Cooke having a notable "three" in the Asiatic Section with *P. normanniana* and two others under Collectors' Numbers, as they are still not named. These were *PS&W* 6025, a lovely white flower near *P. wigramiana*, and *PS&W* 3535, said to be "near *wollastonii*, though to the writer

extremely distinct from it. "3535" is a very beautiful *Primula* of the Soldanelloid Section with lilac flowers which shade through white to a green eye. This plant was also shown by the Show Secretary, Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon in, if anything, an even finer form.

The Trade Exhibits reached their usual high level, but showed a considerably different selection of plants from those which usually appear at Edinburgh. Three Large Gold Medals were awarded. One, for a Built-up Rock Garden, was awarded to Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson, Ltd. of Hamilton, the second for Rock Plants in Pans to Mr. Jack Drake of Inshriach, and the third, for a Floral Display, to Messrs. Dobbies, Ltd. of Edinburgh. One Gold Medal alone was awarded, for a Built-up Rock Garden to the Edrom Nurseries of Coldingham. Four Certificates of Merit were awarded by the Judges : one to the National Cactus and Succulent Society for the display on their Stand ; a second to Major and Mrs. Walmsley for their magnificent pan of *Daboecia azorica* ; a third to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, for their display of *Rhododendron* Species and Hybrids ; and the last to Colonel A. N. Balfour of Dawyck for his display of *Rhododendrons* from the Dawyck Gardens.

Mr. Jack Drake showed his usual fine pans, including the one noted above which won the Forrest Medal. One notable pan was of *Rydbergia grandiflora* in full flower, a tricky American alpine with big yellow daisy-flowers on two to three-inch stems. Other fine pans were of *Omphalogramma minus*, the new *Primula* PSW 3535 and *P. eburnea*. Messrs. Bannatyne & Jackson always have a good stand, but this year they put up what was probably their best yet. They showed a wide range of plants backed with *Genistas*, *Azaleas* and various other shrubs, and the total effect was really very good indeed. One interesting plant was *Pentaptera sicula*, an ericaceous subject which was probably being shown for the first time. The Edrom Nurseries had a big island stand with massed tall *Primulas* at the one end, and the smaller plants at the other. A striking plant exhibited, which is seldom seen, was *Iris bracteosa*. Messrs. Young & Thomson showed dwarf shrubs, *Saxifrages* and *Phloxes*, and the Newstead Nurseries displayed *Primulas* and some very good dwarf *Calceolaria* species, especially *C. crenatiflora*.

We were glad to welcome a newcomer in Lt.-Colonel Stitt of Blairgowrie, who showed conifers and heaths with *Hebe Hulkeana* and a good plant of *Eriogonum ovalifolium*. The latter is a relatively little-known plant which has silvery-grey leaves and which should prove popular in the "silver" class. Mrs. Laing of Hawick was in her usual position in the corner of the Hall and showed us a selection of beautifully-grown and flowered plants. With the Show being late we saw a lot of plants which normally do not appear at our Shows, such as *Erinus alpinus*, and *Aethionema*—and how good they are, really reliable and suitable plants which are liable to be forgotten in the

wealth of new plants, so many of which are not really half as good "value." There was also a good selection of Saxifrages, Aubrietas and other small plants, and some really fine Anacyclus. Messrs. Dobbies Ltd. had a very fine display of Dahlias—another result of the date, as their magnificent Dahlias normally only appear at the big summer Flower Shows.

The National Cactus and Succulent Society had their usual publicity stand with a fine display of their groups of plants. The whole of their exhibit was backed by a wonderful curtain of plants of Epiphyllum in magnificent flower in shades ranging from pale pink to full scarlet. These had been grown by Dr. Morison, and their like can seldom have been seen anywhere. Messrs. Wm. Brown Ltd. showed a wide range of books on gardening, gardens and flowers, and the Lavex Co. had a very good floral display backing their range of Sesame Compounds, peat and sand, while a newcomer was the Tay Sand Co., who exhibited to us the various sizes of sand and gravel that they grade from their raw material which they dredge from the Tay Estuary. In addition, they showed samples of rock, and some beautiful hand-made pottery as well.

This year there was a very welcome return of what the Show Secretary called the "Picture Gallery." This was a display of work by three real experts—Mr. David Wilkie, Major George Sherriff and Captain Paul Furse, R.N. Mr. Wilkie's share consisted of a selection from his famous collection of plant photographs—really plant portraits—probably the finest in the country, while Major Sherriff's were photographs taken in the field, showing many of the plants which he had introduced growing in their natural habitats, and also general views of the country and its peoples. Captain Furse showed some of his very beautiful flower paintings which not only are beautiful, but botanically accurate as well. We are much indebted to these three members for letting us see their work, and to the Royal Scottish Museum for the very generous loan of the show-cases in which they were so well displayed by Dr. Morison and his team who were in charge of this section.

Downstairs we had the Rhododendron Classes which, most regretably, were very weakly supported. Admittedly the weather had been, to put it mildly, far from helpful, but still, surely, there were many more who could have exhibited Rhododendrons and did not. Colonel Balfour of Dawyck and also the Royal Botanic Garden redeemed this section from failure by their two displays, thus showing that the East *can* grow these magnificent plants.

The usual Demonstrations were given during the afternoons. These were of the construction of a Dry Wall, by Mr. Wood of the R.B.G., with a commentary by the writer, and the Evening Lecture was given by Mr. Wall on "Plants from the Show Benches." All three of these events were well attended and gave rise to interesting discussions.

It is very unfortunate that the change from three days to two has caused such a serious loss financially. It had been argued that the "third-day-gate" would come in on the second day and that this would redeem the finances. Actually this did *not* occur, and the Show was down by almost exactly the average sum which has been taken on the third day in previous years, the numbers on the first and second days being substantially unaltered.

HENRY TOD

THE SCOTTISH RHODODENDRON SHOW

THE SCOTTISH RHODODENDRON SHOW was held on the 20th and 21st April in the McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, and was arranged jointly by the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the Gardens Committee of the National Trust for Scotland. The prominent feature of the Show was the high standard of the exhibits. A most interesting collection of Rhododendrons provided a very attractive and colourful display which was admired by the large number of visitors to the Show on both days.

The outstanding exhibits of the Show were two superb trusses of *R. sinogrande*, with creamy-white flowers, exhibited by Her Grace, the Duchess of Montrose and by Mr. R. O. Hambro of Logan, and an exceptionally fine truss of *R. Macabe anum*, with large pale yellow flowers, by Colonel D. R. Carrick-Buchanan of Corsewall. Special mention should be made of a very fine truss of the new species, *R. Molly anum*, with delicate pink flowers, shown by Sir George Campbell of Succoth, Bart., a magnificent large-flowered truss of *R. sutchuenense* by Mr. F. L. Ingall, and an attractive truss of *R. Lopsangianum* by Colonel J. N. Horlick.

In the Arboreum Series, a fine truss of *R. silvaticum* won the first prize for Mr. R. O. Hambro, who was also awarded the first prize in the Barbatum Series for an unusually graceful truss of *R. pachytrichum* of unspotted pale cream-coloured flowers. Class 109 for three species, Class 111 for one hybrid raised by Exhibitor, and Class 131 for a spray of deciduous Azalea, were won by the very fine specimens entered by the Earl of Stair. First prize was awarded to Messrs. A. R. & A. Gibson for their most attractive exhibits in Class 115 for the Boothii Series, in Class 132 for evergreen Azaleas, and in Class 136 for a bowl of Rhododendrons arranged for decorative effect.

In the Thomsonii Series, Colonel E. W. S. Balfour took the first prize with a magnificent truss of *R. Thomsonii* with deep crimson flowers. In the Heliopsis Series, Mr. E. H. M. Cox entered a beautiful spray of *R. desquamatum* with pinkish flowers, winning first place. Class 110 for three hybrids, Class 118 for the Maddenii Series, and Class 125 for the Neriiflorum Series, produced some interesting exhibits. The first prize was awarded in each of these classes to Messrs. J. & M. Noble.

The Sir John Stirling-Maxwell Trophy for the highest aggregate in all classes was awarded to Messrs. J. & M. Noble of Ardinglas. The National Trust for Scotland Trophy, also presented by Sir John Stirling-Maxwell of Pollok, Bart., for the best exhibits of smaller Rhododendrons, was won by Mr. E. H. M. Cox of Glendoick. The Show was a great success, and the organisers must be congratulated on their achievement. A debt of gratitude is due to Mr. E. H. M. Cox who gave much time and work towards the Show, to Mr. E. Darling for his untiring energy and assistance, and to all the Exhibitors for their support. We look forward with great interest to an equally successful Show next year.

H. H. DAVIDIAN

THE HIGHLAND SHOW

THE CLUB STAND was staged and the large majority of the plants supplied by the Crichton Royal Mental Institution under the direction of Mr. MacDonald, C.R. for Dumfriesshire. Major and Mrs. Walmsley and Mrs. Young also kindly lent a few plants of distinction. Our thanks are due to these, as also to Mrs. McLellan, C.R. for Kirkcudbrightshire, and other ladies who gave much time attending the Stand.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester visited the Stand on 23rd July and showed much interest. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, visited the Stand on 24th July and expressed her appreciation of rock garden plants. She was graciously pleased to accept a copy of the *Coming-of-Age Journal* from the President. About 30 new members joined during the Show—a very satisfactory figure.

J. C. D.

It Costs You Nothing

but it helps to pay for the *Journal* if, when ordering plants, etc., as a result of an Advert. in the *Journal* you say so.

County Activities

ANGUS

LECTURES : Five meetings were held in University College, Dundee, on the first Mondays of November and December 1953, and February, March and April 1954. All were well attended.

The November meeting was addressed by Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon on "Walls and Screes," in his usual able and interesting manner. Mr. James R. Aitken, Perth, took as his subject "Scottish Mountains and their Flora," and showed us many beautiful colour slides he had taken of our hills and the flowers that grow there. The colour transparencies, particularly of the mountain scenery, thrilled with their excellence and his commentary was full of interest. Owing to the sudden bereavement of our speaker for the February meeting, the C.R. showed some of his newest colour slides. In March Mr. J. L. Mowat gave a talk on some of the plants grown at the University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, beautifully illustrated by colour transparencies taken by Mrs. Cowie.

The April meeting took the form of a small Show, at which Mr. Mowat and his Assistant, Mr. Charles McDermott, officiated as Judges. A judging competition amongst those present started the meeting and, after the official judging, Mr. Mowat gave a detailed explanation of the awards, with helpful hints and advice as he went along. This proves one of the most useful items in our activities, creating great interest and giving encouragement to novice exhibitors.

GARDEN VISITS : Three visits were arranged, and Mrs. Cox, C.R., Perthshire, kindly invited Angus members to join her party to Caenlochan Glen. All outings had full attendances.

On 19th May we had an evening run to Tannadice to see Major Neish's garden. The large collection of dwarf Rhododendrons was a treat to beginner and expert alike. The many early Saxifrages were past, as also some of the earlier bulbs, but Tulips, *linifolia*, *batalini*, *persica* and *orphanidea* were delightful. Haberleas and Ramondas are also grown well here. The blues of *Lithospermum* and *Gentiana acaulis* in big clumps, mingled with the masses of the more usual rock garden plants, and made a picture we were happy to see again. Our St. Andrews trip this year was perhaps the most successful we have had there. We found Balgove in fine form and Mr. and Mrs. Weir are to be congratulated on the great variety of interest provided. The peat garden attracts by the thriving condition of many of the less easy species. Mrs. Grace's garden at Grange has the attraction of a fine pool with bog Primulas doing splendidly. Her two-year-old rock garden was looking well and established plants of some less well known species proved how well the garden had been made and was being maintained. The University Botanic Gardens provided the usual feast for everyone, no matter what one's special favourites

may be. Here also the Peat Garden was a feature, with prospering plants of various *Petiolaris Primulas*, *Meconopsis* and a good collection of *Ericaceae*.

The highlight of our series of visits was Major and Mrs. W. G. Knox Finlay's garden at Keillour Castle. There the beautiful, wonderful, new, rare, and difficult plants are made to thrive in the open garden. Since our last visit the newer parts of the garden have become even more lovely. The new developments in the east den, previously seen, are now taking shape, while the western den, a recent development, is already showing great promise with a different range of plants. New arrivals in the east den were some collected plants of *Jankaea heldreichii* from Mount Olympus, and it will be of great interest to know how they progress.

We are indebted to the Speakers who helped to make our winter session so successful, and our thanks are due to the owners of the fine gardens we visited for allowing us to share their delights. As many other Counties are doing, we have succeeded in paying our own way, and in fact had a little over to help the Dundee Show finances.

S. M., C.R.

AYRSHIRE

THE PROGRAMME of Winter Lectures and talks were well attended and very much enjoyed. We are most grateful to the lecturers who came to help us. In *October* we had Mr. J. T. Wall of Bannatyne & Jackson, who gave us a most interesting lecture on "Propagation of Alpines." In *November* Dr. Dovaston, West of Scotland Agricultural College, gave us a talk on "Cyclamen for the Garden," illustrated by slides. In *February* we had a lecture on "Peat Walls" by Mr. A. Evans of Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. This was a most interesting lecture and members have been looking for peat ever since. In *March* we held a public meeting in Ayr and had a wonderful talk on "Plants of South East Asia," illustrated by a colour film, by Dr. G. Taylor, D.Sc., F.L.S., Keeper of Botany at the British Museum. Also a unique colour film of the New Year Celebrations at Lhasa. In *April* Mr. Wakefield, of the Parks Department, Ayr, gave us a helpful lecture on "Small Shrubs for the Rock Garden." In *May* we had a practical Demonstration on Rock Garden Construction. Unfortunately it was bitterly cold, but many enjoyed a demonstration by Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Hay, who showed the construction and planting of a rock garden. In *April* forty members enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Loch Inch Castle. Lord and Lady Stair most kindly welcomed us and showed us the wonderful shrubs and garden near the house. Afterwards Mr. Rye, the Head Gardener, took us to Castle Kennedy, and showed us the many *Rhododendrons* and *Azaleas*, *Magnolias*, *Camelias*, etc., growing in profusion and beauty. It was an afternoon that none of us will ever forget and we

were all deeply indebted to Lord and Lady Stair. Our only other outing was to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, in June. About thirty members enjoyed their visit to the propagating department and the rock garden immensely. Mr. Evans conducted the party and we are deeply indebted to him for imparting so much knowledge to us all. The County Representative wishes to express her gratitude to all who assisted during the past year.

Mrs. J. B. FINDLAY, C.R.

BERWICKSHIRE

DECEMBER 9TH 1953. A well-attended meeting was held in Homecliffe House by kind permission of Miss Home. Miss E. Logan Home gave a most interesting illustrated lecture on "Plant-hunting in the French Alps."

January 28th, 1954. A meeting was held in Duns, when Dr. Henry Tod gave an interesting and useful lecture on "Rock-gardening—How and Why."

In May a visit was made to the garden at Etal Manor by kind permission of Lady Joicey, when members were thrilled by the variety and beauty of the rock garden and by the lovely spacious gardens and grounds. After tea by the way-side members went on to the rock garden of Miss Pape at Grindon Corner and were fascinated by that example of what can be done in a small space.

Local groups also paid less formal visits to members' gardens.

J. W. H., C.R.

CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND

A VERY interesting and successful lantern lecture was given in May by Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon and brought in several new members. Although the weather was most unkind, the lecturer paid a visit to Mrs. Davidson's garden, Buckies, and was much impressed by the beauty of the garden and especially by a perfect example of *Ramonda Myconi* in a most natural-looking setting in a north facing rock crevice. In another garden he was surprised to see *Eucalyptus Gunnii* growing strongly in this rigorous Northern district.

C. MACDONALD C.R.

DUNBARTON, GLASGOW AND RENFREWSHIRE

MEETINGS held on the first Monday of each month from October to April in Rosalind's Tea Rooms, Gordon Street, Glasgow, are proving more popular than ever. The attendance seldom fell below 70 and on several occasions well over 100 were present. Meetings are most informal: a talk is given and discussion follows. Questions by mem-

bers who have difficulties they wish resolved, or who seek advice and guidance, are answered by one or more of the members present.

At the November meeting the talk was given by Miss M. E. Gibson, M.B., Ch.B., who spent three weeks in the Austrian Alps in July 1953. She described the rarer alpine plants found in that part of the world and left us all with the desire to go out and see them for ourselves. The December talk was given by Dr. Dovaston, whose subject was "Crocuses," and was illustrated by coloured slides. As on former occasions, his talk was most informative. At the January meeting Mr. T. L. Affleck talked on "Cacti and Succulents" and had a selection of well-grown plants in pots to illustrate his talk. In February Mr. J. T. Wall chose for his subject "Wisley Gardens." Coming from that "airt," he talked with authority and much inside information. Beautiful slides of different aspects of the garden gave added interest.

Mr. Robert J. C. Biggart chose as his subject for the March talk—"Making a Rock Garden." As his garden is just in the making, he emphasised in his modest, humorous manner the errors he had committed and we must avoid. Those who know Mr. Biggart feel certain that in the near future his garden will be among the best in the West. The final talk in April was given by Mr. Alex. Reid, O.B.E., of Edinburgh. The subject, "The Alpine House," was illustrated by excellent slides, and he imparted most of his secrets for success to an appreciative and interested audience. An added attraction was a collection of rare plants, including *Rhodo. leucaspis* and *Dionysia curviflora*, which later at Glasgow Show won for him the coveted George Forrest Memorial Medal.

Visits to gardens were limited to three this year. On the last Saturday of May some 50 members made their way by rail, bus or car to Port Glasgow and spent the afternoon at Ravenswood. The following Saturday, 5th June, the bus took us to Dunfermline. It was Show Day, but despite the fact that Mrs. Wilson is Hon. Show Secretary she still found time to arrange our meals and a visit to a lovely garden outwith the town's boundary. The highlight, however, was the Show itself. The various classes of rock plants certainly interested us all, but the chief attraction was the display of paintings of the wild flowers in the district by the pupils from the various schools in the town: they reached a very high standard. And what about the "miniature gardens" class confined to school children? Margarine or fish boxes formed the containers, and there were over 50 entries, each one more original than the other. What a fertile field for future members of the Rock Club has been created by the Dunfermline Show Committee!

On Saturday, 19th June, we found ourselves in the garden of Mr. Kenneth C. Corsar, Maurice Wood, Milton Bridge, Midlothian. We were a large party, exceeding 50 in number, but Mrs. Corsar and daughter acted as very efficient guides and we admired pools, running waters, drifts of primulas and gentians, alpine house and frames. Thereafter we visited the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Davidson, West

Linton. Both are real enthusiasts and no trouble was spared to show us their many treasures, many of which had been collected by themselves. Dr. Davidson escorted us to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham. This garden has many admirable features, the most striking of which was what one might call a scree under glass. Our final impression was one of great pleasure at the friendly and cordial reception we received from our hosts.

And what of our coming activities? Well, Rosalind's Tea Rooms have again been booked for our winter meetings. These have been fixed for the first Monday of each month, commencing in October, at 7.15 p.m., and carrying on to April 1955. In January, however, to avoid New Year festivities, we shall meet on the second Monday. At the first meeting in October Dr. Gibson, who visited the Austrian Alps last year and the Swiss Alps this year, will tell of her experiences there. Others have been approached, including Mr. Kenneth C. Cor-sar, and an interesting winter programme lies ahead.

These activities will be followed in the summer by outings to the following districts :—(1) Stranraer, to the gardens of the Earl of Stair (Lochinch) and Mr. R. O. Hambro (Logan House); (2) Jack Drake's nurseries at Aviemore; (3) An afternoon outing to gardens in Bearsden and district and including the garden of Mr. W. C. Buchanan. These outings will come up for discussion and approval at our first meeting in October. Please note that members and their friends are welcomed to all our meetings.

EDWARD DARLING, C.R.

EAST LoTHIAN

ONCE AGAIN monthly winter meetings have been held at different towns and villages throughout the County. In October at Aberlady, the Misses Logan Home and Mr. Duguid gave an illustrated talk on their recent plant-collecting holiday in the French Alps. At North Berwick in November, Mrs. Simson Hall showed some very beautiful colour slides of her garden in the outskirts of Edinburgh. In December, Mr. David Wilkie lectured at Gifford on Gentians, and showed some slides of this genus. At Dunbar in February, the brilliant colours of spring and summer were brought to the screen by photographs taken in the East Lothian gardens of Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Boyd-Harvey, Mr. Balden and Mr. Sanderson.

Dr. Henry Tod presided at the March Discussion Meeting at Haddington when members spoke on subjects of interest to them—Miss Nisbet on *Meconopsis*, Mrs. Boyd-Harvey on *Primula Clarkei*, Mr. Sanderson on plants for areas of low rainfall, and Mr. Elder on background shrubs for the rock garden. General discussion followed each talk.

Later in the month Mrs. MacFarlane again threw open her house and garage for a "Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale." This

gave members the opportunity of exchanging surplus plants ; the profits from the sale will be used towards the overhead expenses of the County Show in the Autumn.

The garden-visiting season began in April with an escorted tour of the rock garden at the R.B.G., followed by the privilege of visiting the propagating houses, where so many rare new plants are being increased.

In May a trip was made over the Forth to visit the University Botanic Gardens, St. Andrews, under the guidance of Mr. Mowat. There many new Primulas and Meconopsis were to be seen rubbing shoulders with Scottish native plants. There was much to be seen in Mr. Weir's garden at Balgove, where the trough plantings were notable. Mrs. Grace's rocky outcrop at Grange was full of both interest and colour, but the day was too dull to open the hundreds of flowers in her glorious bed of *Gentiana acaulis*.

In June, the final meeting of the season took place at the County Representative's garden at Eaglescairnie. The bog garden which was being planned by Mrs. Peel at a previous visit has now justified itself with a blaze of Candelabra Primulas, and at this most recent visit, a new peat wall was under construction.

All the Shows have had at least a few exhibits from East Lothian gardens, and at Edinburgh four East Lothian members between them provided a very high proportion indeed of the exhibits. The Henry Archibald Cup for three plants of easy cultivation in the open still remains in the County, being won this year by Mrs. Bell.

L. B.-H.

EDINBURGH

FIVE Evening Meetings were held in the winter months from November to March. The opening one was by the President, followed by Dr. Tod, upon the selection and preparation of plants for showing ; thereafter there was lively question and discussion.

In December Dr. Davidson showed slides of a plant-hunting holiday six months earlier in the Valle de Aran on the northern slopes of the Pyrenees. The village of Salardu was the centre from which Dr. and Mrs. Davidson pioneered in an area botanically little explored and holding some rare endemics.

On a January evening we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Mitchell's garden in Dundee in full early summer glory with diverse species described and explained most lucidly by their owner.

Our next meeting was at the Royal Botanic Garden lecture hall, when a large audience of members and guests came to see the film of "The National Trust Gardens Cruise 1953," accompanied by a commentary by Dr. Cowan. Scenically this film was well-nigh perfect, botanically it was perhaps unsatisfying to keen plantsmen. Some of us

would have preferred more close-ups of "Florae rarae" and fewer of "Homo sapiens."

Finally, on St. Patrick's Day, we held again the ever-popular "Bring a Plant" night, which on this occasion Dr. Tod and Mr. Adams ingeniously turned into a members' show. Mr. Livingstone kindly acted as judge and commentator. Owing to weeks of severe weather, it was very miniature, but certainly there was quality rather than quantity, which was after all just as it should be.

WINIFRED ROBERTSON, C.R. (Retired)

* * *

During the winter session 1954-55 meetings will be held in Messrs. Brown's (Booksellers) Tea-room at 57 George Street, Edinburgh, each month from October till April on the first Wednesday evening of the month. Doors will open at 7.45 p.m. and meetings commence at 8 p.m. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served at 2/- per head.

October 6th: "Late-flowering Plants," a discussion, illustrated in colour. Bring a plant, please.

November 3rd: "Primulas," by J. K. Hume, N.D.H., Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Illustrated in colour.

December 1st: "Alpine Plants—their situations and soils," by Dr. Henry Tod, F.R.S.E.

January 5th 1955: "A Rock Garden Quiz" night. Members please submit questions on December 1st or in writing to the C.R. before the meeting. The panel will be announced later.

The programme for the latter part of the session will be announced in the Year Book.

W. R. M. ADAMS, C.R.

FIFE—EAST

DURING the past season our members have had many interesting and entertaining evenings with lectures, discussions and visits to each other's gardens.

Beginning on November 6th with a discussion on "Plants and Problems," when Mr. Mowat, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Neil Lyle gave helpful explanations of the extraordinary behaviour of our plants and hints for treatment. On December 4th, in the Botany Lecture Room, University, St. Andrews, we had a most delightful illustrated talk by Miss Logan Home, on "A Visit to Lauteret." At the January Meeting Mr. Mowat, in response to a suggestion made last year, went over the "Seed Exchange List" with us, answered questions as to size, colour, etc., and our chances of growing the seed in our differently situated gardens. "The Rock Garden—How and Why," an illustrated talk on Rock Garden construction and reconstruction, by

Dr. Henry Tod, was given at the February meeting, and proved extremely interesting and very helpful. March 26th was "Show Night and Judging Competition." The members brought such a variety of plants that Mr. McDermott and Mr. Neil Lyle were able to make 10 classes for judging. Mr. Lyle very kindly presented plants to the winners of the competition. This is always a popular and enjoyable meeting and members find it very helpful. In May, as in previous years, a most successful Coffee Morning and Sale of Plants was organised by the lady members. Thanks are due to members and friends who so generously gave the coffee, cakes, plants and donations, and helped in so many ways.

Garden visits this year were all in the vicinity of St. Andrews. A cordial welcome was given to fellow members on 18TH JUNE by Master D. J. Mowat, 41 Lamond Drive ; Mr. C. J. Halley, Ianslea, Priestden Park ; Mr. H. T. Reidie, Eastlea, Kinkell Terrace ; Miss Maclachlan, 12 Grange Road ; Mrs. Grace, Grange ; Mr. W. Bruce, 79 Tom Morris Drive : 25TH JUNE by Miss J. I. Low, 46 South Street ; Mr. T. Jessiman, 14 Queen's Gardens ; University Botanic Gardens ; Miss Pirie, 7 Greyfriars Garden : 2ND JULY by Mr. T. Anderson and Mrs. A. Buchanan, Guardbridge ; Mr. and Mrs. Weir, Balgove ; Mrs. Tatton, Priory Acres ; Mrs. Aikman, St. Cyrus West. Between 30 and 40 members were present each evening. The weather was very cold on all three nights, and we were most grateful for the tea provided by Mrs. Grace, Miss Pirie and Mrs. Tatton.

M. A. PIRIE

FIFE—WEST

ONCE AGAIN we had some very enjoyable lectures and meetings in Dunfermline during the winter months and some new members were enrolled. We are very grateful to the lecturers for the delightful evenings we spent listening, learning and asking questions which they very kindly allowed to be put as the lecture proceeded. This added to the enjoyment and informality of the meetings.

November 11th. For our first meeting, Mr. James R. Aitken, Perth, gave us a talk on "Scottish Mountains and their Flora," with coloured slides of his own photography which were a sheer delight to see. Many of them literally took one's breath away for their beauty of colour and contrast of sun and mist.

December 9th. Mr. Stewart Mitchell came all the way from Dundee to give us his talk on "The Small Rock Garden," with coloured slides also from his own photography and of his own garden.

January 26th. This was a "Members' Discussion Night." Although we were few in numbers this night owing to bad weather and illness, we had a most enthusiastic meeting and our thanks are due to Mr. Mould—Mr. McIntyre's deputy—who so nobly stood up to our numerous questions.

February 23rd. Once again Mrs. James Smart, Limekilns, one of our group members, gave us an entertaining lecture with photographs and slides of her "Tyrolean Holiday" which made us literally forget the bleak winter evening outside. We shall be looking forward to another talk next winter.

March 23rd. For our final meeting we had a lecture on "Showing and Preparing Plants for Exhibition," which Mr. C. McDermott, St. Andrews, was to have given, but unfortunately he was unable to come, so Mr. J. L. Mowat, St. Andrews, very kindly took his place. This talk proved a great help to us all and encouraged the very new members to compete in the June Show. Afterwards we held a friendly judging competition with plants and bulbs brought by members. Mr. Mowat then judged the entries and afterwards explained in detail his placings, which was a most valuable lesson to us all. For those who could stay to chat and meet each other afterwards, tea and biscuits were served at each meeting. In April a very successful Bring and Buy Coffee Morning was held to meet the expenses of Dunfermline Show and we are also very grateful to the St. Andrews group for their donation towards it, and our thanks to all those who helped so willingly.

Further meetings will be arranged for the coming winter to be held as usual in the Women's Centre, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline, and we hope to welcome all members and any friends who are interested. The assistant C.R. once again would like to thank all those who helped in any way towards the success of the winter meetings.

E. D. W.

INVERNESS-SHIRE

ON SUNDAY, 20th June, the Inverness-shire members and their friends were welcomed at Inshriach Alpine Plant Nursery by Mr. Jack Drake. The weather was, luckily, fine and attendance was good, and it was possible to make an extensive tour of the gardens. The Meconopsis and Primulas were at their best.

A number of members showed great enthusiasm and were of the opinion that they could raise many new members in and around Inverness. If this can be done, it should be possible to arrange further activities in the area, which, due to the scattered nature of the membership, has formerly not been practicable.

J. D., C.R.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

THE FOLLOWING meetings, lectures, etc., were enjoyed and appreciated by members and friends who were present.

26th September 1953. A Bring and Buy Sale of Plants was held in Colvend Church Hall, the proceeds of which went to a Fund for our

Branch expenses. After a successful afternoon, tea was provided by local members for the 36 who attended.

21st November 1953. At a meeting in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Castle Douglas, a very interesting and informative talk was given by Mr. W. M. Moyes, County Horticultural Adviser, on the "Cultivation of Apples in Kirkcudbrightshire."

12th December 1953. A meeting held in Colvend Church Hall enjoyed delightful talks by Miss Violet Young on "Autumn Flowering Shrubs" and Miss King on "Trough Gardens." Both ladies brought some lovely specimens to illustrate their talks. Miss Young distributed a great number of cuttings to members. Judging by questions asked, Flowering Shrubs and Trough Gardens should be on the increase in Kirkcudbrightshire. Tea was provided by local members for the 30 present.

30th January 1954. At St. Andrew's Church Hall, Castle Douglas, Messrs. Longmuir and Adamson spoke on "Early Flowering Primulas" and "Choice Hardy Rock Plants." Beautiful specimens were brought, and all were noted, together with their requirements. Unfortunately snow was thick and roads were icy, which fact prevented a great number of people coming. Real appreciation was expressed to Messrs. Longmuir and Adamson for venturing to come such a distance on the treacherous roads.

25th March 1954. A "Brains Trust" was held in Colvend Church Hall, the Panel consisting of Miss G. Biggar, Miss Young, Mr. Moyes and Mr. McKnight. Miss V. Young acted as Chairman. Questions were varied, interesting and amusing. This was an experiment; we hope to have another. Tea and biscuits were provided for the 26 present.

24th April 1954. A visit was made to Mr. and Mrs. McQueen's garden, "Roughhill," Colvend, where masses of daffodils and many different varieties of colourful heaths looked lovely. A Magnolia full of buds was a great attraction, also masses of mixed polyanths (all grown from seed), primulas and rock plants. Excellent examples of fruit tree pruning and training were well worth seeing. Tea was very kindly provided, and very welcome as the day was cold. 32 members were present.

8th May 1954. Mr. and Mrs. Bothwell's garden, "Sunnyhurst," Kippford, was visited. This garden, though not large, was very lovely, and the recently-made peat garden a great attraction, as also was the burn which runs at the end of the garden; the bank all along one side was a solid mass of *Primula Wanda* hybrid. There were lovely tulips which had perfectly withstood the recent gale, and a small greenhouse was very full of colour. It was a lovely sunny afternoon, and tea was very kindly provided for all present.

29th May 1954. Three Rockcliffe Gardens were on view: "Whinneyknow," Lady Reed and Miss Robson; "Castlehill," the Misses Young; "Glenluffin," Major and Mrs. McLellan. About 40 members

and friends visited the three gardens on a very fine afternoon. All the gardens were at their best : the beautiful natural rock garden at "Whinneyknowe," with its many very lovely plants, some magnificent rhododendrons full of flower, and a fine specimen of *Gunnera* in flower with its "feet in water" which suits it well. At "Glenluffin," many cacti and succulents were in flower, and the rock wall and troughs were very attractive. The beautiful garden of "Castlehill" contains something of everything—rock plants, herbaceous plants, flowering shrubs, and trees of many kinds. The Misses Young provided a welcome tea for the visitors.

22nd/25th June 1954. The Royal Highland Show was held in Dumfries, and Mr. MacDonald, the Dumfriesshire C.R., had a very lovely stand representing the Dumfriesshire Branch of the S.R.G.C. Kirkcudbrightshire members helped the Dumfriesshire members by taking turns with them at the Stand during the four days. All were kept busy answering questions, and a good many new members were enrolled.

23rd July 1954. A visit was made to the Misses Biggars' garden, "Corbieton," Castle Douglas. This beautiful garden is outstanding for its lovely herbaceous plants, both in wide borders and on a wide, sloping piece of ground, where flowers of every colour showed up against a lovely shaded blue background of delphiniums. The Misses Biggar very kindly provided tea. 50 members and friends had been expected to enjoy the lovely surroundings of "Corbieton," but on account of the weather, only 34 were present.

On *3rd April* I was again asked to stage a Show of Plants representing the S.R.G.C. at the Kirkcudbright Spring Show. About 50 plants were staged, many being lent by local members, and 14 were lent by Mr. MacDonald, the Dumfriesshire C.R. The Kirkcudbright Show was a great success, the S.R.G.C. Stand adding to its attraction.

M. E. McLELLAN, C.R.

MIDLOTHIAN

As THE members are scattered over such a wide area, it has been thought that it will be best to use Edinburgh as the centre again, since there are reasonable transport facilities to and from Edinburgh, while cross-country routes are not nearly so good.

The meetings will be held jointly with the Edinburgh Section, as before, but there will be the County Spring Show in Penicuik on 5th March 1955. Details and the Schedule will appear in the Year Book, but advance copies of the Schedule may be obtained from me on request.

If members have other views on County Meetings, I shall be glad to hear from them.

HENRY TOD, C.R.

PERTHSHIRE

THE FOLLOWING lectures and outings took place.

November 9th 1953. Lecture in Perth by Mr. Stewart Mitchell, using his own slides, on "The Small Rock Garden." *March 1st 1954.* Lecture in Perth by Mr. James Aitken on "Climbing in the Torridon Mountains," with his own set of excellent slides. *April 24th 1954.* Glendoick Gardens, where a large party was entertained by Mr. Cox. Although, owing to the lateness of the season, Rhododendrons were not at their best, the Camellias and other shrubs were much admired, as were the Erythroniums in the Den. *June 19th.* Caenlochan. There is now a nucleus of really keen members, most of whom turned up at Tulchan on a boisterous morning. We were rewarded eventually when we reached the rocks below Glas Maol. Among plants were the following: *Alchemilla alpina*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Cerastium alpinum*, *Draba incana*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Habenaria viridis*, *Linum catharticum*, *Lycopodium alpinum*, *L. selago*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Meum athamanticum*, *Orchis maculata*, *O. mascula*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Potentilla Crantzii*, *Salix herbacea*, *S. reticulata*, *Saxifraga aizoides*, *S. hypnoides*, *S. oppositifolia*, *S. stellaris*, *Scabiosa Succisa*, *Sedum roseum*, *Selaginella selaginoides*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Thlaspi alpestris*, *Trientalis europaeus*, *Trollius europaeus*, *Viola lutea* and var. *amoena*. Interesting ferns were *Allosurus crispus*, *Asplenium viride*, *Botrychium lunaria*, *Cystopteris alpina*, *Polypodium Dryopteris*, and *P. Phegopteris*.

Mrs. G. Cox, C.R.

ROXBURGH AND SELKIRK

MEMBERS and friends were invited to visit the garden of Mrs. Short at Old Craden, Kelso, on the evening of Thursday, 1st July, from 7.30 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. It was thought that members might find it interesting to see the plants in flower at this time of year, a period outside the range of any of the Club Shows.

Fortunately a warm pleasant evening favoured the occasion and visiting members were interested in the lay-out of the garden and in many of the plants seen in flower. The unusual year meant that some were still in flower which would normally have been past by this time, but on the other hand others which should have been blooming by 1st July were still to come. Among those seen in flower were *Androsace strigillosa*, *Antirrhinum Asarina*, *Asperula Gussoni*, *Chrysogonum virginianum*, several Campanulas, *Incarvillea Delavayi*, and var. Bee's, Pink, *Dianthus deltoides*, and Little Jock, *Saxifraga lingulata superba*, *S. canis dalmatica*, *S. cochlearis major*, *Erica cinerea coccinea* and var. C. D. Eason, *Primulas sikkimensis* and *Waltoni*.

E. D. SHORT, C.R.

STIRLINGSHIRE

ACTIVITY has been resumed in Stirlingshire and thanks are due to the C.R.'s in Perthshire and Clackmannanshire for permission to include some members in their shires who live in this area.

Two meetings held in the Spring were well attended and enjoyed, and a visit one sunny evening to Perth, when Mr. and Mrs. Renton conducted us round their lovely garden, will long live in our memory. It is hoped to hold four meetings this winter, starting in November, of which notification will be sent out in due course. Several new members have joined us this year, to whom we extend a welcome.

E. M. HARVEY, C.R.

WEST LoTHIAN

THE NUMBER of members of the S.R.G.C. in West Lothian is so small, and their addresses so scattered over the county, that so far it has been almost impossible to call them all together to a meeting. Many of the West Lothian members, however, have attended the most enjoyable meetings of the Edinburgh section. This season, therefore, most attention has been devoted to giving lectures on rock gardening to various associations in the hope that new members will thereby be enrolled.

The garden of the representative has at all times been open for inspection by members of the Club, and there has always been something in the nature of the plants cultivated to cause happy controversy and guidance to one another in the art of rock plant cultivation. This particular district is noted for chrysanthemums and dahlias and it is very difficult to entice the experts away from their love of those plants and into the realms of the mountain gems.

J. G. COLLEE, C.R.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

MONTHLY meetings were held in Newton Stewart during the past winter and were well attended. We are grateful to the various speakers for their interesting and instructive talks, often illustrated by colour slides. Many fruitful discussions took place.

During the Spring, Lochinch, Knockdolian, and Culderry gardens were visited, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking the kind owners for the privilege of seeing their gardens.

We hope to hold monthly meetings again this winter.

L. WALMSLEY, C.R.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

ON WEDNESDAY, 11th November, a meeting and tea was held at Middleton Hall, Wooler, by kind invitation of Mrs. Kirkup, where the programme for 1954 was discussed.

Lectures were held at the Bluebell Hotel, Belford, as follows :— Tuesday, 13th October 1953 : Mr. Stewart Mitchell on "The Small Rock Garden," with coloured slides. Friday, 20th November : Dr. Henry Tod, Ph.D., F.R.S.E., on "The Rock Garden—How and Why," with slides. Friday, 5th March : Mr. Alfred Evans on "Rock Shrubs," with slides, some coloured. On Tuesday, 13th April, a meeting and tea was held at Newlands, Belford, by kind invitation of Mrs. and Miss Sanderson. The beautiful garden was visited later.

The following gardens were visited during the Spring and Summer : Saturday, 1st May : Old Graden, Kelso, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. P. Short. Mrs. Short entertained the members to coffee ; Viewfield, Hawick, where the members were kindly invited to tea by Mr. and Mrs. K. J. P. Laing ; Ingleside, Hawick, where other members were entertained to tea by kind invitation of Mrs. H. H. Mactaggart.

Tuesday, 4th May : Darras Hall Nurseries, Ponteland, by kind permission of Mr. Gordon Harrison ; The Stead, Ponteland, where the members were kindly invited to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Rimer.

Tuesday, 1st June : Ogscastle, Carnwath, by kind permission of Mr. H. Archibald ; Hazlieburn, West Linton, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Cunningham ; Linton Muir, West Linton, where Dr. and Mrs. Davidson kindly invited the members to tea.

Wednesday, 14th July : Etal Manor, Berwick-on-Tweed, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Joicey ; Coupland Castle, Wooler, by kind permission of Lady Aitchison.

On Saturday, 8th May, a very successful Bring and Buy Sale of Plants was held at the Bluebell Hotel, and on Wednesday, 30th June, the group Annual General Meeting took place, also at the Bluebell Hotel. Afterwards Mrs. Brunskill's garden was visited.

Arrangements made so far for 1954-55 are as follows, all at the Bluebell Hotel, Belford :—

Monday, 20th September : Meeting to arrange the 1955 Garden Visit programme. Tea will be served.

Tuesday, 12th October : Lecture by Lt.-Colonel C. H. Grey, D.S.O., F.L.S., "Bulbs for the Rock Garden."

Saturday, 6th November : Lecture by Mr. Reginald Kaye, "Alpine and Rock Plants," illustrated with coloured slides.

Monday, 29th November : Lecture by Mr. R. S. Masterton, M.R.C.V.S., "Propagation of Alpines," illustrated with coloured slides.

Thursday, 3rd March 1955 : Lecture by Mr. E. H. M. Cox, "Dwarfer Rhododendrons," with slides.

D. PAPE, C.R.

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND (TYNESIDE SUB-GROUP)

THE TYNESIDE sub-group held its first meeting at the Y.W.C.A. Club in Newcastle on Thursday, 15th July.

Mrs. Kelly gave a vivid and entertaining account of her recent plant-hunting expedition to the Pyrenees. The proceedings continued with an inspection of plants which members had brought for view, and closed with a lively discussion on varied points of common interest in which all present took part.

It is intended to hold similar meetings at three-monthly intervals and it is hoped that more members on Tyneside and district will avail themselves of these opportunities of informal discussion and social intercourse.

C. F. BARNES, *Assistant C.R.*

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

To meet the needs of those who only require a small advertisement this new section of advertising has been introduced.

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The annual subscription is 3½ dollars, or 10 dollars for three years if paid in advance, and the Secretary, who will send further particulars, is Mrs. D. E. Hansell, 19 Pittsford Way, Summit, New Jersey, U.S.A.

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