

June 24, 1905.]

THE
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1841.)

VOL. XXXVII.—THIRD SERIES.

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1905.

LONDON:
41, WELLINGTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.
1905.



THE

Gardeners' Chronicle

No. 945.—SATURDAY, Feb. 4, 1905.

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VINES ON WALLS.

AMONGST other old books on gardening I happen to possess two, both of which give considerable prominence to the culture of Vines on walls. Of course, the means for growing fruit of any kind under glass two hundred years ago would be possessed only by rich people, and if those of limited means were desirous of cultivating Grape-vines, it would become a question of utilising walls for the purpose or going without Grapes. Even now, as one rambles through the villages of Surrey and some other counties in the south of England, wherever a gable end of a house is exposed to the south a white Sweetwater Grape-vine has been planted, probably not in quite recent years, as many of them may be considered to have been planted half a century or more ago. In most cases they bear very poor Grapes, nor anything like a fair crop, not because the Vines are too old, but because sufficient attention is not given to them. The numerous main branches have been fixed to the walls years ago, and the laterals have been spurred back year after year, until they are now so weakly that few or no bunches form upon them. The County Council lecturers might instruct the villagers how gradually to cut out the old gnarled

stems and replace them by young wood trained up from the base of the Vine, as only in this way can fruitful spurs be obtained.

Vines grown out-of-doors are liable to mildew; this troublesome pest invariably settles upon the bunches, and I do not know any better way to free the berries and leaves from it than syringing with soft soapy water in which some flowers-of-sulphur has been well mixed. The sulphur can be syringed off with clear water subsequently. "Shanking," which is the terror of gardeners who grow Vines under glass, is unknown upon out-of-doors Vines. With proper cultivation I get bunches of Grapes weighing 2 lb. on the south end of my house, but they seldom ripen well. The rods are trained in the same way as that in which gardeners train them in vineries.

A good treatise on fruit-culture was written by a clergyman, the Rev. John Lawrence, A.M., Rector of Yelverton, Northamptonshire, and published by Bernard Lintot, between the Temple Gates in Fleet Street, in 1716. The worthy clergyman was a good gardener, and had to work with limited means. He tried various methods to ripen his Grapes, such as training the Vines on the sloping roofs, and also by putting the bunches into flasks (glass flasks probably, but he does not say so). In the flasks they ripened sooner, "but they were apt to be mouldy for the want of free air, and had an insipid taste; and the slopes, though they admitted more of the sun's rays, yet they subjected the fruit more to the rains, dews, and cold nights." This Rector, evidently self-taught, had some failures, but he gives the sum of his successful culture of Vines and fruit-trees in this the fourth edition. He found that walls were best, and the climate was much the same as our own, although Old Sol, according to the astronomers, must have decreased twenty miles or so in diameter by combustion during the intervening years.

The varieties cultivated were the White Muscadine and the Black Cluster—these two were most to be depended upon, and the White Raisin Grape was admirable for tarts. Doubtless if the same care were exercised in cultivating Grape-vines now, and the right sorts were grown, the same measure of success would be attained. Our author writes—"Vine of all others needs pruning most, and though it is easiest performed yet it is least understood. Our climate is not so favourable, or the sun over bountiful of his ripening heats, but there is need of all the care and the greatest art to help nature forward in bringing Grapes to any degree of perfection in England;" but he adds, "With a little diligence and timely care there has seldom been a year but I have had good Grapes, and most years great plenty."

Mr. Lawrence deals with all manner of fruit-trees, and gives excellent advice as to planting, pruning, and subsequent summer and autumn treatment.

As some evidence of the interest taken in fruit-tree culture another book on the same subject was published in the following year, 1717, with the title of *Paradise Retrieved*; or a "Method of Managing and Improving Fruit-trees against Walls or in Hedges, contrary to Mr. Lawrence and others upon Gardening," by Samuel Collins,

Esq. Printed for John Collins, Seedsman, over against the Maypole in the Strand.

Mr. Collins seems to have rushed into print principally to show the mistakes in practice and errors of judgment made by the aforesaid worthy Rector. I did not intend to follow the discussion, but rather to allude to the importance each author attached to Vines and Vine culture on walls. Mr. Collins advises two ways of growing them; the more practical of the two was to train the growths in single rods to the wall, although the distances apart, 14 inches, would be too close to each other. Once in eight or nine years each rod was to be cut down near to the ground, and young rods were to take their place, the cultivator of course being careful only to cut down intermediate shoots, so that the wall would always be furnished with fruiting canes while the young canes were in process of development. His second method was to train three canes from one root up to the top of a wall furnished with fan-trained Peaches and Nectarines. "These Vines fill the wall to the top at what height soever, and as the roots do not prejudice the stone fruit so neither does the dropping of the leaves damage the fruits, but in wet summers very much conduce to the keeping of it sound."

In the first decade of the nineteenth century (1803) an important treatise on fruit-trees was written by Mr. Wm. Forsyth, gardener to His Majesty at Kensington and St. James's, and it is rather curious that he should deal with the treatment of Vines on walls which had been planted between Peach and Nectarine trees trained exactly as recommended by Mr. Collins nearly a hundred years previously. The Vines had been sadly neglected at the time they passed into the care of Mr. Forsyth. The fruit produced was small, hard and unfit to be sent to the table." He cut them down and trained up two canes from each plant, allowing them to grow their full length. Two of these canes produced 120 fine bunches of Grapes, weighing from one pound to a pound and a quarter each. The following year (1791) he trained five Vines in the same way with considerable success, and in the third year, when all the Vines on the wall had been furnished with young wood (1793), he sent "for the use of His Majesty and the royal family, 378 baskets of Grapes, each weighing about 3 lb."

Mr. Forsyth does not state whether the garden was at Kensington Palace or St. James's, nor does he state the variety from which he obtained such good results. For the results were good, as he adds, "Every one who saw them said that the large bunches were as fine as forced Grapes." The varieties recommended by Mr. Forsyth for open walls were the July Grape, and specially Morillon Noire Hative, the white or common Muscadine or Chasselas, the white Frontignan or Muscat Blanc, the small black Cluster; the Auverna or true Burgundy Grape the best for making wine.

There are hundreds of gable ends of houses and walls furnished with Grape-vines, which bear none or worthless fruit owing to no care being bestowed upon them; the old branches have, as has been stated, had the laterals spurred back in some instances for half a century, until the Vine is utterly exhausted. I know plenty such walls that are of no value whatsoever, positions that

Quick," adding "that he had never seen a thick base to any hedge made with this plant." This no doubt was owing to the fact that the plants were not pruned to within a foot or 15 inches of the ground the first year after planting, as recommended by me on p. 29. Or it may have been caused by the plants having been cut down as soon as planted, in order not to waste time. *H. W. Ward.*

THE EVESHAM GARDENERS' FRENCH TRIP: WILL IT BEAR FRUIT?—Some of the older of the Evesham gardeners have expressed themselves as very doubtful of the result of trying to force Lettuce after the French method in Evesham, and point out that as many as twenty years ago they tried to force Lettuce under the bell-glasses as done near Paris. But they forget that they did not try the right variety, and it is pretty certain that they did not prepare the seed-bed as the Frenchman does. Everything depends upon that work being properly performed. Then it is claimed that the atmosphere in the valley of the Avon is too humid, and that the plants will damp off. The remedy for that is care and attention in the ventilation of the frames and cloches. The difficulty of obtaining manure is probably more imaginary than real; it can be bought in Birmingham at a reasonable figure, and the railway companies are certain to grant special rates, for they already carry manure from London 108 miles into a fruit-growing district for 4s. 6d. a ton. They would be sure to do the same for Evesham if properly approached, and that would bring the cost of the manure up to about 6s. a ton. Would the Lettuce sell if grown? is also asked; and the answer to that is, that the Frenchman with expenses heavier than those of the Evesham grower can send to Covent Garden and pay a freight of 80s. as against the Evesham man's 25s., and still make a handsome profit. The experiment is to be made. In a week or so the retired gardener who conducted the Evesham men through the Vitry and Ivory gardens will be in Evesham for the purpose of giving demonstrations of how the Frenchman sets to work. It is hoped that he will be accompanied by another gardener, who is likely to remain in the district for at least two years, for a very large firm of growers are negotiating with a man to take an engagement for that period. We shall see what we shall see. Within the last few weeks a large number of glasshouses have been built close to Evesham, and from this it is evident that some of the younger generation of gardeners realise the importance of branching out in a fresh direction. It has always been a source of surprise that in this fertile valley so little use was made of glass, but this is now fast disappearing. Perhaps in no branch of their work do the Evesham men need instruction so much as in the packing and grading of their fruit and vegetables. Of recent years there has been a steady improvement in this direction, and less is heard of the pernicious and injurious habit of "topping," for which the district held an unenviable notoriety, but there is still need for great improvement. A case bearing on the necessity of grading fruit occupied Judge Ingham and a jury for some hours on Saturday last. A gardener and dealer, of Hampton, near Evesham, sued a firm of brokers of Covent Garden for £39 2s. 10d. for breach of contract in the purchase of 300 "pots" of Blenheim Apples at 5s. a pot, the damages representing the difference between the contract price and what plaintiff realised when defendants refused to accept delivery. The contract was not disputed, and in it defendants contracted to buy 300 pots of best Blenheims at 5s. a pot, all the small to be sorted out. Two consignments of Apples were sent, and both were refused on the ground that there were a large proportion of seconds included. The difficulty with regard to the first consignment was adjusted, but when the second lot arrived the defendants refused to accept any more, so plaintiff had to sell the Apples as best he could. It was suggested on behalf of plaintiff that defendants found that they had bought the Apples very dear, and wanted to get out of the deal. A sample of the second consignment was produced by defendants, and a lot of expert evidence called, the consensus of opinion on that side being that the sample contained a large proportion of seconds, and that the test

were not very special. For the plaintiff evidence was called to the effect that the fruit was sorted, and that only best Blenheims were sent. After a very long hearing the Judge summed up in the following words: "The only question I shall ask the jury is: 'Were the Apples which were rejected best Apples from which all the small had been sorted out? You have heard the expert evidence and you have seen the Apples. It is for you to decide the question.'" The jury after some consultation answered the question in the negative, but intimated that they would like to make a remark. This, however, they were not allowed to do. Judgment was accordingly entered for defendants with costs. The defendants had entered a counter-claim, but withdrew it with the exception of one item, 8s. 6d. for three empties, which was admitted, and for which judgment for them was entered. S.

EARLY AND LATE PEACHES.—In reply to "L." Isle of Wight, on page 64, in my opinion the best early varieties of Peaches are Alexander, Waterloo, Amsden June, and Hale's Early. These four varieties ripen in very close succession—so close indeed, that the second and third mentioned could well be dispensed with in gardens where space is limited. The best late varieties of Peaches are Crimson Galande, Princess of Wales, and Sea Eagle. If "L." has room only, for say six Peach trees, I should recommend the following varieties:—Alexander, Hale's Early, Early Grosse Mignonne, Violette Hâtive, Crimson Galande, and Sea Eagle, which are all excellent varieties in every respect, being good growers and free bearers of fine, handsome fruits which colour well and are of excellent flavour when well ripened. If space would permit of three more trees being planted in the cool-house referred to, Early Rivers, Lord Napier, and Pine-apple Nectarines would yield a fairly good succession of large, handsome fruits of good quality. *H. W. Ward.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS TIED DOWN.—The illustration of "tied down" Chrysanthemums on p. 53 is perhaps, from a pictorial point of view, rather taking, but I imagine few gardeners will attempt to copy Mr. W. C. Smith in his delicate and (to me) very painful task of destroying the natural beauty of habit that each variety possesses, besides rendering the flowers useless for cut purposes. It would be much better to select dwarf-growing kinds, of which there is an abundance of varieties, for the purpose. If cuttings be taken from the top growths at the end of May, and the plants grown on in 5 or 6-inch pots, they will make admirable subjects for placing on the front row of the stage, attaining a height of about 15 inches. Assuming that the Chrysanthemums are grown as bush plants, they should not be of the height mentioned, 5 to 7 feet being far too tall. Your correspondent does not state that his plants are grown as bush plants, but I infer this from the number of plants grown in each pot, and from the photograph of the distorted plants on the front stage. *A. Jefferies, Moor Hall Gardens, Essex.*

CEDRUS DEODARA ALBA SPICA (see p. 59).—Our trees of the above variety of Cedar are all of pyramidal shape, and each has a good leading shoot. I recently saw about fifty trees growing in a nursery, but did not notice one of spreading habit. Are Mr. Harris's trees much exposed to strong winds? *C. Page, Droghmore Gardens.*

APPLE LANE'S PRINCE ALBERT.—Here in Co. Kilkenny this Apple is very satisfactory; in fact, were I limited to one variety I should grow Lane's Prince Albert. With regard to its cropping capabilities, my experience is that young trees (on both the Crab and Paradise stocks) generally crop so heavily that if not severely thinned the fruits would eventually weaken the trees. Young trees never fail to carry a crop. The fruits develop an excellent colour for the variety, in proof of which I may say that at Dublin fruit show, held in October under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, we were placed 1st in a class in which there were fifty-three competitors, and were 1st also at Belfast in November. The fruits do not keep well so late as March, but at present they are good and firm, and are very good eating even uncooked. The variety has been largely

planted in this district during the last two years, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, and I do not know any variety likely to give better returns. Bismarck is another variety that is proving satisfactory in these gardens, making healthy growth and cropping exceedingly well. I may say the soil here is of a warm, light nature. *J. G. W., Lessborough.* [Our correspondent sent excellent specimens of both varieties. *Ed.*]

I have found this Apple to be by far the most certain cropper, surpassing in this respect both Newton Wonder and Alfriston. The latter variety does not finish well here, and consequently shrivels with keeping. I find Newton Wonder keeps for the longest period, while Lane's Prince Albert keeps well to the end of February. I should certainly advise growers in this district to plant the variety, as it is a sure cropper. *Geo. Ellis, Nidd Hall Gardens, Ripley, Yorks.*

Mr. Thomas Salisbury in a recent issue asked for growers' opinions of that excellent Apple Lane's Prince Albert. We have no hesitation in saying that in our opinion it has no equal, its cropping capabilities are not comparable with those of any other culinary Apple, and with regard to its colour and appearance we saw several tons of this Apple almost as highly coloured as that grand dessert variety Worcester Pearmain. Bramley's Seedling runs it very close in cropping capabilities, but in weight we find Lane's Prince Albert far ahead. A small fruit of the latter variety will turn the scale at $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. and will keep in condition till the end of March, being now in as good condition as when picked. No doubt your correspondent picked his fruits before they were ready for gathering. *Mr. Nye, Manager, Walpole Orchard Co., Walpole, Wisbech.*

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—*Almanack* for 1905, from Messrs. Kent & Brydon, Darlington.—*A Pocket Book*, from Messrs. Baker's nurserymen, Wolverhampton and Codsall.—*Nova Scotia: Provincial Government Crop Report*, November, 1904. The whole season proved unfavourable to growth in many parts of the Province, but the failure is not serious enough to discourage the hopes of the farmers for the future.—*Cassell's Popular Gardening*.—*The Faraday House Journal*, January. This is the Journal of the Students of the Electrical, Standardizing, Testing, and Training Institution in Charing Cross Road.—*The Banana in Hawaii*. By J. E. Higgins.—From the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station. Bulletin No. 7.—*The Royal Garden Diary and Daily Remembrance* for 1905. From Messrs. W. Wood & Son, Wood Green, London.—*Index Seminum in hortis musei Parisiensis*, anno 1904 *Collectorum* (Seed-list from the Natural History Museum, Jardin des Plantes, Rue Cuvier, Paris).—From the University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. Circular No. 82: *The Physical Improvement of Soils* (with special reference to the value of organic matter, by J. G. Mosier; and Bulletin No. 95: *The More Important Insect Injurious to Indian Corn*, by S. A. Forbes.

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

CYPRIPEDIUM GRATRIXIANUM
(SECT. PAPHIOPEDILUM), HORT. SANDER.

UNDER this name Messrs. Sander & Son, of St. Albans, exhibited as a new species the plant here illustrated (fig. 35). The flowers have so much of the appearance of those of some forms of *C. insigne* or *C. exul*, if that be considered as distinct, that its position as a separate species is a matter of opinion, but the habit is different, and we are told that the leaves are broader than in any form of *C. exul*. The plant is tufted, the leaves 20 cent. long, 4 cent. wide, coriaceous, glabrous, linear-oblong, channelled in the middle of the upper surface, midrib prominent beneath, tapering to the base, where they are sharply folded and purple-spotted. Apex rounded, minutely notched. The flowers measure 11–12 cent. across at their widest expansion, and are borne on a scape which is covered near the top with fine purplish hairs. Bract oblong lanceolate, purple-dotted, conduplicate, rather shorter than the three-sided, three-ridged ovary. Standard broadly obovate undulate, puberulous on the outer surface, contracted but not recurved at the base; greenish at the base and for two-thirds of its length; upper portion and margins porcelain-white, the whole studded with rather large, nearly

circular purple spots. Lower sepal about half the size of the upper one, shorter than or very slightly exceeding the length of the lip, oblong, greenish with a few purplish dots; lateral petals spread-

shining projecting boss near the apex. The most striking differences between this plant and *C. exul* are to be found in the habit, foliage, and in the standard, which tapers to the base, and

Obituary.

JOHN KITLEY.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. John Kitley, for the

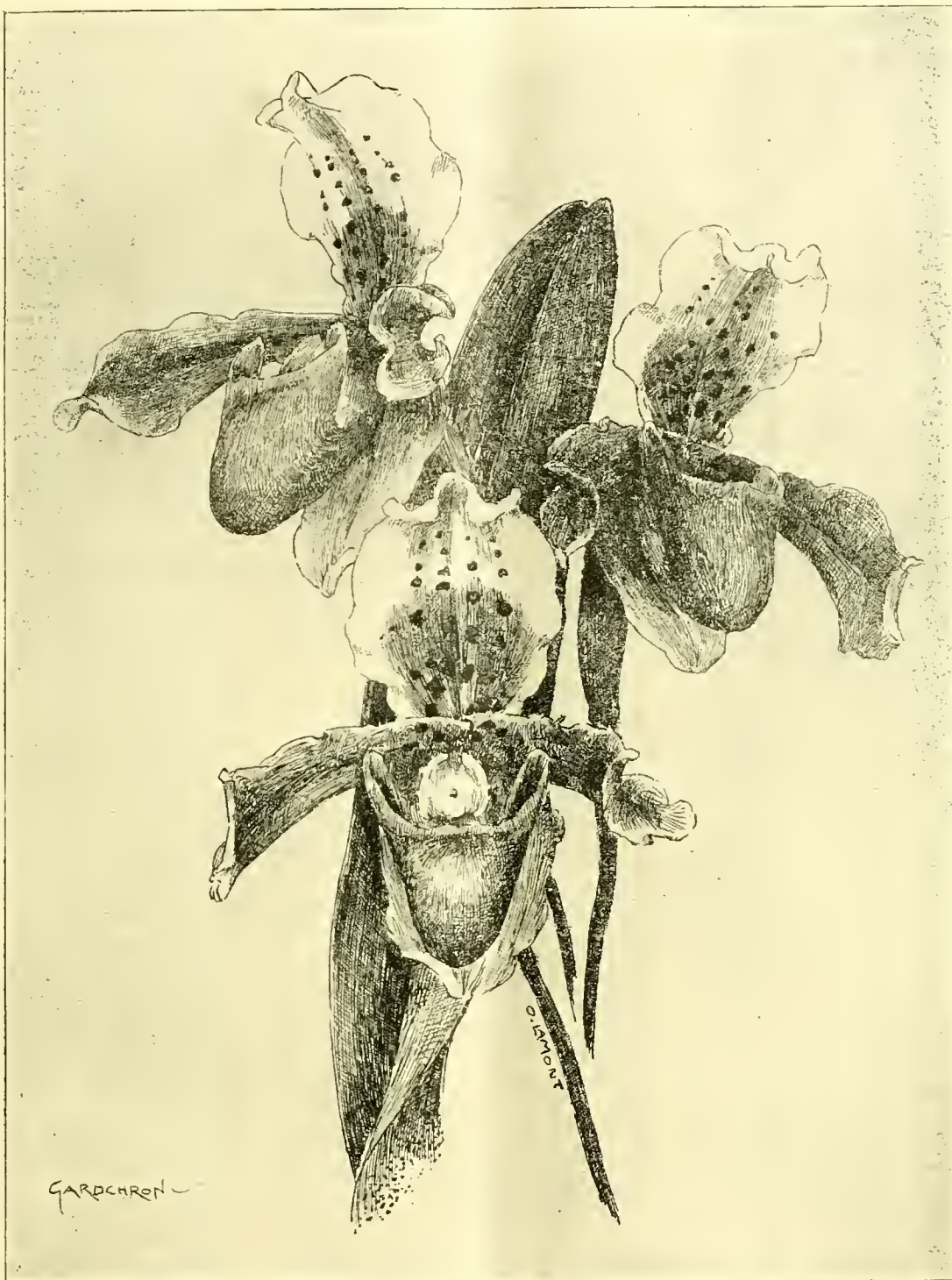


FIG. 35.—*CYPRIPEDIUM* (§ *PAPHIOPEDILUM*) *GRATRIXIANUM* (HORT. SANDER).
Flowers greenish-yellow, dorsal sepal porcelain-white above, purple-spotted

ing, slightly incurved, oblong-spatulate, wavy at the margins, pale greenish-brown, and shining; lip of a similar but deeper colour, with a shell-like convolute prolongation on either side; column slightly hairy at the base; staminode roundish, flattened, yellowish, villosulous, with a

in the side-lobes of the lip, which are more prolonged. The plant is a native of Annam. The drawing was made in the nursery of Messrs. Sander, and the description was drawn up from a specimen kindly furnished by those gentlemen. M. T. M.

past few years manager to the Orchard Company, Ltd., Scotby, Carlisle. Mr. Kitley was well known as a practical horticulturist, and was well versed in Agriculture and Forestry. For many years he managed the extensive estates of Bothamurchus, Inverness-shire, removing from there to