

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Vol. 13

JANUARY, 1955

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C. R. Worth, Editor

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LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY

1858 - 1954

The holiday season brought sadness to many with the news that the mightiest figure in American horticulture, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, had passed away on Christmas night at his home in Ithaca, New York. Although his health had been failing for several years, his dominant position in the field of horticulture had extended over so many decades that he truly

*"seem'd a thing that could not feel
The touch of earthly years."*

Dr. Bailey erected for himself a colossal monument in his writings, which include nearly a hundred books on the most diversified aspects of agriculture, horticulture, and botany, as well as poems and essays. He began the development of the New York State College of Agriculture into a great institution. He established the Bailey Hortorium, in which one of his major interests, the study of cultivated plants, has been perpetuated.

Yet those who knew him will remember him more for his incredible vigor, his unflagging interest in botany and horticulture, his vast fund of stories and anecdotes, and most of all for the help and encouragement which he so freely and generously gave to others.

We mourn the loss of a friend.



Photo by Donald F. Merrett

Hebe (Veronica) armstrongii

THE VERONICA TRIBE

WILL INGWERSEN, EAST GRINSTEAD, ENGLAND

I AM WRITING this article at the special request of the President, and quite frankly, I am a little astonished at my temerity in venturing into the tangle of nomenclature into which Veronicas seem to have got themselves. I have always been fond of the genus, but have been too scared of becoming deeply involved with them to make any serious attempt to sort them out, nor do I feel that I am capable of doing so and I make no guarantee that the names used in my descriptions are strictly accurate, and I shall certainly cheat insofar as all the Veronicas which are rightly Hebes will be spoken of here as Veronicas. In fact, I claim the right to leave myself every kind of loophole through which to escape if the accuracy of any name I may use is challenged.

Veronica is an enormous genus, containing some 250 species, and any number of varieties and garden hybrids. In character the species vary from the prostrate *V. liliputiana*, which is never more than a mere film on the ground, to sturdy bushes up to a yard or two in height. Generally speaking those which can be more fittingly classed amongst annual or perennial herbs are natives of the cooler areas of the Northern Hemisphere, whereas the majority of the shrubby kinds come from Australasia, New Guinea and S. America. *Paederota*, *Veronicastrum* and *Hebe* are the three genera into which botanists have placed many of the plants long known as Veronicas. The botanical differences which authorise these rearrangements shall not concern us here. My interest in Veronica is strictly confined to their value as garden plants.

However little the alphabetical, or "catalogue" type of article has to recommend it from the reader's point of view, in certain cases—and I think this is one of them—it is the best way to deal with a large group of plants. I shall, therefore, go systematically through the fairly lengthy list of Veronicas which I have grown, doing my best to break down this orderliness into something which is at least fairly readable, and giving full rein to my personal likes and dislikes.

That there are bad as well as good members is as true of Veronicas as it is of any other family, whether of the vegetable or animal kingdom, and many gardeners have placed *V. allionii* in the former category. It is a European species of creeping habit, and is only too easy to grow. If planted in rich garden soil it will invariably become coarse and rank and will rapidly smother any neighbours less vigorous than itself. If, however, it is grown in semi scree conditions, or starved in poor, sandy soil, it will make a quite neat carpet and will adorn the mats of leathery, toothed, dark green leaves with pretty two-inch spikes of dark blue flowers. To increase it is the easiest matter in the world. It roots as it runs, and small pieces hunked off the parent plant will take root when replanted elsewhere and quickly form a thriving colony. It is a bad nurseryman's plant, for most gardeners are only too eager to give it away to their friends.

V. alpina is also a European, and is, on the whole, a rather poor little plant with no particular garden value. It is a native of Britain as well as the Alps, and, unless a particularly good form can be found—and these do exist, I have seen one or two quite attractive plants—it is not worth bothering about. The blue or violet flowers are carried in dense, narrow racemes, on stems which are usually weak and apt to flop around untidily.

It is surely needless for me to warn American readers against their native *V. americana*, which is related, and similar to the British *V. beccabunga*, a marsh plant which is as ugly as its name and must at all costs be kept out of the garden. I should be grateful to anyone who could tell me why the common name of *V. americana* is "Brooklime", and whether it is confined to this species?

V. armstrongii is a New Zealand shrub, and may be looked for in books and catalogues which go in for accurate nomenclature amongst the Hebes. It is an evergreen, with spreading, almost fan-like branches. The stems are densely clothed with the characteristic adpressed leaves which have won for this group the common name of "Whipcord Veronicas". The small white flowers are carried in terminal clusters during the late summer. It is an attractive dwarf shrub but is not always completely hardy in exposed gardens in Britain. Although I have visited a good many American gardens, both in the East and the West, I am ashamed to admit that I have no clear recollection of the Veronicas I met. It may well be that few of the species from south of equator are hardy, especially in the East. I know that Mr. Epstein walks hurriedly past any New Zealand or Australian plant when he visits us here in Sussex, however enticing it may seem to be.

There are not many catalogues in which *V. austriaca* is listed, which is a pity, for it has distinct possibilities as a plant for the less formal herbaceous border. The leaves are deeply cut, with the segments again sharply divided, and adorn stems which can rise to a height of eighteen or twenty-four inches. The quite sizeable blue flowers are carried in long racemes near the top of the stems. It is in nature an extremely variable plant, a number of forms having been found in south-eastern Europe, some of which have even been given varietal rank. I cannot help feeling that this is a species which might derive benefit from the careful attention of a skilled plant breeder, who by judicious selection could produce a really garden-worthy variety.

V. bellidioides is akin to *V. alpina*, but with much larger basal leaves, and much less value as a garden plant. *V. bidwillii*, however, which follows on alphabetically, is quite a different kettle of fish and is a most desirable small plant for the rock garden. It is a New Zealand plant, and, unfortunately, its place in gardens has long been usurped by less beautiful plants masquerading under its name. The true plant forms a wee, dense tuft of tiny, glossy, leathery deep green leaves. The slender flower stems, no more than three inches high, bear loose racemes of dainty white flowers, each petal prettily veined with lilac. It is a most elegant little plant and is fit to associate with the choicest aristocracy of the scree or moraine. If grown in fat soil it will not withstand a cold, wet winter, but in a more spartan diet and a warm, sunny position, proves as hardy as any New Zealand Veronica, in Britain anyway.

From the hills of Lebanon comes *V. bombycina*, a quite adorable little plant with soft stems densely clothed in white felt, which also covers the tiny sessile leaves. It is far from being easy to grow, and is almost always seen in the alpine house, where it is very content to make a loose silvery carpet. The few flowered racemes carry quite large china-blue flowers—this in spite of the fact that some text books describe the colour as "reddish". I am not at all certain that *V. bombycina* is known in American gardens. I have tried to ship it over to enthusiasts several times, but it is so soft and woolly that it has never survived even the most careful packing and most rapid air voyage. All the plants I have grown have proved sterile and I have never found a seed.

There are few more delightful plants for a tight chink between rocks than *V. bonarota* (sometimes *Paederota bonarota*). It is native to sun-baked cliffs in southern Europe and has little use for a cold, wet climate. The short, rather woody stems carry toothed, dark green leaves of hard, leathery texture, and the attractive deep blue flowers are borne in dense terminal spikes in mid- to late summer. Forsaking for a moment my alphabetical arrangement, I will include here *V. lutea*, or *Paederota lutea*, a related species but from the eastern Alps of

Europe, of rather looser habit and with pale yellow flowers. It is sometimes said to have little garden value but I have always found it a pleasing inhabitant of a narrow crevice, where it has always proved hardy and long-lived, and attracts a good deal of comment when in flower. It associates well with its more conventionally coloured relation.

From Asia Minor comes *V. caespitosa*, a dwarf, neat, tufted plant with ash-grey leaves and pretty soft pink flowers in short terminal racemes. It is a good rock garden plant, and so easy to grow that I am always surprised that it is not more widely known, especially as it is attractive at all seasons and does not rely upon its flowers alone for appeal.

V. canescens, or, as it must now be named, *V. liliputiana*, must be one of the smallest of all plants. The creeping, thread-like stems are covered with minute bronze leaves and the mat is almost literally invisible until it erupts into a carpet of stemless pale blue flowers. It is a New Zealander, and not too hardy, but a few threads salvaged in the autumn and kept under glass during the winter will ensure another colourful tapestry from July until August. It has also the useful habit of seeding itself mildly, enough seedlings surviving to re-establish the colony as a rule, if they are not weeded out by a careless hand.

I have grown at least three plants under the name of *V. catarractae* and even now I am not certain which is the true plant. For a long time a rather handsome, loose growing bushy plant with myriads of blue flowers was grown by most nurserymen under this name, but a more recent introduction from New Zealand, which I am inclined to think has more right to the name *catarractae*, is a particularly neat little evergreen plant, seldom more than three inches high, with plentiful cup-shaped white flowers of pure white, veined with faint red lines. It seems very hardy and is certainly a charmer.

V. cineria is too large for a rock garden but is a handsome species for the border or flower bed. The leaves are felted with grey hairs, and the twelve-inch stems carry spires of deep blue flowers. Botanical descriptions of the plant, which comes from Asia Minor, describe the flowers as rose coloured, but I have never seen any which were not blue. Botanists are notoriously unreliable about colour, which means little to them, and is often indistinguishable when they examine dried plants on herbarium sheets. There is a very fine garden variety of this Veronica named "Wendy", in which the foliage is stronger and the stems taller and the flowers of deeper blue.

V. cupressoides is a tall whipcord Veronica. The stems when bruised emit a pleasant cedar scent, and, although the flowers are very small, they are carried in such abundance that they provide a soft mist of lilac over a blossoming bush, which can be as much as five feet in height.

Plants of all kinds occasionally creep into cultivation under curious, and obviously impossible names. An example is the pretty little shrubby, evergreen Veronica which has for many years borne the meaningless name of *V. Bowles Variety*. I believe the plant is no more than a good form of *V. diosmifolia*, a New Zealand species with corymbose racemes of white to pale lavender flowers. Here again it is difficult to reconcile the botanical description of this plant as a tall shrub or small tree with the rather neat little two to three feet bushes which one sees in gardens, and it may well be that the true plant is not in general cultivation.

The trailing, woody stems of *V. epacridea* are covered with closely packed, triangular, leathery, dark green leaves, giving it a distinct and unmistakable appearance. The small white flowers are packed into dense terminal clusters. It is not a plant of striking beauty, but always commands admiration for some reason

or other. *V. x fairfieldii*, on the other hand, is a hybrid Veronica of singular beauty and a plant which once enabled me to demonstrate the propagating skill of our nursery staff, of which they are justly proud. On one of our Chelsea Flower Show Exhibits there was a gap, and the only plant at hand to fill it was a fine specimen of *V. x fairfieldii*, which I was reluctant to use as I knew that our entire stock consisted of about half a dozen plants. However, it was a little known plant and I did not anticipate that it would be in great demand, so in it went, with an extra stiff price attached as a precautionary discouragement. It proved to be the one plant on the exhibit which almost everyone wanted, and orders were booked for nearly a thousand plants. This was at the end of May, and by the end of November, every customer had been supplied with healthy and well rooted, if rather small plants!!! *V. x fairfieldii* is a hybrid between *V. hulkeana* and *V. laudiana*, and is intermediate between the parents (q.v.) in appearance, and hardier than either. It is a splendid shrub for a warm sheltered border at the foot of a south wall or on a terrace near the house.

V. gentianoides comes from the Caucasus and is an old garden friend, having been introduced in 1784. It is a perennial herbaceous plant with erect stems up to twelve or fifteen inches and loose, rather graceful racemes of pale blue flowers. There is a variety, *V. g. variegata* in which the leaves are strikingly variegated with silver markings. For those who like such abnormalities it is a worth while plant; personally I always feel that there is something unhealthy about variegated foliage and, with a very few exceptions, do not favour such freaks.

It becomes increasingly obvious that Veronica is not going to be contained in one issue of the *Bulletin*, so perhaps I should call a halt here, and continue their story in the next number, leaving my readers disappointedly seeking the descriptions of *V. hulkeana* and *laudiana* in order to appreciate the beauty of the hybrid between them.

(To be continued)

AN ALPINE MEADOW IN COLORADO

ROBERT M. SENIOR, CINCINNATI, OHIO

LAST SUMMER we spent a two weeks vacation at Aspen, Colorado, and there, almost every day, we had the pleasure of botanizing. It is an ideal location to study the various plant zones of this region. The visitor coming by train descends at Glenwood Springs, where the altitude is some 5000 ft. From that point, there is an excellent road to Aspen which rises so gradually that when we arrive at our destination, we are surprised to find that the town is at an elevation of 8000 ft. At Aspen we can drive over good roads, and in less than an hour, attain a height of 9500 ft.; or we can take the ski lift at Aspen, incidentally one of the longest "lifts" in this country, and upon arriving at the top, reach an elevation of about 11,000 ft., which is close to timber line. Thus, from Glenwood Springs to the top of the lift, we ascend about 6000 ft., and of course pass through several plant zones, each with its distinctive flora.

About eleven miles from Aspen, at an elevation of 9500 ft., at a place called Ashcroft, which was formerly a mining center, there is a large beautiful alpine meadow, which, in August, is covered with a delightful array of flowers. Though the meadow is fairly flat, it is almost surrounded by high mountains on which we catch occasional glimpses of snow.

In the meadow, if one were to select the one plant that most pleases the eye, I think he would choose the lovely purple fringed gentian, *G. elegans*. In dampish

places they literally cover the ground. Occasionally, growing amongst them, the rose-purple lousewort, *Pedicularis groenlandica*, could be found. Another plant inhabiting this colony, and about a foot high, was the purplish flowered *Swertia palustris*, which also belongs to the Gentian family. Incidentally, if any member has never seen a swertia, he can get a good idea of it in Clement's "Rocky Mountain Flowers", Plate 18. The species shown does not have the same color as the purple flowered *S. palustris* but the inflorescence is similar. On this plate also, Clements shows a gentian which she calls "serrata", which name has been superseded by *G. elegans*.

Scattered here and there over the meadow grow the bright red Indian paint brushes, probably *Castilleja miniata*, contrasting with the low growing alpine golden rods. Of course the rather ubiquitous violet harebell, or, as it is often called, "Bluebell of Scotland", is found in profusion. But whereas *C. rotundifolia* is found over almost the entire northern hemisphere, another campanula that grows here, and which is found only in the Rocky Mountains, is *Campanula parryi*, a charming plant that we have nearly always found with flowers peeping out above the grass. Whereas the harebell has bell-shaped flowers, *C. parryi* has rather flat spreading lobes, in various shades of violet, some even having a rose colored cast. Incidentally we have grown this plant for a number of years in our little Alpine House, where it seems to be perfectly at home. In fact, last summer we neglected to take one of our plants outside, and despite the fact that occasionally on a hot day the thermometer inside registered 105 degrees, the plant nevertheless somehow managed to survive. Though *C. parryi* would no doubt thrive in many rock gardens, like so many other campanulas, it is beloved of slugs which, like sow bugs, are the bane of rock gardeners.

Occasionally on the meadow there are small rocky areas where the grass seems unable to gain a foothold, and here a low-growing astragalus thrives. At the time, this plant was no longer in bloom, but we secured a fair amount of seed. Near the astragalus we frequently encountered a shrub with which our readers are no doubt familiar, for it grows all across the northern part of our country, and extends its range to Europe and Asia. This is the shrubby yellow flowered *Potentilla fruticosa*.

Incidentally if you ever visit Ashcroft, and seek to find flowers growing above timber line, there is an abandoned mine road that starts here, and ascends to an elevation of over 11,000 ft. Only a cool experienced chauffeur in a "jeep" should attempt this road, for it is one of the rockiest, steepest drives we have ever taken. But the silenes, sibbaldias, gentians and eritrichiums at the summit, together with the wonderful view, well repay the rock gardener for the arduous trip.

MERENDERA SOBOLIFERA

A few years ago, *Merendera caucasica* and *M. sobolifera* were received in a shipment of bulbs from Ireland, and planted on sunny mounds in the rock garden. Apparently only the latter species has survived, but it is slowly increasing.

Related to *Bulbocodium vernum*, it bears, on negligible stems, inch-high flowers made up of a number of very narrow segments, rather shapely at first, but soon flopping around in an untidy mass. The flowers on my plants are an almost pure white, although descriptions in books have them anywhere from "white tinged pink" to "pinkish lilac". At first, when there were only a few flowers, the plant seemed definitely undesirable, but as it has increased and flowered more freely it has become mildly attractive, though of no great beauty.

CRW

EUROPEAN ALPINES AT HOME

C. B. SAUNDERS, FARNBOROUGH, ENGLAND
Secretary of the Alpine Garden Society

The Editor of the *Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society* tells me he wants an article. Any dissertation on the methods of growing rare alpins in Britain, even were I competent to discuss such a subject, could do little more than provide rather vague hints as to their treatment under the wide range of conditions occurring in America. Any abstruse botanical discussion, again were I competent, might be regarded, not as out of place in the pages of the *Bulletin*, but as rather heavy reading. I propose, therefore, to devote my remarks to a general survey of those less remote parts of Europe where alpine plants may be found, and to introduce a few side issues such as scenery, amenities, costs, etc., to relieve the monotony of a catalogue of places and plants.

First let me say that I am writing this in the first person singular because the opinions expressed are solely my own. I would hesitate to offer an article of this sort to the Editor of the *Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society* because I am aware that most of its readers know as much as, and many a great deal more than, I do about Europe and its alpins. My opinions might be construed as factual statements, my generalities twisted into obiter dicta, and my postbag become full of letters telling me that I was misinformed, or, at least, misguided. In Britain the continent is, as it were, across the road and we can get there relatively easily and frequently. As a result we tend to become rather blasé and look askance at gentians and edelweiss and at articles mentioning them. To Americans the European Alps are farther off; less is known about them by members of the A.R.G.S. and I hope that these generalities may be of some help to anyone who might be considering an alpine plant visit to Europe.

To avoid repetition and qualifications, I am making the following assumptions: An America visitor will probably

- a. Make the tour in May-July;
- b. Have the use of a car and more "spending money" than the average British visitor;
- c. Wish the plant hunting to be a rather secondary object to meeting fresh peoples, scenery and architecture;
- d. Be more interested in alpine flowers en masse than in individual rarities.

I propose to deal only with France, Switzerland, Austria, northern Italy, northern Jugoslavia, Spain, and Portugal. Germany, Holland and Belgium have little to offer whilst the alpine flora of Scandinavia, though in places fairly profuse, is not very varied nor of great interest.

FRANCE. There are three main areas, the Pyrenees, the Alpes Maritimes, and the Savoy-Dauphiny district lying east of the Rhone south of Lyons and north of the Alpes Maritimes.

Pyrenees. The best part is the central area from Pau to Andorra and good centres would be Gavarnie, Luchon and Font Romeu. Gavarnie is the best known and will provide ramonda. Luchon and Font Romeu are better equipped with hotels and the latter will show several interesting endemics such as *Adonis pyrenaica* and *Senecio leucophyllus*. They are all high up but the scenery is not up to Swiss standard. The Pyrenean flora is, however, very interesting and really deserves more than a casual glance.

Alpes Maritimes. Here the flora changes in a few miles from a Mediterranean to an alpine type. There are noteworthy endemics such as *Primula allionii*

and the celebrated *Saxifraga florulenta* but do not waste your time looking for the latter unless you are with someone who can take you to its home. The season is early and Nice is the best centre, but I think the Alpes Maritimes might well be left out on a first visit unless motoring from Spain or the Pyrenees into Italy or Switzerland.

Savoy-Dauphiny. This area borders on Switzerland and Italy and the flora is not unlike that of the adjoining parts of these countries. Aix-les-Bains (for Savoy) and Grenoble or Briançon (for Dauphiny) are the best centres. If staying in Grenoble, spend a day in the Vercors, a limestone plateau southwest of the town, and another in the Grande Chartreuse to the northwest. And you must go to the Col de Lautaret which is one of the "Meccas" of British alpine gardeners. You can stay here quite comfortably, but this cannot be said of Mont Cenis, another favorite spot in the same neighborhood.

SWITZERLAND. You can scarcely go wrong here whatever part you make for. The best areas are the Engadine, the valleys south of the Rhone valley, and the Bernese Oberland, in that order. Many would object to my putting the Oberland third, but if you go to Switzerland you will go there anyhow so that it does not matter. At the moment Switzerland is distinctly cheaper than France or Italy but dearer than Austria. Its scenery needs no advertisement.

The Engadine. A very interesting flora with almost everything from the other zones and some extra rarities thrown in. There is plenty of good accommodation but Pontresina is as good a centre as any.

Valleys south of the Rhone. There are several of these, all good, but the most easterly, leading to Saas Fee and Zermatt, is the best known and is probably the best florally. If you go to Switzerland at all you will probably go to Zermatt to see the Matterhorn, probably the most impressive mountain in Europe, and you may find *Eritrichium nanum* on its lower slopes. Saas Fee is less sophisticated and some say it has a better flora. Arolla is also well spoken of but, personally, I do not like it very much. Champex, near the western end of the Rhone valley, is a pleasant spot with masses of flowers but nothing of great rarity.

Bernese Oberland. Here there are plenty of centres with good hotels and it does not matter much where you stay. Wengen, Murren, Grindelwald, Kandersteg and others all have their "fans" and amenities are not found in the smaller villages, not all of which are accessible by car.

ITALY. Though the mountains of the Abruzzi, northeast of Rome, contain a few interesting alpine, the semicircular barrier from the Maritime Alps to the Julian Alps in Jugoslavia concerns us most. On the west the flora is very similar to that of nearby parts of France whilst that of the "Lake district" to Como is similar to that of the southern valleys of Switzerland. Somewhere between Lakes Como and Garda, in the neighborhood of the Bergamesque Alps, there begins a gradual change from the typical Western Alp flora to that of the Eastern Alps. On, or near, this semicircle occur practically all the European primulas and their natural hybrids, from *P. allionii* near the French border to *P. wulfeniana* at the Jugoslavia end. As in previous cases I shall divide the area into three zones—east to Como, Lake Garda, and the Dolomites, in ascending order of interest.

East to Como. Scenery is good and the flora of interest but not very different from that of adjoining parts of France and Switzerland. Making Turin your centre you could radiate to Mont Cenis, on the French frontier, Aosta, Cervinia (just on the opposite side of the Matterhorn from Zermatt) and the lakes. Lateral roads are few.

Lake Garda. Verona would be a good centre, or Riva at the north end of the lake. The flora is distinctly good and contains a number of rare species, some of which are found only in very restricted areas. One of these is *Daphne petraea*, the doyenne of dwarf alpine shrubs. The Cima Tombea and Monte Baldo, on opposite sides of the lake, are the best known places to look for the uncommon plants, but they do not carry the mass of colour found in most parts of the Alps.

The Dolomites. This would be my first choice of anywhere in Europe for scenery, flowers, and ease of seeing both. There is little permanent snow and to those who know Colorado the Dolomitic scenery might be regarded as very "small beer", but it is unlike anything else in nearer Europe except neighboring parts of Austria and Jugoslavia. The eastern alpine flora has begun to develop with *Rhodothamnus*, more *Campanulaceae*, different species of *Primula* and *Saxifraga* and so on. Being mainly limestone the flora is very varied. *Phyteuma comosum* and *Campanula morettiana* are two of the most attractive of the Dolomite plants. The best centres for plants and scenery are Cortina and San Martino di Castrozza, but Bolzano and Merano are historically and architecturally more interesting.

AUSTRIA. In general one might say that Austrian scenery is a compromise between that of Switzerland and that of the Dolomites, but architecturally it is much more interesting than either. Its inhabitants are friendly and it is much cheaper than any other country of Europe except Spain. We shall consider two zones, the western provinces of Voralberg and Tyrol extending somewhat east of Innsbruck, and the more easterly provinces of Salzburg, Styria and Carinthia.

Tyrol, etc. Best known are the valleys running south from the Inn valley. Though they are mainly on acid rocks with the resulting rather limited variety of plants they have always been popular with British plantmen and are much patronized for winter sports. That is about all I would say about this zone except that Innsbruck is the place in which to stay.

Styria, etc. Of the eastern provinces Styria is probably the most attractive, but parts of Salzburg and Carinthia run it very close. The flora in some respects resembles that of the Dolomites but we are now a good deal further east—in fact this is the most easterly limit of my wandering—and a number of fresh species appear, such as *Primula clusiana*, *Campanula alpina*, and in southern Carinthia, *C. zoysii*. Salzburg is an obvious resting place and from here the picturesque Salzkammergut should be explored. Further south, Bad Gastein, Villach and Klagenfurt, the last for the Karawanken Mts., offer good accommodations, as do many of the smaller towns between. Graz would be your furthest east.

JUGOSLAVIA. The greater part of Jugoslavia can hardly be included in "nearer Europe" but if touring the Dolomites or Carinthia it would be well worth going into its northwest corner where the Julian Alps offer some wonderful scenery and fresh flowers, including *Primula wulfeniana*. Bled would be the best place to stay.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL. I cannot speak first hand of these countries but they are becoming of increasing interest to growers of alpine plants. The flora is quite distinct from that of the other areas we have considered and abounds in dwarf bulbs, especially *Narcissus* species, and plants which are of a semi-shrubby nature like *Thymus membranaceus* and *Erinacea anthyllis*. It has many affinities with the flora of the Balkans. Within the past few years a number of very worth-while alpine plants have been introduced to Britain from the Iberian peninsula. The country is crossed from west to east by a number of more or less parallel ranges of mountains, from the Cantabrian Mts. in the north to the Sierra Nevada

in the south, and many of these ranges appear to have their own isolated endemics. Spain today is a cheap country in which to stay and accommodation in the principal towns is good but, wherever possible, travellers should use the government-controlled "paradores" which are scattered about the country, often at high altitudes. These are something between a first-class hotel and a country club and are exceedingly well run. Spain and Portugal should be visited in March-April, too early for the other areas except the Alpes Maritimes.

In conclusion I might add that the road surfaces are mainly good but that most of the roads on which you will wish to travel are not fast. Petrol is dear. A profitable itinerary, if you had about two months to spare, would be to start at Genoa or Marseilles, go through northern Italy and the Dolomites to the top left hand corner of Yugoslavia, and then back through Austria and Switzerland to your starting point. This trip should be made in June and July. For an April and May trip start at Lisbon, go through Portugal and Spain to the Alpes Maritimes, then north into Savoy, and perhaps Switzerland, and then back along the Pyrenees. I am afraid you might find snow in places, but the main roads would be clear. Most of the countries mentioned have alpine gardens maintained by universities or other official bodies whilst there are several under private ownership. These should be visited if possible, even if it is only to obtain information. Good hunting!

(Editor's note: Readers who desire explicit information regarding the species to be found at particular localities mentioned will do well to consult the little book, "Plant Hunting in Europe", by Dr. Hugh Roger Smith, published by the Alpine Garden Society; also the Bulletins of that organization, nearly every one of which contains accounts of plant-hunting trips in western Europe. To members of the Alpine Garden Society are available plant-hunting trips, in the company of fellow-enthusiasts, to various interesting regions, at rather little cost. Last year, for example, a two-week trip to the Pyrenees was offered for less than \$150, all expenses from London.)

NORTHWEST UNIT

The Northwest Unit of the Society announces the following officers for 1955:

Regional Chairman: Mr. Page Ballard, Route 1, Box 3794, Issaquah, Wash.
Vice-Chairmen in charge of programs:

Mrs. Florence Housel

Mr. S. A. McClanahan

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Alton W. Du Flon, 3223 Perkins Lane,
Seattle 99, Wash.

MAINE UNIT

Chairman of the Maine Unit (since April, 1954) is Mrs. Harry Hayward, Scarborough, Maine. Regular meetings are held quarterly, with visits to rock gardens and picnics in summer as extras.

On November 10 Mrs. Hayward gave a talk, with slides, on the cultural requirements of alpine, before the New England Regional Group, in Horticultural Hall, Boston.

On January 19, at 2 P.M., the Maine Unit will hold a meeting in the Swett Memorial Museum of Art in Portland, Maine, which will be open to the public. Grace Butcher will show slides and give a talk on collecting native alpine in the White Mountains, Mt. Katahdin in the Gaspé, and elsewhere.



The upper terrace in Mrs. Gottlieb's garden

A ROCK GARDEN IN NEW MEXICO

AGNES GOTTLIEB, CUBERO, N. M.

ROCK GARDENS in the southwestern states are very few, and even those are mostly devoted to the growing of cacti and succulents. In my garden I have tried, with varying success, most of the commonly listed rock plants. It may be that what I have accomplished, under difficult conditions, will offer encouragement to would-be rock gardeners who think that their localities offer insuperable obstacles.

Cubero is a small native (Mexican) settlement about fifty-five miles west of Albuquerque, just off Highway 66, and about eight or ten miles east of Mount Taylor (11,400 ft.), one of the highest peaks in New Mexico.

My home, at an elevation of 6200 ft., is situated right up against a sandstone bluff, which offers some protection from the terrific dust storms we have had in the past few years. Our main problems here are the wind and insufficient rainfall, although this summer we have had more rain than usual. The soil is alkaline and I am afraid the water is also, which makes impossible the culture of many plants, such as Heathers and Daphne.

My rock garden is a natural one. I had only to build rock walls, all of sandstone, because of the steep slope, then fill in with proper soil, and set in my plants. The rock garden could be much larger, but, as always, water is a big problem. What I have accomplished has resulted from trial and error over the years.

The top terrace is planted with Meadow Rue for a backdrop against the sandstone rock, *Nepeta mussini*, *Dianthus deltoides* and *D. hedderwigii*, and *Arenaria verna caespitosa*. The second terrace has Pfitzer Juniper, *Aster frikartii*, *Oenothera missouriensis*, a few *Phlox subulata*, and more *Nepeta*. Early in the spring I have the rock garden bulbs, of course, which are lovely and grow quite well. Then I have a huge plant of *Alyssum saxatile citrinum* which is beautiful with its lemon yellow blooms.

The fourth terrace is taken over by *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* (*Plumbago larpentae*), with its beautiful blue flowers, now in bloom and very attractive to humming birds. The last terrace has the Pfitzer and Sabina Junipers on the one side, with a pathway between, and the right side is planted with *Ajuga*, *Iris cristata*, *I. pumila*, *Sedum acre*, and *S. kamschaticum*. There is a small-leaved Ivy climbing over the retaining wall, making a pretty picture as well as being useful. I have a plant or two of *Aubrieta* which are not spreading as they should, and a wild plant or two, the names of which I do not know. I planted a small Yew last spring, but am afraid that it is not going to live.

I have learned that rock plants need a great deal of care and of course water: we have the hose going all summer long. In the past two years I have been keeping a compost pile and using that to replenish the soil in the rock garden. The few things I have now in my garden seem to be thriving nicely with the renewal of soil and abundance of rain. Each spring and fall I am tempted to order new plants and to try to grow again plants which in years past have failed to grow for me.

QUESTION BOX

If our readers wish, we shall be glad to run a column devoted to questions concerning cultivation, descriptions and sources of plants, as well as matters of general rock garden interest. Whenever possible, we shall either answer such questions ourselves or refer them to authorities on the particular subject in question.



Another terrace bed in Mrs. Gottlieb's garden

WINTER FLOWERING NARCISSI

HAROLD EPSTEIN, LARCHMONT, N. Y.

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE a few species of narcissus that bloom from late in the autumn into winter, the most appealing are varieties of the well-known *Narcissus bulbocodium*, the Hoop-Petticoat daffodil. As a result of increased exploration in upper Africa (particularly in the Atlas Mountains) and in Southern France, Spain and Portugal, there are now at least a dozen varieties or subspecies of this Narcissus.

It is generally conceded that the most beautiful of these winter blooming plants is *N. bulbocodium monophyllus*, which is native of Algeria in North Africa. A closely related plant is *N. b. monophyllus foliosus* (sometimes known as var. *clusii*) found in the south of France and in Spain. There has been difference in opinion as to the distinction between the two, some botanists treating them as local variants of the same subspecies. The former of these has a more perfect sparkling white flower with a wider flaring cup, but is considered the more difficult of the two. But neither is really suitable for outdoor culture for they are too tender and are better suited for flowering under glass. The ideal growing conditions are in pots in a cool greenhouse where they usually come into bloom here in mid-November and generally last to the end of the year. They must be fully ripened and allowed to be well baked and dry through the summer. They can also be cultivated in cold frames under glass sash and when ready to bloom brought indoors preferably into a light cool room. Under such cool conditions the flowers with their protruding style and golden anthers will be long lasting. At the time of this writing (early December), pans of both of the above varieties are in bloom in the cool greenhouse where the temperature is not lower than 45° F. They have been in the same soil for the third season but will be transplanted when dormant during the coming season.

The other favorite is *N. b. var. Romieuxii*, native of the Atlas Mountains of North Africa. Although this is somewhat hardier than the former, it still should not be set outdoors in this climate. It is usually grown under the same cool house conditions and is also an ideal bulb for growing in pots. This variety has flowers of varying shades of pale yellow and is usually in bloom toward the latter part of December. At this time the flower buds are already beginning to protrude from the soil amidst the preceding foliage. These flowers are more liberally produced and the bulbs increase at a more rapid pace than var. *monophyllus*. It is unquestionably the stronger plant. The flowers are of a wider flaring form with similar protruding anthers and both are as I recall slightly fragrant.

Both these varieties are liberal in their setting of seed although hand pollinizing will assist in obtaining a more plentiful crop. Several years ago the varieties *monophyllus* and *Romieuxii* were hybridized in England by Mr. D. Blanchard and a very vigorous offspring resulted. This was named, registered and marketed as *Narcissus x Nylon*. I have been growing this narcissus for the past few years under the same conditions as its parents and find it more floriferous and vigorous than either. It more closely resembles variety *monophyllus*, the flower being milky white, and blooms at the same time. It is particularly free in producing seeds. The first crop of such seed was planted three years ago and is now beginning to produce some bloom. Seed that is now being produced is being retained for submission to the Seed Exchange. They are recommended to our more patient members as worthwhile pot plants.

ENGLISH WILD FLOWERS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

R. GINNS, DESBOROUGH, HANTS., ENGLAND

FROM TIME TO TIME we hear of expeditions to remote corners of the globe in search of new plants with which to enrich our gardens. This autumn, for example, a famous plant collector has left for Assam, and some day, I keep hoping, someone will go to introduce into our gardens the many exciting things that live in the high Andes. Whether we shall be able to grow them when they are brought here is another matter. And yet, as I walk round my garden with its several thousand species of plants native to all quarters of the earth, I find, particularly in early spring, that many of them come from no farther afield than this small island itself.

If you are an alpine purist and grow nothing on your rock garden but plants from the high Alps, you will not be interested in most of them, although true alpine are to be found on some of the Scotch mountains. But it is not of these that I intend to write.

On the rock banks which fill a good part of my small garden I grow any plant whose stature and general character enables it to fit into the general picture. This enables me to grow quite a variety of plants that in nature are found in the woods, pastures and stream sides of the English Midlands of which I, too, am a native. The sight of them in my garden reminds me of the rambles I used to make during my boyhood when certain flowers always appealed to me.

By growing native plants one is able to include many variants on the usual forms. Whenever thousands of seedlings of any species of plant are grown, it is usually found that some of them depart from type. They may be better, worse, or just different. Collectors in remote districts gather seeds but there is nothing to show whether the plants from which the seeds are picked are typical or not. If, on a ramble in England, a plant distinct from its fellow is seen, it can be moved straight to the garden and later propagated vegetatively so as to retain its distinct features. Thus, although the flora of these islands is thoroughly known, a keen gardener can always hope to find something new.

The number of plants native to these islands that are worthy of cultivation is very large and quite recently a well-known gardener has written a book on them. In this short article it is possible to touch on only a few genera. So I shall confine myself to those that brighten the fields and woods in early spring as these are the most welcome.

Earliest of all is the cheerful little winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*). Whether this is a true native I have my doubts but I know of at least one small wood, what we call a spinney, that is thickly carpeted with them in late January and February. From the spinney they have spread to the grassy road verges. When I first started gardening I bought a hundred dried tubers, but the drying does not agree with them and they were a total failure. So I dug up a few in flower from the roadside, planted them on a north facing bank, and from there they have spread far and wide. Early in the new year I see a gleam of yellow, matching the fitful winter sunshine, and soon there are big drifts of them, each yellow cup having a saucer of green bracts below it. A foreigner, *E. cilicicus*, has also been planted. It flowers a trifle later, its yellow is a little deeper, and its frill is tinged with bronze. But seedlings of both species become mixed and it is difficult to separate them. I suspect that many are hybrids. One such has been marketed by a Dutch firm as *E. tubergenii*, but points of distinction are small.

A valuable trait of this plant is that it dies down very quickly after flowering and can be succeeded by summer-flowering species.

The snowdrop, *Galanthus nivalis*, is another doubtful native but at any rate it is widely naturalized. I know a lane leading to a village church that is a white carpet in February. It is a fallacy with many people to associate the snowdrop with Christmas. February is its normal flowering time although other species flower much earlier, and I have segregated one form that does not bloom until April. There is a double form which I find far more vigorous than the type and which multiplies by division very rapidly. In addition from time to time colonies in the wild have yielded up interesting variants, i.e., one with yellow markings instead of the usual green, one with green tips to the outer segments, a semi-double entirely lacking in green markings, and so on. It will surprise many readers to learn that there is a matter of about fifty varieties of snowdrops known, and a proper account of this genus needs an article to itself.

A plant fairly closely related to *eranthis*, whose praises have been sung by a well-known poet, but which has been well and truly cursed by many a gardener, is the lesser celandine, *Ranunculus ficaria*, sometimes raised to generic status as *Ficaria*. Its glossy yellow cups, with a hint of green, on short stems above a neat rosette of dark green leaves, make it a welcome sight in the early months of the year during a country walk. But its free production of tiny tubers, the size and colour of grains of wheat and only loosely attached to the plant, make it very difficult to eradicate where it is not wanted. But I have four interesting variants which so far have not proved invasive and which help to fill a difficult north-facing bank. One has flowers the colour of burnished copper; the second is named "alba" although its white has a strong admixture of greenish yellow; the third is fully double, with neat little rosettes; the fourth is called "major" and is quite distinct in habit from the others, looking intermediate between *Ficaria*, and *Caltha*, the marsh marigold.

This large *ficaria* brings us naturally to the marsh marigold, *Caltha palustris*. If one has water in association with the rock garden this plant makes a particularly showy display in April. It is, in effect, a giant buttercup, with huge, burnished golden cups. But a much superior plant is the double variety with normal outer petals, and the center of the flower packed tightly with smaller petals. Its advantage lies in the fact that the flowers have a much longer life. *Caltha palustris alba* is also offered by nurserymen but, apart from the novelty, it is a poor thing compared with the type. As with the white celandine the colour is poor and the high polish of the typical plant is lacking. *Calthas* from other parts of the world have been introduced from time to time but I have yet to see one that can compare for brilliance with *C. palustris fl. pl.*

Whilst on the subject of the *Ranunculus* family, mention might be made of the creeping buttercup, *Ranunculus repens*. Some years ago I saw this plant offered in an American alpine catalog. I don't know how it finds conditions in America and maybe it needs fussing there to keep it in health. Over here it forms a close carpet of short stolons producing plenty of golden cups on reasonably short stems. But the carpet spreads inordinately fast, grows into more delicate neighbors, and is difficult to keep within bounds. So like its cousin, *R. ficaria*, we look on it as a pestilential weed and would never think of making it welcome on the rockery. Should it seed into a lawn it can be very troublesome.

There still remains a very important genus of the *Ranunculaceae* for consideration, namely the *Anemones*. Here is a case of the botanical name being accepted all over the country as the common name, in spite of the efforts of cranks to get the name "Windflower" adopted. The English representative of

this large genus is *A. nemorosa* which shares the spring woodland floor with primroses and bluebells (*Scilla nutans*). The typical plant has a hanging white cup carried on a short footstalk over a ring of leafy bracts. Most are inclined to take on a pink tinge as they fade, and in some individuals the amount of pink and its duration increases. A walk through the woods when the anemones are in flower could yield quite a number of distinct forms but perhaps the best pink in cultivation is one named Currie's Pink. In this the flowers are larger than usual and the colour, although not particularly deep, is quite pronounced.

In some parts of the country the variation of the wild plants is towards lavender and blue. From these some really lovely things have been selected, marketed as Blue Bonnet, atrocoerulea, Robinsoniana, Allenii, Royal Blue, etc. Points of difference are difficult to describe.

In addition there is a very large-flowered pure white known as Wilke's Giant and a double white with closely packed petals. All these forms are easy and soon spread to form a lovely carpet wherever light shade prevents the cultivation of sun-lovers. The foliage is not very persistent, so the ground can be planted with other subjects for summer blooming.

(To be continued)

HEATHER

HELEN GILBERT, DANIELSON, CONNECTICUT

YOU DON'T have to have Scotch blood in your veins to be sentimental about heather, or so I have learned since I have been growing various heaths at the top of my rock garden, but maybe it helps. It is always fun to see the surprise on the faces of visitors when they reach the top of the slope and learn that the pretty little shrubs are all different varieties of heathers. There is always at least one variety in bloom: the year 1954 saw that little patch achieve twelve months of bloom, and I am already wondering what 1955 will bring.

The first heath to grace my garden was the white Irish heath, *Daboecia cantabrica alba*, and I was entranced by the waxy white bells set off by the fine, neat, almost needle-like foliage. In my ignorance, I did not protect it, but its location, next to a rock which held the soil of the next level above, proved to its liking. So I grew brave and ordered a few more the next spring. The white pine to the east kindly mulched them, with a little help from me, so that *D. c. bicolor* began to thrive. Everyone marvels at the way it lives up to its name: some of its bells are white, some a purplish pink, and some part pink, part white, all on the same little branchlet. The next spring, *D. c. alba* looked utterly dead, but it was trimmed down to wood which seemed to retain a little life, and now, after five years have passed, the original plant is still showing its lovely bells each spring.

During the past five years, the *Calluna vulgaris* varieties have probably proved the easiest to grow, and surely the lovely pink Mrs. H. E. Beale has become my favorite, growing to two feet and furnishing many lovely sprays for cutting. County Wicklow is a favorite low-growing dependable bloomer. *C. v. nana compacta* and *minima* thrived mightily and made shapely low clumps, but the centers killed out last winter after a very dry summer. They are slowly coming back, and I have mounded them a bit in the hope of increasing my stock and having well-shaped plants once more.

It remains for the *Erica carnea* varieties to complete the year-round bloom, starting in late November and continuing through till spring. When spring seems far away, as it sometimes does in February, it heartens one to brush away the

snow and find Ruby Glow and Springwood White only waiting to show that they have been blooming under the cover. *E. darliensis* did not stay with me, but that may not happen next time.

Bruckenthalia spiculifolia is another heath which is happy against a rock in the same location and adds interest, as does *Leiophyllum buxifolium* with its nice glossy foliage; this is not a heath, of course, but belongs to the same family.

Newcomers to this slope are *Erica tetralix*, the cross-leaved heath, *E. vagans*, the Cornish heath, and *E. cinerea* with the twisted branches. So far they are all doing well, and I am hoping to find new sorts to join my happy family next spring.

A rock garden plant has to be able to stand all sorts of grief in my garden, as the summers are hot and dry and I water only newly-set plants, for even the family has to conserve water in August, as a rule. So the heaths and heathers seem made for my situation, and nothing I have ever grown has made me any happier. All they seem to ask is an early start in sandy acid loam, and a good mulch, added to yearly, of pine needles from the big white pine growing so conveniently near. Of course, it pays to buy good stock, from nearby if possible, but I have had equally fine plants from the west coast, although I prefer to get them closer to home if possible. The additional express charges on good potted plants are well worth the extra cost.

ROCK PLANTS I ADMIRE—II

BETTY JANE HAYWARD, SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

Aquilegia scopulorum is one of the choicest and most beautiful of the western American alpine columbines. It came to me in a subscriber's seed allotment collected by our present editor, Dr. Carleton R. Worth, on one of his plant hunting expeditions to the western mountains in the late nineteen-thirties.

Of the few original plants, one has lived and prospered. It is now more than fifteen years old, which is a ripe age for any plant, and an exceptional one for an aquilegia. For thirteen years it has lived in one spot, half way up the garden steps, in gritty soil, beside a large rock. That part of the garden has the morning sun till nearly noon, then is in high shade for the rest of the day.

Although various other aquilegias have been its companions through the years, *A. scopulorum* remains aloof, and seedlings from the plant keep faithfully true to type. (N. B. This has NOT been my experience with seedlings. Editor.) Under garden conditions some of the seedlings may vary to longer leaf and flower stems, and the plants have not always held to the miniature stature of their habit in the mountains; however, the characteristic silver leaves, thick textured and full, remain the same. The beautiful flowers with long spurs always seem large for the size of the plant.

The color of the flowers varies in the seedlings: some are bicolored pale blue and white, others are all blue, and at least three have been white. *A. scopulorum* sets seed quite generously in a good year; however, it loses its vitality very quickly. Good germination can be counted on only if the seeds are sown as soon as they ripen, in my experience. If sown when fresh the little plants will appear by late summer, and can be wintered safely in a frame with a covering of some kind. *A. scopulorum* is very hardy and is in every way a beautiful and satisfactory plant.

Lewisias: these lovely western plants have come to the garden quite recently,

for until a few years ago all efforts to grow them had failed. The plants we now have were all grown from seed obtained from a seed house in England. They are hybrid forms of *Lewisia cotyledon* and *L. cotyledon* var. *howelli*. Being hybrids they are varied in leaf and flower, but with their brilliant pink striped flowers all are lovely.

In the short time I have grown Lewisias, I have come to know more about their requirements. Those that have prospered are growing on the sharpest slope the garden affords. Some that were planted lower have all languished and died off. When Lewisias become ill there is no way of saving them. Overwatering is one cause of the trouble, so in future, any new plants will be put on the bank and as an added precaution a good collar of chips will go under the leaves.

A group of *L. brachycalyx* presents fewer difficulties. The straight grassy leaves spring up suddenly, remaining over winter. As suddenly in spring the white flowers of silken texture hide the leaves from sight. Quite promptly after the flowers are gone it withdraws once again and is seen no more until autumn. If you are anxious about it, a little digging will reveal the short fat carrot just under the surface of the ground. The group to which *L. brachycalyx* belongs is far less exacting than the types with evergreen rosettes.

Visitors who do not know these always exclaim over their attractiveness and ask what they are. It is curious that one of America's outstanding groups of plants should be so little known. Seed seems to be the best method of getting a collection started, for even if plants were obtainable, it is doubtful if they would travel safely, being brittle and somewhat succulent.

Gentiana scabra var. *buergeri* is a newcomer here. I am enthusiastic about it on short acquaintance. The descriptions of it in books about gentians fall short in telling of its true worth, it seems to me. I had thought of it as being rather coarse, which is not the case. Here the flower stems grew slowly through the summer and in early autumn had reached between nine and ten inches at the most. They stand erect and hold the flowers erect also. The leaves are two or more inches long, sharply pointed, and narrow. They compare favorably with those of *G. septemfida*, and are a little larger, perhaps.

G. scabra var. *buergeri* blossoms so late that our season is not long enough to bring it to full flower. Some of the plants were nipped in the bud, so to speak, before reaching full development. Next year, as an experiment, some will be tried in a warmer spot where the autumn sun can reach them for a longer period. The added light may not hasten the blooming, but it will be worth a trial, for this gentian is a fine kind and a worthy addition to the garden.

Like many rock garden enthusiasts of twenty-five years ago, I collected sedums, and felt pride in having many varied kinds in the garden. Now, all but a small number of choice and restrained kinds have been completely banished. Doubtless, sedums have their place, but it is not in a garden where space is limited or where one is trying to grow lovely alpine plants.

Sedum pilosum, although a biennial, is a most beautiful gemlike member in a family of commonplace plants. When in blossom it can rival the choicest alpine. The little velvety grey rosette is exactly like a small sempervivum in appearance. At maturity, it may be approximately the size of a twenty-five cent piece. In the second year, usually, small stems of one and a half inches come springing up, opening into a little umbrella of stars at the top, the color of which is the loveliest pure pink imaginable. The whole flower is so beautiful it might well have been carved from pink coral.

When moving the little plants from the seed bed it is well to put a number together into a little bunch and plant them thus. By so doing, there is a chance

they will not all bloom at once and a number may carry over for a future time. *S. pilosum* makes its very best effect when grouped closely in a crevice or close up beside a rock. Seeds germinate well, if planted in early spring, and seedlings will make good rosettes by autumn. The beauty and charm of this little sedum is outstanding and I would not be without it.

Sedum sempervivoides (or *S. sempervivum*) like the last is but a biennial and I have heard rock gardeners say they would not bother with such. Some species, however, well repay with beauty the effort to keep them in the garden. *S. sempervivoides* is a case in point. This species, too, looks like a sempervivum as the name would indicate. The rosettes are about the size of a silver dollar, grey and very thick and heavy textured. In the second year the stems reach approximately four inches. The flower head is relatively large, the flowers a wonderfully brilliant lacquer red. The edge of the calyx shows around them and gives the blossoms a velvety look.

S. sempervivoides responds to the cultural treatment prescribed for *S. pilosum*. Seed is hard to come by as the plant is rather rare in cultivation. Biennial though it may be, I will save all the seed and strive to keep it in my garden year after year.

BAILEYA: A NEW PERIODICAL

IN MARCH 1953 the Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University published the first issue of its new periodical, *Baileya*, a quarterly journal devoted to articles on the kinds of cultivated plants. Since its beginning, seven numbers have appeared and one can now begin to evaluate its usefulness.

In the first issue it was made clear that the subscriber would be given articles on plant identification, the naming of plants, plant exploration and plant explorers, biographical accounts, and articles on new plants and where to get them. For the most part, these intentions have been met. Persons expecting articles on how to grow plants have been disappointed, but then, nothing was said about inclusion of cultural notes. The Hortorium staff members are not primarily horticulturists. The rock garden specialist reading each of the issues published may feel that a lot of *Baileya* space has been devoted to tropical plants. This is true. It is equally true that, in general, less is known about plants of tropical regions than is known about plants of temperate regions; a fact evidenced by the advertisements in our horticultural press where more kinds of plants new to current cultivation have originated from the tropics than from alpine meadows. On the other hand, a count of articles published in *Baileya* to date shows that sixteen titles from a total of fifty-eight are devoted to species and genera of rock garden plants. An additional seventeen are of articles of general interest and application to all plantmen.

Members of the Hortorium staff have written most of the articles, but contributors from other institutions are to be noted, including one from Japan with an article on hardy species of the terrestrial orchid genus, *Calanthe*. There is a continuing illustrated series on cultivated members of the mint family. Treatments already published cover the cultivated species of *Agastache*, *Mentha* and *Origanum*. Papers covering *Lavandula*, *Nepeta*, and *Dracocephalum* are ready for publication, and one for *Thymus* is in preparation. Each contains keys to species and discussions of nomenclature and of distinguishing characters. The September issue includes a comprehensive discussion and key to the cultivated species of Autumn crocus; a second article on the Spring-blooming sorts is reported to be scheduled for the December issue.

Persons possessing or making use of the new R. H. S. Dictionary of Gardening should read the extended and analytical review of that work in the issue of *Baileya* for September 1953. From it one gains at once not only the reviewer's opinion that the second two volumes are superior in content and the first two of definitely inferior quality, but the underlying reasons for this unfortunate situation.

Perhaps no British plantsman has contributed more to our knowledge of bulbous rock garden plant material than the late E. A. Bowles. An obituary of his passing and personalized observations about the man in his home are in the June issue of this year.

Baileya is quite unlike any other periodical. Some readers will find some articles too technical. Despite obvious efforts to control it, there remains too much botanical jargon in some of the passages. Every rock garden enthusiast will wish for more articles on rock garden subjects. The illustrations are better than in many publications, but one regrets the lack of some good half-tones; all figures in *Baileya* are of line drawings, mostly from the pen of the Hortorium's illustrator Mitsu Nakayama. A higher ratio of illustrative content would be welcomed.

Baileya is published by the offset method, a low-cost process that is reflected in its subscription price of \$2.00 for the 4 issues of each year. Subscription orders may be sent direct to the Bailey Hortorium, Mann Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. A limited number of sets of volume one (1953) is reported to be available.

BOOK REVIEW

Studies in Penstemon, No. 2, Subgenus Dasanthera, "The Shrubby Penstemons," compiled for the American Penstemon Society by Ralph W. Bennett.

In order to make the most appropriate use of rock garden plants, it is necessary to base the treatment of them upon the knowledge included in many branches of plant science. It is also advantageous to take into consideration the work that is being done by different organizations in their study of specific families of plants. There are rock garden plants in the iris, rhododendron, amaryllis and many other plant families that have organizations devoted specifically to their study.

The book noted above is a product of an organization devoted specifically to the study of penstemons. It was compiled by the president of the American Penstemon Society. It is intended, for one thing, to make available to gardeners who appreciate the value of the species in this group of penstemons, the most popular group in the genus for rock gardens, of the invaluable work done by Dr. David D. Keck, outstanding authority on the genus, in clearing up the confusion that existed for a long time in the names of the species and subspecies. Dr. Keck's work is contained in Vol. III of Abrams' "Flora of the Pacific States," the cost of which is more than most gardeners can afford. This new booklet sells for a price within the reach of all who are interested in rock plants.

In compiling this booklet the author has made use of all the information gathered by the society itself, as well as that available from all other sources. Much of the discussion is based upon his own observation of the plants in the wild and in private gardens throughout the country. It deals with practically all the problems pertaining to the garden uses of the plants. There is a chapter dealing with the cultural requirements of the group as a whole, which discusses the effect of various climatic factors and soil conditions upon the growth and health of the plants.

The most outstanding feature of the book is a simplified botanical key, by which anyone with a little study can identify the different species, subspecies, and forms. This has always been an exceedingly difficult task, and Mr. Bennett has gone to great lengths to try to make it simpler.

All these species are potentially useful as rock garden plants. Each is described in detail. The distinguishing features upon which the identification of each species is based are pointed out specifically, so that the gardener does not have to wade through every detail in the description in order to identify a plant. There is also a discussion under each species of its distribution in the wild, its behavior when grown in different parts of the country, its special cultural requirements, if any, and its garden uses.

Anyone, whether a beginner or a gardener of long experience, attempting to grow any one of this eminent group of rock garden plants will find much in this study that is of interest and value.

C. W. CULPEPPER, Arlington, Virginia.

DOUBLE FLOWERS IN THE ROCK GARDEN

R. GINNS, DESBOROUGH, HANTS., ENGLAND

MR. HAMBLIN wants to start a discussion on double flowers in the rock garden (page 68). I think the answer to whether they should be admitted or not lies in the purpose for which the garden has been built. If the rockwork is merely a museum case for the exhibition of plants found only at alpine elevations then doubtless all double flowers will be banned. But if the rockery is to provide as much colour as possible for as long as possible, some of them will form a valuable addition to the plants grown.

There is nothing unnatural about a double flower. They appear naturally but have difficulty in maintaining themselves. I had a fine double primrose, *Primula acaulis*, appear in a batch of ordinary seedlings. To make up for its lack of seeds it is far more vigorous vegetatively. The same applies to double snowdrops, *Galanthus nivalis*. For a rock gardener to exert his skill to maintain these double forms in existence is no different from his trying to maintain some rare endemic struggling to continue its place in the world.

Undoubtedly some double flowers have nothing to recommend them apart from novelty. Much of the charm of an iris lies in its form which disappears on doubling. So I have no desire to acquire a double flag iris which I saw mentioned with acclaim in an American gardening magazine. On the other hand the flowers of many crucifers are somewhat on the mean side and the double forms are much more satisfying. *Arabis albidia* is a poor thing only suitable for outlying parts of the rock garden, but its double form is a really handsome plant deserving of a prominent spot if room can be found for it.

But every rule has its exceptions, and aubrieta is an exception to the above dictum. Doubles there are, but I have yet to meet a satisfactory one. The first to be offered, Barker's Double, is double only by courtesy, with an extra petal or so here and there. Years ago I bought Shanagarry which is fully double, but the flowers form such tight rosettes that they are quite inconspicuous and it is necessary to look twice to make certain that the plant is in flower. I only keep it as a curiosity and it is not to be found in a list of 39 varieties offered by one of our leading nurserymen. This list still contains Barker's Double, also Dawn,

and three other varieties that I have not yet seen—Astolet Double (mauve), Stock Flowered Pink, and Lodge Crave (violet blue). Incidentally this list of 39 aubrietias goes to prove my first point in a recent letter on hybrids (page 82).

Double helianthemums are a commonplace in England. The double scarlet Mrs. Earle is one of our oldest named varieties and very long lived. It is still listed, sandwiched between a host of newcomers. Other doubles listed are Butter and Eggs, pale yellow; Golden Ball, deep yellow; Rose of Leeswood, soft pink; tigrinum plenum, orange red. These can all be obtained at the very low price of one shilling and sixpence each. In addition to the longer life of each flower, the plants themselves continue to bloom for many months, and at the time of writing, October 27, Mrs. Earle still has a few flowers. These double flowers are no more incongruous on the rockery than are the modern large flowered singles which differ just as widely from the wild *H. vulgare*.

Mr. Hamlin has omitted to mention *Campanula haylodgensis*, a pale blue double campanula in the style of *C. cochlearifolia*. It should be possible to transport some of these English commonplaces to America by air mail. Quite a number would go in a small parcel and would soon make ample propagating material.

Silene alpestris fl. pl. is offered in English catalogues at 1 sh. 9 d., whilst *S. acaulis fl. pl.* is reputed to flower more freely than the type. *Tunica saxifraga fl. pl.* as I have grown it has much larger pink flowers than the type. The stems however are very frail and the plant not as vigorous as the type.

This by no means exhausts the list of double flowered alpine and all but the purist would be well advised to try some of them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For many years I have been guiding wild flower photographers and other nature enthusiasts to a colony of some hundreds of Pine Barren Gentians at Atsion, New Jersey. A few of the flowers have been picked, and a few clumps dug, but never enough to diminish the colony appreciably. Alas, early in October, 1954, a herd of *Swinus vulgaris* descended upon that meadow and dug up every plant in sight. No doubt they will set these out in a totally unsuitable habitat, where they will languish and die in a year or two. Meanwhile, however, some of this material may be offered in the rock garden trade. So I am writing to urge our members not to purchase them, and thereby to encourage such outrageous vandalism.

DR. EDGAR T. WHERRY, Philadelphia

I am sending in seeds of a violet (listed in the Seed Exchange as *Viola sp.*, light blue trailing) and hope that anyone growing it will let me know what it is. Dr. Wherry has looked at it and says it is "un-American". It is a large pale blue violet with a white furry eye and has a vine-like habit of growth to eighteen inches. The violets grow from almost every leaf-joint on rather long stems. I have no idea where it came from and am anxious to identify it. It does not spread inordinately, but seeds around a bit.

DORETTA KLABER, Quakertown, Pa.

I was especially interested in an article (in the July *Bulletin*) by W. H. A. Preece on "Tiny Treasures of the Heath Family".

His remarks about one of my favorite Alaska wild flowers, *Loiseleuria procumbens*, prompts this letter. I was interested in his experience in growing these plants. It has been grown here, at sea level, in our gardens with no especial care.

Around Juneau it can be found not only above timberline, but at or near sea level on our glacier moraine 14 miles from town, and on the drier hummocks of muskegs. In fact I have found it in quite a few muskegs in various parts of southeastern Alaska, which has always surprised me. In Interior Alaska it is often found on drier parts of tundra. Above timberline here, as Mr. Preece says, it grows on exposed ridges, where I have seen large areas covered with it. However I should like to take exception to his statement that it is always rare and of local occurrence. I don't believe that is true of Alaska. Perhaps he was speaking of the plant as it occurs south of here.

MRS. V. F. WILLIAMS, Juneau, Alaska.

Kumleinia hystricola (offered in the Seed Exchange) is a pretty, early spring flower. In the small area where I have found it, it grows in moss about one inch deep, draped over granite boulders, very wet during winter and spring, completely dry after June when the small, white tubers manage to stay alive. Some plants grow in soil, and mine here at home are in flower pots.

MRS. C. E. WELLS, California.

THE WRITINGS OF REGINALD FARRER (Conclusion)

CRW

Turning now to the books which deal with Farrer's travels, (and naturally, in most cases, with plant-hunting), we find that the first one, *The Garden of Asia* (1904) rather belies its title. This delightful work, in a style which will not irritate even the most violent antagonist of Farrer, deals with impressions gained from a year spent in Japan, where he set up housekeeping Japanese style, visited shops and geisha girls, saw some of the most famous Japanese gardens, and made trips to the Inland Sea, the northerly island of Hokkaido, Korea, and Peking. Plants are rarely mentioned, and there is no indication in these pages that Farrer indulged in any search for Japanese alpinists.

In Old Ceylon (1908) is a travel book pure and simple, written after Farrer had visited the island to study Buddhism, a faith that he had embraced to the horror, it is said, of the natives of his home village of Clapham, where he seems to have been regarded as in league with the devil. Rich in minute detail, the book lacks appeal to me, and I have never succeeded in reading all of it.

Among The Hills, "a book of joy in high places", (1911) is regarded by many as Farrer's best. The whole volume is devoted to an account of a summer spent among the Graian and Cottian Alps, with various companions, in search of plants. Here we meet *Daphne rupestris*, *Saxifraga florulenta*, *Primula allionii*, and a host of other rarities on their native rocks. It is rich reading, indeed, for one who loves the mountains and their children.

The Dolomites, King Laurin's Garden, (1913) has been described as "a glorified Baedeker": while the plants receive full notice, more emphasis is placed on scenery, travel, and accommodations for travellers than in the earlier book, so that there is some loss of the personal touch. Frequent disparaging remarks about German tourists make one wonder how much anti-Teutonic feeling there may have been in England before World War I. Twenty handsome colored

plates, reproduced from paintings, contribute greatly to the effect of Farrer's pen in recreating the superb scenery. Altogether this seems a book more to be admired than loved.

After this, Farrer forsook the Alps and their comforts, for the wilds of western China and Burma, without ever making the acquaintance of the Pyrenees or the rich Balkan regions. His next work, *On The Eaves Of The World* (1917) records the adventures which he and William Purdom underwent in the first of the two years which they spent in Kansu, and across the border into Tibet, in search of new plants. To me this is the finest of all Farrer's output, rich in detail, colorful, and telling a tale of adventure, as well as giving vivid pictures of the plants and the mountains. Dodging a rebellion that swept through most of western China in the spring of 1914, Farrer and Purdom sought refuge in a village ideally located for collecting, but were driven out of this, and their next locality, by mobs incited by Tibetan monks. Finding peace at last in Siku, at the base of Thundercrown, they worked the mountain and the high ridge extending from it, and made an expedition northwestward into Tibet. Many wonderful plants were met, but of them all, only the Gentian, Geranium and Aster which bear Farrer's name are in general cultivation today.

The Rainbow Bridge (1921), his last book, published posthumously, tells of the second year of the expedition, in the Da-Tung range northwest of Lanchow. The tale is a quiet one, the mountains granitic and uninteresting, the flowers few and disappointing; to fill space, Farrer makes much of the winter spent in Lanchow and of visits to monasteries. I cannot regard it as comparable with the story of the first year in China.

Farrer devoted much energy to literary efforts, in which he was far from successful. The best is *The Anne-Queen's Chronicle* (1909), "being a history of the last five months, faithfully recounted, in the life of the Lady Anne, Marquis of Pembroke, Queen-Consort of England." Vivid and colorful, rich in dialogue, it could be adapted to the stage with little effort. There are four novels: *The House of Shadows* (1906), *The Sundered Streams* (1907), *The Ways of Rebellion* (1908), and *Through The Ivory Gate* (1912). Of these I have only the second, and it has not tempted me to seek out the others. Its plot is impossible, its narration heavy and involved, showing little of the influence of "the divine Jane" (Austen), whose novels accompanied Farrer on his most remote forays. I have never investigated the plays nor heard anything good about them: *Herod Through The Opera Glass* (1901), *The Dowager of Jerusalem* (1908), *Vasanta The Beautiful* (1913); the Alpine Garden Society recently acquired some copies of the last, which it offered for sale to members. *The Void of War* (1918), "letters from three fronts" has long rested unread on my bookshelf, for I cannot develop any enthusiasm for it.

In addition to his own books, Farrer wrote the preface to *My Garden In Spring*, by the late E. A. Bowles, and thereby incited Ellen Willmott to open warfare. He also contributed a chapter on the progress of rock garden design and construction to *Rock Gardens and Garden Design*, compiled by Reginald Cory. He made many contributions to periodicals, chiefly to *Gardener's Chronicle*, which also published serially the letters describing his expeditions to China and Burma.

Three books have been written about Farrer. *Farrer's Last Journey*, by E. H. M. Cox, (1926), is an account of the two years 1919-20 which Farrer spent in upper Burma. As Cox was with him the first year, the report is at first hand, enlivened with quotations from Farrer's letters. The events of the second year are reconstructed from Farrer's letters, and the tale of his death is reported by the servant who was with him at the end. Except when Farrer

is being quoted, the account is rather dull, and one wishes that, as Farrer could not have written the book, Cox had been content to reprint the letters to the *Chronicle*.

The Plant Introductions of Reginald Farrer, (1930), likewise edited by Mr. Cox, is an elaborate and artistic volume limited to 1000 copies. It begins with a brief and incomplete biography of Farrer, contains a selection of Farrer's own notes on plants sent home, with additional notes on their horticultural value and behavior in gardens, by a distinguished group of gardeners, has a list of Farrer plant numbers of which the names have been determined (this list seems to me to be incomplete), and ends with a bibliography of all books and papers written by Farrer, by W. T. Stearn, from which I have drawn information about the plays and novels with which I was unacquainted. It is enhanced by twelve colored plates reproduced from Farrer's paintings of plants, and by hitherto unpublished photographs of the Akhyang valley in Burma. There is so far as I know no other color reproduction of any of Farrer's paintings, which have received considerable praise.

An early number of the *Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society* was later issued as a small book of 38 pages of text and 25 plates, under the title of *Reginald Farrer* (1932). In this slim volume is compressed more information than is contained in the elaborate Cox compilation, although it lacks the list of plant numbers, the bibliography, and of course the colored plates of the more impressive work. After a biographical note, there is a considerable list of Farrer introductions, with quotations from the collector's writings, and very brief comments on garden behavior, if the plant has remained in cultivation. Articles on other Farrer plants, on his books, and assorted quotations from his writings, complete the book. The plates, which include black and white reproductions of several paintings, and plant photographs taken in the field by Purdom, are of the high quality that distinguishes the Society's publications.

SEED AND PLANT CATALOGUES

It is requested that all readers of the *Bulletin* who issue catalogues or lists of seeds or plants, no matter how brief, make sure that their mailing lists include The Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

The editor of the *Bulletin* will appreciate having his name, also, put on mailing lists, so that he will be able to answer queries regarding sources of plants mentioned in the *Bulletin*.

SALMAGUNDI

WE REGRET VERY MUCH that the last two *Bulletins* have been delayed long past their proper time of publication. When we agreed to accept the editorship, in late June, the cupboard was bare of material—so bare, in fact, that Mr. Nearing finally was obliged to bring out the July number with fewer than the usual number of pages. Although we had begun to send out requests for contributions to the October issue as early as the first of July, most of our pleas were met with silence or promises—only one of which had been kept when, in late October, we decided that if the *Bulletin* were to appear at all, it would be necessary to write a large part of it ourselves. This, in our opinion, is undesirable, for it subjects the reader far too much to the viewpoint and experiences of a single person, whereas he should have the often conflicting opinions of a wide variety of authors, so that he can choose for himself the information most suited

to his conditions.

It was our plan originally to petition every member of the Society for an article, but as this requires the writing of some hundreds of letters, it will be long before the task can be completed. It has been said that every person has, within his own experience, the making of one good novel. Surely every rock gardener has had sufficient acquaintance with at least a few plants and gardening problems to be able to furnish one article, at least, for inclusion in the *Bulletin*.

Therefore we ask, beg, implore, that every member of the Society send in at least a short note on some favorite plant; even this will be a great help, although more extended articles will be even more welcome. Perhaps you feel that you cannot write well enough for publication: we had that protest from one member who nevertheless sent in an article which we felt was not only well written, but extremely valuable. In another case, a letter protesting that the writer lacked sufficient knowledge to write for the *Bulletin* contained so much worthwhile information that it was used, almost without change, as another article. If you feel that your command of the English language and grammar handicap you, one of the Editor's duties is to assist such writers; very often only the slightest changes are necessary.

We are leaving you with no alibi for not sending in material to us, and shall look for prompt and generous response.

* * * *

To capitalize or not to capitalize is a puzzle which faces the editor of any horticultural publication, and we must confess to inconsistency in this matter. We have long favored the decapitalization of all Latin specific names, and now that this policy has been accepted by taxonomists, although it has not met with universal approval, one problem has been removed.

But what is to be done about common names in general use, as well as with Latin names which have been adopted in the horticultural vernacular as the equivalent of common names? Many of our contributors seem to be in doubt, as is evidenced on reading manuscripts in which in one place a name will be capitalized, and a few lines farther on, written with a small letter. Consultation of the literature, and especially of the writings of persons in authority, leaves us in further doubt: Clay, for example, capitalizes every name of a plant, often with results that appear very strange to the eye.

After debating the problem fruitlessly, we consulted members of the Department of English at Ithaca College. It was finally decided that when names are used with direct reference to a genus, as in the phrase "species of *Campanula*", they should be capitalized, but otherwise not. Try it for yourself: for the blank space in "the in my garden" insert the words iris, phlox (recalling that these are generic names, as well as common ones), campanulas, smelowskia, or what you please. Do you prefer capitals or not?

* * * *

Now that the mightiest summits on earth have felt the hob-nailed boot of the climber (at least until the Iron Curtain lifts sufficiently to reveal to us mysterious Amnyi Machen, and we can learn whether Everest and K2 are really "highest", and not merely "highest yet"), we are almost surfeited with thrilling accounts of high-altitude adventure and peril. But these are for the mountaineer, whether he do his climbing with ice-pick and crampons, or only from the depths of his easy-chair. The greater part of their action takes place at heights far beyond those reached by flowering plants, and the seeker after information regarding the high alpine flora will gain little from them.

Not long ago, we came upon "Beyond the High Himalayas", by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, and almost thrust it aside on the assumption that it was but another book of playboy adventure. However, its last chapter, about the Hindu Kush, which had hitherto been little more than a smudge on the map to us, suggested that we might at least give those pages a hasty perusal. We found that our *a priori* estimate of the book had been sadly wrong: here is a very serious and often penetrating discussion of the people, politics, and religion of the regions behind the first great range of peaks. Of much more interest to us, though, is the attention Justice Douglas pays to the topography and flora of the region through which he travelled, even collecting herbarium specimens and seeds. But the country he saw was grim, rocky, barren, utterly different from the lush monsoon regions of Burma and S.E. Tibet, and flowers made little show in those desolate landscapes; the floral effect suggests the Andes of southern Peru and northern to central Chile (without, however, the amazing xerophytes of those forbidding regions), rather than what have been our ideas of the southern edge of the Tibetan Plateau. For this information the book is invaluable to one concerned with the alpine flora of remote regions. Curiosity was aroused by mention, twice, so that it cannot have been a slip of the pen, of a *blue* rose; as references to other plants seem reasonable and intelligent, one wonders whether there is, after all, such a marvel awaiting introduction. The recent revival, in the trade, of the ancient Rambler Veilchenblau, will make the alert gardener suspicious of any more "blue roses" until he sees them with his own eyes.

* * * *

Dr. Wherry's letter on plant vandalism leads us to protest that not all plant collectors are destructive. It has been our good fortune, at various times, to go collecting with Lester Rowntree, Mrs. G. R. Marriage and her daughter Molly, and E. J. Greig. We noted that all of them were far more interested in admiring and in photographing choice plants than in gathering even herbarium material of them, and that they usually were content to gather a few seeds of anything desirable, rather than taking the plant itself. We have heard, however, that one person who years ago was famous in the world of alpine plants had been barred from collecting in certain regions by the rangers there because the person not only took plants in wholesale quantities, but left uprooted and mutilated specimens lying on the ground. We had one experience of the sort with a nurseryman, who, we hasten to add, is not a member of the Society, nor so far as we can learn, any longer in the plant business. It required almost physical restraint to keep him from digging every plant of an isolated stand of rare and exquisite *Linum sedoides*. Even worse, none of the plants taken survived; later we returned (alone, this time) for seed, but the plant proved as disappointing in cultivation, both here and in England, as it had been glorious at home.

In the early days of our collecting experience, we did take limited numbers of plants for establishment in the garden, but soon learned that in most cases the labor was wasted. Even if the plants did recover, they were of little use except for propagation. Since then, whenever possible, we have been content with seeds, or with a very few plants to serve as propagating material, if seeds could not be found. Our experience has shown quite conclusively that nursery-grown plants are almost always far more desirable than wild stock.

Just as there are bad plant collectors as well as good, so taxonomists themselves are not always blameless in their collecting. In fact, we suspect that most collectors of herbarium material, when they come upon a unique specimen, hasten to put it in the press and bewail the fact that no more can be found. One case in particular comes to mind: that of a collector who has been highly praised by

botanists for the extensive and thorough collections he made in one western range where most species appear in very limited numbers. This man, not content to get a specimen or two of a rarity, collected either fifty or one hundred sheets (we cannot recall which number), of every species he encountered; and "sheet" in this case does not mean a single specimen: of one species dear to all rock gardeners, there must have been at least a dozen plants on a single sheet. When, a few years later, we visited this same range of peaks, in many cases we could not find as many as a dozen plants surviving of some species. Yet, in the name of science, he did "a good job".

* * * *

One of our new contributors, Major R. Ginns, of Desborough, Hants., England, extends a cordial invitation to members of the Society to visit his garden if they visit England. He is also interested in exchanging seeds with members.

* * * *

In the November *Journal* of the Royal Horticultural Society is an article of special interest to rock gardeners. Frances Perry indulges in reminiscences of the late E. A. Bowles and his garden, and the article is accompanied by a number of excellent photographs. Not only was Mr. Bowles one of the really great English gardeners, whose name should be familiar to everyone for his outstanding work and writings on *Crocus*, among other things, but he was a friend of Farrer and a supporter of the latter's Chinese expedition, one of the powers in the Royal Horticultural Society, and in general a man of great influence throughout the horticultural world. Mrs. Perry's personal acquaintance with him, from childhood on, makes her article particularly valuable.

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