

THE

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

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THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Advertisers are cautioned against having Letters addressed to INITIALS, or to FICTITIOUS NAMES, at Post-offices, as Letters so addressed are not forwarded, but are sent at once to the Returned Letter Office.

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THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE,
Volume XVII., JANUARY to JUNE, 1882.
W. RICHARDS, 41, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,
South Kensington, S.W.

NOTICE!—COMMITTEES' MEETINGS. Fruit and Floral, at 11 A.M.; Scientific at 1 P.M.; General Meeting for the Election of Fellows, &c., at 3 P.M. On TUESDAY NEXT, July 25, NATIONAL CARNATION and PICOTEE SOCIETY'S SHOW, and Band of the Royal Horse Guards at 4 P.M. Doors open at 1 o'clock. Admission 1s. Show closes at 6 o'clock.
* Prizes offered by Messrs. HOOPER and CO., Covent Garden, July 25.

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J. F. JOHNSON, at the Palace.

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truth of the story till presently, at a spot half-way between the house and the lodge, and half a mile from each, the trees grew larger, and in a little dell, or hollow, carpeted with Ferns and mosses, I observed some Oaks of considerable size. A Beech and a Spruce came first in my way, and they measured 5 or 6 feet in girth; then came a Silver Fir, measuring 9 feet; and then some Oaks varying from 6 feet to 10 feet. They were the largest trees I had seen. "These will do," I thought; "I wonder if the remains hang in the tree still!"

A hollow trunk stood among the other Oaks in this secluded dell, with a cavity charred by fire, and a diameter of 4 feet. It would have held Howell Sele, however stout he may have been. My search ended here; this was not the identical tree, but the real Oak is stated to be within a stone's-throw. The story is that Glendower boarded up the body, which was not discovered till many years had elapsed.

The foregoing is an example of a comparatively modern Oak, rendered interesting, as the reader, it is hoped, may think, by the nature of its site, and the romantic story connected with it. Among the ancient Oaks of England few are more interesting than the gigantic ruin now standing in an arable field on the banks of the Severn, near Shrewsbury. It is the sole remaining tree of those vast forests which gave Shrewsbury its Saxon name of Schobbesburgh. The Saxons seized this part of the county A.D. 577, when they burnt the Roman city of Uriconium, where Wroxeter now stands, 4 miles from the village of Cressage; and underneath this now decrepit dotard it is said that the earliest Christian missionaries of those times—and possibly St. Chad himself—preached to the heathen before churches had been built. The Cressage Oak—called by the Saxons Crite-ache, Christ's Oak—is probably not less than fourteen centuries old. The circumference of the trunk was about 30 feet, measured fairly at a height of 5 feet from the ground; but only about one-half of the shell of the hollow trunk now remains. It still bears fifteen living branches, each 15 feet or 16 feet in length. A young Oak grows from the centre of the hollow.

The noted Oaks of England, thanks to those who have preserved them, thanks to the universal veneration for timber, and to a stirring and lengthened history, are innumerable. Windsor Forest is particularly rich in historic Oaks, and Sherwood Forest, though disafforested, still contains some memorial timber, like Needwood, once a Crown forest, now a fine estate of well-farmed land. Dryden's

"Three centuries he grows and three he stays,
Supreme in state, and in three more decays,"

is a poetical statement, and some of the dates on trees cut down in Sherwood Forest, and marked 600 years before, in the time of King John, prove that it is an under-estimate. The great Winfarthing Oak in Norfolk was called the "Old Oak" in the time of the Conqueror, and has been supposed to have attained the age of 1500 years. The King Oak in Windsor Forest is upwards of 1000 years old. *A Traveller.*

FRAGARIA INDICA.—This is extensively grown in the Royal Nurseries, Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, and a useful plant it is for decorative purposes. In one of the houses it is hanging down the side walls from 4 to 6 feet long, literally covered with its scarlet fruit. *Dipladenia boliviensis* is also well grown on the roof of one of the stoves; this covers a space 18 feet by 6 feet, covered with its beautiful pure white flowers with yellow throat. It is a useful plant, and can be had in flower nearly all the season. *Gladiolus The Bride* (syn. *Covillei alba*) is wonderfully well grown in 5 and 6-inch pots, as also is the American *Tuberose The Pearl*, which is valuable for cutting purposes. These are well done by Mr. Spinks, the manager, a good all-round cultivator.

New Garden Plants.

STENOMESSON STRICKLANDI, n. sp.*

THIS is a very distinct new Amaryllid, from the Andes of Ecuador, raised and recognised as a novelty by Sir C. W. Strickland, Bart., of Hildenley, and Boynton, in Yorkshire, to whom I am indebted for a couple of flowering specimens, and a drawing of the fruit in an immature stage. In inflorescence and the size and colouring of the flowers it is most like *Stenomesson suspensum* or *coccineum*, of which there are good recent figures in Saunders' *Refugium* (tabs. 22 and 309), but the perianth-segments are as long in proportion to the tube as in *Callipsyche*, and Sir C. Strickland tells me that the leaves closely resemble those of *Callipsyche aurantiaca*, whilst in all the *Stenomessons* and *Coburgias* they are linear, without any petiole. And it differs also from the *Stenomessons* in requiring more heat for its successful culture.

Leaves petioled, oblong-lanceolate, resembling those of *Callipsyche aurantiaca*. Scape 1 foot long, terete, slender. Umbel 5—6 flowered, with a spathe of several linear bracts; pedicels cernuous, about 1 inch long. Ovary oblong-trigonal, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long in the flowering stage. Perianth infundibuliform, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long; tube green campanulate $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; segments permanently connivent oblanceolate cuspidate bright red 1 inch long. Stamens inserted at the throat of the perianth-tube, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger than the segments; filaments united in the lower half; free portion of the filaments dilated and valvate towards the base, without any interstaminal teeth; anthers small oblong versatile pale yellow; style finally protruded beyond the stamens; stigma capitate. Capsule short deeply three-lobed. *J. G. Baker.*

SAXIFRAGA MILESII, Hort. Leichtlin.†

This is one of the Himalayan Saxifrages of the *Megasea* group, which has lately attracted the attention of cultivators both in England and on the Continent, and for which no special name, so far as I am aware, has yet been published. We have had a fine plant of it at Kew at the east end of the rockery in the herbaceous ground this summer. We regarded it as a variety of *Saxifraga Stracheyi*, but it differs from the type of that sub-species as figured *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5967, by its longer leaves, oblong calyx segments, which are as long as the stamens, and white petals with a more distinct claw. I have just received it, with a note of its distinctive peculiarities, from Mr. Max Leichtlin, under the above name, given in honour of Mr. Frank Miles, of Chelsea, the well-known artist, who imported the seeds from an elevation of 11,000 feet from Kidarkanta, in the North-Western Himalayas. With us it flowers the latest of all the forms of the *Megasea* group, and at the present time (the last week in June) all its petals have faded. I think all the Himalayan *Megaseas* are best regarded as sub-species and varieties of one variable specific type, and that the same may be said of all the Siberian forms.

Leaves obovate, obtuse, reaching a length of 9—12, and a breadth at the middle of 4—5 inches, obtuse, more or less distinctly crenate, deltoid, not at all cordate at the base, distinctly ciliated on the margin, glabrous on both surfaces, bright green on the face, pale green on the back. Corymbs dense, about as long as the leaves. Peduncles and calyx finely glanduloso-pubescent. Calyx with a campanulate tube and oblong segments $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Ovaries adnate to the calyx only at the very base. Petals white, or slightly tinged with pink, obovate with a distinct claw, 9—10 lines long. Stamens inserted

* *Stenomesson Stricklandi*, Baker, n. sp.—Foliis hysteranthiis petiolatis oblongo-lanceolatis; scapo tereti pedali; bracteis pluribus linearibus; umbellis 5—6 floris; pedicellis cernuis; ovario oblongo-trigono; perianthii segmentis rubris oblanceolatis cuspidatis tubo viridi quadruplo longioribus; staminibus exsertis, filamentis dimidio inferiori monadelphis, dentibus interstaminibus nullis; stylo exserto, stigmati capitato; fructu brevi profunde lobato.

† *Saxifraga Milesii*, Hort. Leichtlin.—Foliis obovatis obtusis crenatis basi deltoides margine ciliatis dorso et facie glabris; pedicellis calycibusque glanduloso-puberulis, calycis segmentis oblongis tubo 2—3-plo longioribus; staminibus æquilongis; petalis albidis obovatis distincte uoguculatis.

with the petals at the throat of the calyx-tube, halt as long as the petals. Styles as long as the calyx-segments. *J. G. Baker.*

ACINETA HRUBYANA, n. sp.*

This fine new *Acineta* is distinct from all known species in the narrow erect side partition of the lip, and in the white colour of the flowers, which have only a few purple spots inside the lip, mostly on the sella turcica. It was imported from New Granada by Mr. Sander, and has just flowered with Baron Hruby, of Holde, in Bohemia, whose name it may bear. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

MASDEVALLIA ARMINII (Lind.), Rehb. j.

I called this in 1854 (Seemann's *Bonplandia*, ii., 283), "plantula elegantissima." It bore its name from my late unfortunate friend, Hermann Wagener. It is much in the way of *Masdevallia Wageriana*, yet the flower is a good deal larger and most probably distinct, expanded and of a very fine rose colour, tinged with purple. It would seem to be a rare gem, as it has not appeared since Wagener's days. It was not, however, discovered by Wagener, but by Louis Schlim, Director Linden's half-brother, which we did not know when we gave the name. It has been sent me now by Mr. F. Sander, and will prove a noble addition to the collection of *Masdevallia* gems, a nice companion for *Masdevallia Estradæ* and *ludibunda*. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

ANGULOEA DUBIA, Rehb. f.

Mr. B. S. Williams has kindly forwarded me a second flower, which is identical with the first one in all the most minute details; hence, the fear of its being an abnormal state is much lessened. This is a case of interest for science, as it has been shown often by Messrs. Veitch. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

MASDEVALLIA (FISSÆ) TRICOLOR, n. sp.†

This is near *Masdevallia Estradæ*. It has flowers equalling or surpassing those of that species. Most probably it is very curious from its colours. The dried flowers look reddish-mauve. They were said to be purple by Messrs. Roezl and Wallis, who discovered them. A memorandum of Mr. Carder calls them "light blue colour." The lip is very curious and uncommon, nearly square; the tails of the sepals are short; the lateral sepals connate. It comes from New Granada, and is in the possession of Messrs. Shuttleworth, Carder & Co. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

ODONTOGLOSSUM ANDERSONIANUM TENUE GUTTULATUM.

A very nice variety, near *Odontoglossum Andersonianum tenue*, but most beautifully spotted with small brown spots on the sepals and petals. Lip white with a yellow base and a few brown lines. It was kindly sent me by Messrs. H. Low & Co. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

CYPRIPEDIUM NIGRITUM, n. sp.

A Bornean introduction of the New Buth Company, Lion Walk, Colchester. Leaves like those of *Cypridium virens*, light green, with darker reticulations. The flower comes near to that of *Cypridium barbatum*. The colours are those of a very dark variety. The odd sepal is oblong acute, not almost circular, thus coming nearer that of *Cypridium purpuratum*. The veins stand much nearer to one another. The petals are much narrower, and the marginal warts stand partly over the middle to the apex. The equal sepals form a very narrow body. There are obscure warts on the stalk of the lip. Staminode like that of *Cypridium barbatum*, but with intermediate small teeth in front, and longer angles on each side of the dorsal sinus. Thus it is near *Cypridium barbatum*, but it appears quite distinct. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

* *Acineta Hrubyana*, n. sp.—Racemo laxo; floribus candidis maculis purpureis intus in labello, presertim in sella turcica; sepalis tepalisque affinium specierum; labelli partitionibus lateralibus ligulatis oblique obtuseque retusiusculis, partitione mediana ligulata obtuse acute concava, sella turcica pandurata antice et postice emarginato-bidentata; dentibus acutis retusis pupula supposita ligulata emarginata retrorsum curva, carinis obliquis in partitionibus lateralibus, carina longitudinali utrinque in ungue canaliculato; columnæ basi puberæ alis rotundatis; flores pulchre albi eboracei. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

† *Masdevallia tricolor*, n. sp.—Fissæ unilobæ; bractea ampla pedicellum non æquante; sepalis impari oblongo breviter caudato; sepalis lateralibus subæqualibus, per tres quartas coactis; tepalis cuneato ligulatis angustis, labello quadrato obtusangulo; columna apiculata, apiculo nunc fissis. Nova Granada, Roezl! Wallis! Carder! *H. G. Rehb. f.*