

DECEMBER 25, 1915.]

THE
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1841.)

VOL. LVIII.—THIRD SERIES.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1915.

LONDON:

41. WELLINGTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C

1915.

26

THE
Gardeners' Chronicle
No. 1,496.—SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1915.

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ROSES FOR BUTTON-HOLES.

THE qualities that go to the making of a good Rose for wearing in the button-hole are doubtless to some extent a question of taste; and it is proverbial that matters of taste do not admit of discussion. The occasion on which the adornment is worn is also a factor to be considered. A button-hole that is tolerated in a wedding guest may seem out of place and too conspicuous for the business man on his way to earn his daily bread. For such a one, a Rose having the size and proportions of an exhibition bloom would seem scarcely suitable; its weight would tell on the lapel of his coat and cause it to hang downwards in an awkward fashion. It is a common sight at a Rose show to see some of our friends who have just finished staging their exhibits select from their "spares" the largest and most striking flower wherewith to decorate their person during their visit to the show. Anywhere else we might question their taste, but at the Rose show we accept the adornment as natural and appropriate, and, it may be, even sympathise with the feeling that has caused our friend to carry his large and beautiful flower so that it may be seen by his acquaintances, rather than consign it to the dark box beneath the staging, where it would blush unseen.

The exhibits in the classes of Roses for button-holes met with at country shows are usually rather spoilt by the permission to use added foliage. This liberty is freely taken advantage of by the addition of Adiantum fronds or Asparagus sprays, both of which are singularly out of place with a button-hole Rose. The only foliage really admissible is that of the Rose

itself, and it is open to question whether even this is desirable. When, however, as often happens, the flower can be gathered with an upper leaf which can take a suitable position without being detached, it is clearly desirable. The button-hole Rose is frequently carried in a little metal tube sold for the purpose, at the bottom of which a few drops of water can be placed, and the Rose, with this assistance, will keep fresh for a whole day or longer. But if the leaf, instead of being attached to the natural stem, is broken off and inserted behind the Rose, it quickly fades and is apt to some extent to spoil the appearance of the flower.

In early spring and until the middle of May, or later if the season be backward, one has to rely for one's daily button-hole on the flowers that happen to be out in the greenhouse at the time. Richmond, Melody and Mme. Abel Chatenay will often be found suitable, and the side buds, i.e., small flowers, of many of the Teas, such as A. Hill Gray, Bridesmaid and Molly Sharman Crawford, are often gathered. Curiously enough, Lady Waterlow under glass often makes a flower of good enough shape for the purpose, though it rarely does so out-of-doors, because it comes out too quickly. The button-hole Rose may or may not have fragrance; if so, this confers an additional charm, but it is of the first importance that it should be of shapely form—a loose and floppy Rose such as we find in many members of the China group is of little value for the purpose.

When the outdoor Roses begin to appear in my own garden some of the earliest and most attractive flowers for button-holes are found on the unpruned plants of Marquise de Salisbury. These Roses are admirably suited for the purpose; nearly always of rather small size, they are of a fine rich crimson colour and possess a delightful perfume. I grow two beds of this Rose, one of which is pruned, and the other merely has the dead tips slightly shortened, being practically left unpruned. By this means a succession of bloom is assured, and, somewhat to my surprise, I have found the unpruned plants usually the more satisfactory of the two. Nevertheless, it will not generally be advisable to leave them too long unpruned, because the stems then often harden unduly and the plants become leggy and difficult to treat. With the double-bed system this difficulty is easily surmounted, for the bed that is left unpruned one year can be pruned the next.

Among the summer Roses, the deep rich colour of the Old Tuscany and its delightful scent make an attractive spot of the corner of the garden where it grows during its brief flowering period.

Among the Hybrid Teas the best button-hole Roses will generally be found among the decorative rather than the exhibition varieties. Of the crimson varieties to succeed Marquise de Salisbury, few are better than Richmond, which also has the charm of fragrance, or Liberty when it is caught just right, in succession

to Richmond; while of the pinks Mme. Abel Chatenay is always reliable. In pale shades delicately pretty flowers for the purpose may be found in Mrs. Harold Brocklebank, Lady Greenall, Souvenir de Gustave Prat and Ophelia, all of which have beautiful form, and a bed will provide some suitably-sized flowers. Early in the season, while we get its intense yellow colour, few varieties are better than Mme. Ravary. It is well to make the most of it while we can, for as the season advances the intense yellow disappears, and though flowering freely until well into the autumn, it has too little distinction for our purpose. For the same reason Melody, striking as it is when grown under glass, is of little use from the open ground—at least in my district. Of the art-coloured flowers, the variety Lady Pirrie is excellent as quite a tight bud; and often Mrs. Alfred Tait is pretty, though I do not find I use this flower so much as I had expected to do—perhaps it is a little loose in the petal. Rayon d'Or, though a fine colour, is usually of too poor a shape to be useful for our purpose; but Mme. Edouard Herriot seems highly promising—not only are the flowers of striking colour, but they are very freely produced, and, at least on cut-back plants, not too large. The smaller flowers of Willowmere are also attractive and likely to be useful. Arthur R. Goodwin again is a most fresh and lovely colour, but it must be picked and worn quite as a bud. When the flowers expand they become useless for our purpose.

Of the Tea Roses I should put Lena easily first. It is a finely-shaped little Rose of intense orange-yellow colour, and the bud is almost invariably about the right size for a button-hole flower. Lady Roberts, however, makes a good second choice, and should also be picked in the bud state before the flower expands. Very good, too, are the smaller flowers of Mrs. Herbert Stevens, some of the best whites we have, for they are almost always of good shape, with long petals and high-pointed centre. By no means to be despised are the smaller flowers of Mme. Jean Dupuy and Mme. Henri Berger, but the former is of little use if the weather be unfavourable.

I have said that the Chinas as a class are too wanting in form for our purpose, but I think I ought to make an exception in favour of Comtesse du Cayla on account of its wonderful colouring, which in favourable weather is sometimes almost equal to that of Mme. Edouard Herriot. For our purpose it should be picked quite young. Now and again, too, a flower of Queen Mab may be found attractive. Queen Mab is perhaps the best in shape of the China group, and its soft, pale-peach colouring is very pleasing while fresh.

Hitherto I have taken little account of fragrance, but in truth this quality is a great asset in a button-hole Rose. In order to obtain this in its greatest perfection we must have recourse to the crimson Roses. Deepest in colour of the crimson flowers is Château de Clos Vougeot, with a most delightful aroma, and if it is to be picked in the bud state we may

account. What diseases are there which we do not desire admitted into this country? Where do they come from and how? Have we suffered in the past from introduced diseases? Will the convention's restrictions keep diseases out or will they simply restrict trade and be of no use?

To answer these questions we must have information. We are using this interval to get that information, so that when the time arrives for discussion, the trade can take up a definite position and back it with facts. We have collected information about the diseases and pests which have been carried from country to country in the past and what carried them. We have information about the restrictions on trade at present in force. We have information about the diseases which do not exist in this country and which we do not want admitted; but we have no information as to the trade itself in this country, and this is a necessary part of the enquiry.

Particularly we require this: What is the position of the industry as regards imports and

The Board of Agriculture has intimated that it will not adhere to the convention if it be against the interests of the trade, and it is extremely important that the trade should have the necessary information on which to judge whether to recommend adherence to the convention, whether to stand aside, or whether to ask the Government to seek to modify it.

It is impossible in a single article to make clear what the effect of the convention will be, but I propose in another to explain the regulations already framed in France in anticipation of this convention being adopted. Whether this country adheres or not, the effect will be far-reaching, and we hope the trade will give the committee the help it needs by filling up the forms and returning them when completed to the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society. The information will be treated as strictly confidential, and the only use made of it will be to compile tables of the total imports and exports of living plants, with the countries of origin or destination. *H. M. Lefroy.*

Carstenz, at an elevation of 2,500 feet; it was collected in flower in December or January.

Cypripedium papuanum is a *Paphiopedilum* (which Mr. Ridley prefers to regard as a section of *Cypripedium*), and belongs to Pfitzer's section, *Blepharopetalum*. It is evidently nearly allied to *Paphiopedilum violascens*, recently described by Schlechter, from the mountains of Kaiser-Wilhelms-land, which, however, differs in the colour of the flower, relative proportions of sepals and petals, and in having larger leaves. Both species are allied to *P. javanicum* from Java and Sumatra. *P. praestans* and the nearly allied *P. glanduliferum*, which are also natives of New Guinea, are widely removed from these and belong to a different section of the genus.

The following is a description of the new species:—Plant, 8 to 10 inches high; leaves, 4 to 6, leathery, oblong, 2½ to 4 inches long, ¾ to 1 inch in greatest breadth, somewhat acute, the extreme tip minutely tri-cuspidate, pale green with darker green markings on the upper face; scape, 6 to 8½ inches to the base of the bract, deep crimson, bearing numerous stiff hairs; bract ovate, similarly hairy, about ½ inch long; pedicel and deep-green ovary, hairy like the stem, 2 inches long; dorsal sepal, broadly ovate, with a short, abruptly acute apex, green, with five to six somewhat obscure deep crimson simple nerves on either side the mid-vein, barely 1 inch long by ¾ inch wide, hirsute on back, margin ciliate; united lateral sepals elliptic-lanceolate, subacute, ¾ inch long, ¼ inch wide, hirsute on back, with about seven raised nerves; petals oblong, broadening slightly upwards, obtuse, 1½ inch long, ½ inch greatest width, glabrous except for the ciliate margin, eleven-nerved, dull crimson dotted with darker spots in the lower half and tinged with greenish yellow; lip, 1½ inch long, including the broad claw, which is about equal in length to the cup, minutely pubescent lateral lobes somewhat obtuse, cup 10 lines broad, dull crimson as in the petals, lobes tinged with greenish yellow; staminode lunateniform, notched above, lobes blunt, median process obtuse; column greenish yellow.

The appended diagnosis* has been supplied by Mr. Ridley. The illustration is a photographic reproduction from the plant in Mr. Rothschild's collection at Ashton Wold, Oundle. *A. B. Rendle.*

NERINE BOWDENII.

This beautiful African Lily is perfectly hardy in several parts of Devonshire: the specimens shown in fig. 44 are growing in Messrs. R. Veitch and Son's nursery at Exeter, under a south wall. Thirty-nine bulbs were planted on November 24, 1910, at 9 inches apart. By the time the photograph was taken the bulbs had multiplied exceedingly, and some seventy trusses were expanded, carrying from six to twelve flowers each, and many other inflorescences were developing. The scapes coming up in succession and the umbels opening by degrees gave the border a good appearance for from six to eight weeks. The flowers are pale pink with a darker shade down the centre of each petal. The plants were occasionally watered during dry weather. The season of flowering is the end of September to November. *Nerine Bowdenii* is equally serviceable as a pot plant; such

* *Cypripedium* (§ *Paphiopedilum*) *papuanum*, sp. nov. Folia 4-6 oblonga, coriacea, 6-10 cm. longa, 1.3-2.5 cm. lata, glabra. Scapus 15 cm. longus, hirtus. Bractea ovata, hirta, 1.3 cm. longa. Sepalum posticum ovatum, acutum, 2.4 cm. longum, 2 cm. latum, dorso hirtum; lateralia connata, elliptico-lanceolata, subacuta, hirta, 1.9 cm. longa, .8 cm. lata, nervis elevatis 7. Petala oblonga, obtusa, 4.2 cm. longa, 1.2 cm. lata, anophthalma, glabra, mucronibus ciliatis exceptis. Labellum 3.7 cm. longum, 2 cm. latum, minute pubescens, ungue lato, sacco aequilongo, lobis lateralibus subobtusis. Staminodium lunato-reniforme, lobis oblongis obtusis, processu mediana brevi obtusa. Rostellum grande, oblongum, obtusum, linguaeforme, canaliculatum. Papua. Mt. Carstenz, 2,500 ped. alt. *H. N. Ridley.*



FIG. 43.—CYPRIPEDIUM PAPUANUM: FLOWERS DULL CRIMSON TINGED WITH GREEN OR GREENISH-YELLOW.

exports respectively? What are these, where do they go and whence do they come? Are the imports of new wild plants from, say, China, more important than the imports of cultivated new varieties from Europe? If a clause in the convention concerns, let us say, the importation of Japanese Maples and deciduous nursery stock from Japan, are we affected or not?

There are countless points of this sort which can only be answered by a knowledge of what the imports and exports are, what kinds of plants, of what value and amount, where from and where to, and whether the imported plants are from the forest or jungle or from foreign nurseries.

In the hope of getting this information the Royal Horticultural Society has addressed a letter to every firm dealing in live plants. Attached are forms so prepared that each firm may give, with the least trouble, the information that the committee wants, and the committee very strongly urges all members of the trade to give the information asked for. Sooner or later a decision will have to be taken.

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

A NEW CYPRIPEDIUM FROM DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

Among the plants collected on Dr. Wollaston's recent expedition to Dutch New Guinea is a new *Cypripedium*, which Mr. H. N. Ridley, who was responsible for working out the collection, has named *Cypripedium papuanum* (see fig. 43). The dried material was very scanty, but a number of living Orchids was collected at the same time for the Hon. N. Charles Rothschild, and among these the *Cypripedium* in question has recently flowered under Mr. Wright's care at Ashton Wold, Oundle. It is a small plant 8 to 10 inches high, with a proportionately tall, single-flowered scape springing from among a few thick, leathery, tessellated leaves. The colour of the flower is a rather dull crimson tinged with green or greenish-yellow. The plant was found by Mr. C. B. Kloss, the botanical collector to the expedition, on Mount