

THE  
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1841.)

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# The GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

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## "GARDENERS' CHRONICLE."

Continued Increase in the Circulation.

IMPORTANT TO ADVERTISERS.—The Publisher has the satisfaction of announcing that the circulation of the "Gardeners' Chronicle" has, since the reduction in the price of the paper, increased to the extent of 75 per Cent. Advertisers are reminded that the "Chronicle" circulates among COUNTRY GENTLEMEN AND ALL CLASSES OF GARDENERS AND GARDEN-LOVERS at home, that it has a specially large FOREIGN AND COLONIAL CIRCULATION, and that it is preserved for reference in all the principal Libraries.

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little better than a grave scandal. If there is a prospect of the money being paid, let as much be said to allay alarm; if there is not, then I think there is cause for immediate action being taken. *A Sufferer*. [It has been publicly stated that the illness of one of the officials is the cause of the delay. Ed.]

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL Scientific Committee.

NOVEMBER 28.—Present: Dr. M. T. Masters (in the chair), Prof. Church, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Bunyard, Rev. W. Wilks, Dr. Bonavia, and Rev. G. Henslow (Hon. Sec.).

rarely now seen. The present tree is eighty years old, but never fruited before. Dr. Church observed that being closely allied to *Theobroma cacao* or *Chocolate*, it would be interesting to examine the seeds for theobromine.

*Primula capitata* and *Basal Rot in Daffodils*.—The following communication was received from Rev. C. Wolley Dod, Edge Hall: "I have been engaged for several years in investigating that mysterious phenomenon, basal rot in Daffodils. The Scientific Committee have assured me (after repeated examination of bulbs sent by me) that no specific cause of it can be detected. I am enquiring whether there is anything analogous to it in any other plants—viz., death from general unsuitable conditions, commencing at the juncture between the root and the bud, and producing decay there, partial or entire. I have noticed something similar in some Himalayan Primroses, especially *Primula Stuarti*, which I have ceased to

growing on *Jasminum revolutum*, was received from Mr. F. W. Burbidge, of the Trinity College Botanic Gardens, Dublin. He observes that "it does nearly as well on *Forsythia viridissima* and *F. suspensa*, as well as on Ivy. Indoors in a warm house, *Pelargoniums*, *Fuchsias*, and *Crotons* seem to suit it best. We had it growing on a zonal *Pelargonium* which was placed in the *Jasminum* on a west wall last May, and it now forms a wiry net-like mass 10 feet high and 8 feet wide. It often twists upon itself." An examination of the suckers or hanstoria showed that the *Cuscuta* often preyed upon itself whenever two branches were spirally twisted together. As far as a few observations can be trusted, the roots of the thicker of the two stems always penetrated the other. It frequently fixed itself to the surface of the leaves of the *Jasminum* as well as around the stems and petioles.

*Preserving Fresh Fruit in Carbonic Acid Gas*.—The following communication was received from Mr. W. Sykes, of Woodleigh, East Dulwich, being a description of experiments suggested at a meeting of the Scientific Committee on July 25:—"On August 23 I put down some Apples, Pears, Plums, Tomatos, and eggs, but am sorry to say that, so far, my experiments with carbonic acid gas are unsatisfactory. It does not appear to check the ripening or decomposition, and it gives the fruit a peculiar flavour. The Apples have a musty, coddled taste. With the Plums the gas centres round the stones. In the Tomatos there is a sharp, forbidding, pungent taste throughout, which leaves them after standing twenty-four hours in the air. I allowed the gas to pass through the washing-bottle into the tins, the natural air escaping through a pipe. After the fresh air had escaped (tested with a lighted match), I closed the latter pipe and let the gas work itself dead slow. After giving them all a good application (three dozen taking in both applications some six hours) I went through them again, opening the escape-pipe mentioned above to scour out, then I reclosed it with pliers before closing the entrance-pipe, the gas had worked dead slow, the top and bottom bulging out. The pressure at the gauge stood at 5 lb. The water in the washing-bottle was fresh boiled and put into the washer (just bearable), being changed for every dozen tins. I did not exhaust the air, and found with this test of a week that the Tomatos were sweating equal to those kept for over a fortnight after the air was exhausted. Some *Coreopsis*, white *Marguerites*, and *Nasturtiums* were put under the same process (August 23). The first kept well, and after being in water looked none the worse; the white of the *Marguerites* turned to a pale chocolate beyond recovery, and the *Nasturtiums* collapsed into a withered heap." Professor Church observed that the failure might have been due to an insufficient time having been allowed for the atmospheric air to diffuse. He added that much carbonic acid had been proved to exist around *Mangold* roots when trised over, which undoubtedly acted as a preservative.



FIG. 117.—BENECIO MACROGLOSSUS: LEAVES, DEEP GREEN, GLOSSY; FLOWERS, YELLOW. (SEE P. 756.)

*Pears and Fungicides*.—With reference to the remedies suggested by Mr. Massee, Dr. Masters inquired of Mr. Bunyard as to his experience in their use. He replied that growers were frequently deterred from employing any poisonous preparations in consequence of the carelessness of the men from their want of realising the dangers involved in using them, so that they preferred to employ sulphur, and especially the "black" or impure sort.

*Tamarix dimorphic*.—Mr. Henslow remarked that the two species common in Egypt, *T. articulata* and *T. nilotica*, corresponded with the two forms of *Caesarina* exhibited by Dr. Masters at the last meeting, who observed that *T. gallica* not infrequently develops the two forms on the same plant.

*Sterculia nobilis*, R. Br.—A fruiting specimen of this plant was received from Syon House. A synonym is *Sonthwellia nobilis*, of Salisbury's *Paradisus Londinensis*. It has been known to fruit in this country, but Dr. Masters observed that it is

cultivate because the base of the bud (I use bud in its botanical sense of crown from which the leaves sprout) is so apt to rot into pulp. In *P. capitata*, however, of which I have grown and flowered thousands during the last fifteen years, no winter bud is ever formed. Mr. G. Wilson tells me that in his garden at Wisley it is a hardy perennial, but with me it invariably dies if left out in winter. The tissues are not destroyed by hard frosts, for after a hard winter the leaves in the centre of the tuft often continue green in February, but rot seems to commence at the base, as in the specimens enclosed, and the open leaf-tuft invariably rots off before spring, being often still green. I should be glad of an opinion whether the case is likely to be analogous to that of basal rot in Daffodils?" Mr. Wilks corroborated Mr. Dod's experience, as he found the plants died in a similar manner in his garden. The specimen was forwarded to Kew for examination.

*Cuscuta reflexa*.—A specimen of this parasite,

DECEMBER 12.—Considering the lateness of the season, the meeting in the Drill Hall, James Street, Westminster, presented some interesting features. Orchids being numerous and in many cases of rarity, and the display of *Chrysanthemums*, *Ferns*, foliage plants, and fruit well represented.

Floral Committee.

Present: J. Marshall, Esq., in the chair; and Messrs. J. Laing, J. Walker, G. Gordon, G. Paul, R. Owen, H. Herbst, R. Dean, H. B. May, C. F. Bause, E. Stevens, F. Ross, C. J. Jeffries, P. Barr, T. W. Girdlestone, J. D. Pawls, W. Furze, W. Bain, T. Godfrey, T. Baines, C. E. Shea, H. H. D'Ombrian, C. Noble, J. Bennett-Poë, and W. Watson.

A group of choice and well-grown Ferns was contributed by Mr. H. B. May, Edmonton, including *Pleopeltis fossa*, *Pteris tremula densa*, *Polypodium angustatum*, *Acrostichum irioides*, *Polypodium nigrescens*. The last named is an extremely interesting Fern, from the nest in which the spores are produced, resembling impressions caused by a punch. There was also a first class specimen of *Platyserium aethiopicum* (*stemmaris*), having fronds—which are divided towards the end into two lobes—nearly 3 feet long (First-class Certificate) (Silver Flora Medal).

Messrs. Hugh Low & Co., Bush Hill Nurseries, Enfield, again staged a large group of well-flowered *Cyclamens* (Silver Flora Medal).

A pretty group of miscellaneous plants came from Messrs. John Laing & Sons, Forest Hill, S.E., but they suffered from being placed in a dark part of the Hall. There were well-grown *D. arvensis*, including



the useful and prettily-variegated narrow leaved *D. Doucettii*, a number of well-flowered plants of *Odontoglossum grande*, some *Cyclamen* in flower, *Favetta burbonica*, *Nicotiana colosea variegata*, and a plant of *Manettia bicolor* (Silver Flora Medal).

Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., Burford Lodge, Dorking (gr., Mr. Bain), again showed *Primula Forbesii*, also some sprays of *Cotinus igneus* bearing their orange scarlet flowers about 2 inches across (First-class Certificate). A Botanical Certificate was awarded to *Maesonia amygdalina* from the same exhibitor. This is a new species, and its small white flowers are highly perfum-d.

Mr. H. Balderson, Hemel Hempstead, had *Primula sinensis* variety called Henry Balderson.

Messrs. Jas. Veitch and Sons, Chelsea, staged a number of *Nepenthes* with good pitchers. *N. Amesiana* from *N. Rafflesiana* × *N. Hookeriana*, was awarded a First-class Certificate; the pitcher is green and marked prettily with red. Others included were *N. Chelonii*, *N. Curtissii superba* with dark coloured long pitchers. *N. Burkei excellens*, a magnificent pitcher with intense purple mouth; and the narrow-pitched *N. cincta* (Silver Flora Medal).

A very interesting collection of flowers, for the most part old neglected plants of our greenhouses, was sent by the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew. *Brownea Crawfordii* from *B. grandiceps* × *B. macrophylla*, has an immense corymb of flowers of soft crimson, with very prominent anthers of the same colour; *Manettia bicolor* is an old plant from South America, of twining habit, with small leaves and tubular flowers of scarlet, tipped with yellow. This is an old inmate of the greenhouses, but now neglected. *Bomaria oligantha* has tubular flowers of orange-scarlet with orange tips; *Thunbergia* (*Hexacentria*) *myaorensis* is another old plant, and bears most handsome flowers of rich bronze and yellow, arranged in racemes. *Senecio macroglossum*, or the Cape Ivy, see fig. 117, is a flower of pale yellow colour, profusely produced on the young wood; it bears some resemblance to a single flowered *Chrysanthemum*. *Calpurnia aurea* (the Natal Laburnum (see fig. 115)), is described fully in another column. *Bomaria Patensis* was exhibited as a good corymb of striking orange-crimson flowers. All of these plants flowering in mid-winter are well worth the attention of gardeners.

Mr. Robert Owen, nurseryman, Maidenhead, sent a wonderfully fine collection of *Chrysanthemums* for the season of the year.

At the back was a line of twenty-seven bottles, each containing three fine blooms, and in front of these were ten show boards, each containing twelve blooms, the incurved varieties being by themselves; the incurved Japanese were also together, and the varieties with spreading florets. A considerable proportion of these were seedlings raised by Mr. Owen. The collection well deserved the Silver Flora Medal it received. Awards of Merit were made to Mr. Owen for Japanese Mrs. Marian Bourne, a large and full incurved flower, the colour lilac-pink, with a silvery reverse, but not particularly novel in colour. It is likely to be useful for exhibition purposes.

Good Gracious, an American variety, remarkable for delicate tint of soft pink, and profusion of small petals which imparts to it a novel and distinct appearance.

Other fine and promising varieties were John Noble, a bold and massive incurved Japanese, the colour a kind of chocolate crimson, the reverse of the petals which are very broad and stout, being bronzy-gold—quite distinct in character; Secretary Farson, reddish-salmon base with golden centre; Mrs. Smith Rigland, a large broad-petalled incurved Japanese, having a reddish cinnamon surface, and a rich golden reverse, a variety not seen at its best on this occasion, but with a great future before it; Robert Owen, a very fine golden incurved; Walter Surman, a somewhat formal incurved Japanese, but large and full, having a bronzy-salmon base and a golden reverse; Fraocia T. Brage, a bright golden reflexed; Mr. H. Brownhead, pale cinnamon with a golden reverse; Mrs. A. Rogers, pure deep yellow of the *W. H. Lincoln* type; Mdlle. Thérèse Pancoucke, a broad-petalled incurved white; Golden Gate, rich deep gold, extra fine; Mrs. F. Denne, delicate lilac-pink, deepening to cerise, a broad-petalled incurved *Jap.*; Abbé Mendenhall, pale canary, with a golden centre; Golden Wedding, rich gold, very fine; Nevada, white; Lord Brooke, in strict incurved character; Charles Blick, a reflexed gold; and Le Prince du Bois, a pale-coloured variety of considerable promise. From Mr. C. H. Ratch, St. Peter's Buildings, Bonrnemouthe, came Japanese *R. B. L. Monk*, which is like a broad-petalled *Gloriosum*, with

curious whorled florets, white in colour, and quite distinct in character. Mr. William Wells, nurseryman, Earlswood, had Mrs. L. C. Madeira, a fine yellow incurved, but with a tendency to come oval in the centre, which destroys its symmetry; and one or two single varieties from his large collection.

#### Orchid Committee.

Present: H. J. Veitch, Esq., in the chair; and Messrs. J. O'Brien (Secretary), Dr. M. T. Masters, F.R.S., De B. Crawshaw, C. J. Lucas, T. Statter, E. Hill, H. M. Pollett, H. Ballantine, J. Jaques, T. B. Hayward, and J. Douglas.

The objects brought to the meeting were, for the time of year, both interesting and numerous. Messrs. J. Veitch & Son, Royal Exotic Nursery, King's Road, Chelsea, exhibited a group of rare and exceptionally-fine Orchids, and were awarded a Silver Bankian Medal. Among their plants were *Cypripedium* × *Oenone* (*Hookeræ* ♀, *superbiana* ♂). Award of Merit; *C. × T. B. Hayward*, with several flowers; *C. × Harrisianum* superbum; a spike of *C. × Sedeni candidulum*, with five flowers open, and several buds; *C. × Theresia* (*Sedeni* ♀, *Lindleyanum* ♂); *C. × Creon* (*Harrisianum* superbum ♀, *oceanthum* superbum ♂); *C. × Pylæus*, *C. × Lathamianum*, the singular *Dendrobium* × *Stratiotes*, *Sophrontis grandiflora* with thirty flowers; a fine plant of *Oncidium divaricatum*; *Oncidium cheiraphorum*, with ten spikes; *Cattleya × leucoglossa* (*fausta* × *Loddigesii*), *C. × Pheidone* (*intermedia* ♀, *maxima* ♂); the singular *Dendrobium glomeratum* (Botanical Certificate); and varieties of *Lælia anceps*, &c.

Messrs. F. Sander & Co., St. Albans, arranged an effective group, in which *Lælia anceps* were remarkable, among them being the varieties *Sanderiana*, *Percivaliana*, *Barkeriana*, and *Oweniana*. Mexican *Lælia* were *L. × Crawshawana*, *L. Gouldiana*, *L. autumnalis alba*, &c., together with *Brassia Leeana*, a species allied to *B. candida*; *Chysis Oweniana*, a species with pink and white flowers; *Odontoglossum Rosii excellens*, *Zygopetalum rostratum* (Award of Merit), *Aganisia ionontera*, *Cypripedium × nitens* Sander's var., *C. × Masonianum*, *C. × Ridolfianum*, and *C. × Lynchianum* superbum (Silver Bankian Medal).

Messrs. B. S. Williams & Son, Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, Upper Holloway, had an extensive group, in which were fine plants of twenty distinct species and varieties of *Cypripedium*, two of the most remarkable being *C. × Pitcherianum*, *Williams' var.* and *C. × Leeanum giganteum*. Among other good plants included in this group were *Calanthe × Myleai*, pure white; *Lælio-Cattleya × Bleasensis*, *Lælia acuminata rosea*, varieties of *L. anceps*, *L. Gouldiana*, *Oncidium obrysatum*, *Odontoglossum crispum*, *O. asperum*, and *O. Inaleayi splendens* (Silver Bankian Medal).

Messrs. Linden, l'Horticulture Internationale, Parc Leopold, Brussels, staged a group of rare Orchids, and obtained an award of a Silver Bankian Medal. Two very extraordinary new *Lycastes* from Peru were among the exhibits, both possibly natural hybrids. One of these, *Lycaste Imchootiana*, had the habit of *Lycaste Skinneri*, and flowers equal in size to those of that species. The broad sepals were greenish-fawn minutely spotted with purple except at the tips; petals pale yellow, with red dotted lines at the base inside; lip bright yellow, spotted with orange-red at the base and on the callus (Award of Merit). The other, *Lycaste Luciani*, had flowers equal to those of *L. lasioglossa*, and, as in that species, the lip is hairy. The sepals were spotted with pale pink, on a pale fawn-coloured ground; petals white, with a few rose dots; lip rose and white (Botanical Certificate). Another grand thing in this group was the massive white *Odontoglossum crispum* *Thompsonæ*, with rich dark spots on the sepals; and one which is scarcely its inferior, the fine unspotted *O. c. amplissimum*. The variety *Thompsonæ* received an Award of Merit. Other good plants were *Lælio-Cattleya × Stehegoloniana* (*L. grandia* × *C. labiata*), *Cypripedium × Robinsianum* (*Lowii* × *Parishii*); *Oncidium Phalanopsis*; a cut spike of *Cattleya labiata*, with six flowers; one of the charming scarlet *Cochlioda Noezliana*, with about twenty blooms, and *Catasetum virens*.

Messrs. Hugh Low & Co, The Nurseries, Clapton, exhibited a very fine selection of Orchids, many good *Cypripediums* being included, and among them their new *C. × Smithii* (*Lawrenceanum* × *ciliolare*), a very richly-coloured cross-bred, with flowers in which the beauties of *C. Lawrenceanum* play an important part. The group received a Silver Bankian Medal. C. W. Fincken, Esq., Hoyland Hall, Barnsley (gr., Mr. J. Milburn), again showed the

beautiful natural hybrid, *L. Finckeniana*, with six flowers on a spike (First-class Certificate). C. J. Lucas, Esq., Warnham Court, Horsham (gr., Mr. Duncan), showed *Cypripedium Clinkberry-unum* × var. *Warnhamense* (*Curtissii* ♀, *Philippinensis* ♂), a very fine hybrid (see *Gard. Chron.*, July 22, 1893, fig. 18) (Award of Merit); *Dendrobium infundibulum*, *Phaius maculatus*, and *Compactia macroneuron*.

M. Jules Hye-Laysen, 8. La Coupure, Ghent, sent a grand *Cypripedium* in his *C. × fasciatum* (*Spicerianum* × *hirautisimum*) with very large purple-tinted flowers. It is of the same parentage as *C. × Cerea*, originally described in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, but in this one some circumstance has brought about a much finer thing (First-class Certificate).

Baron H. Schroder, The Dell, Egham (gr., Mr. H. Ballantine), sent a gigantic inflorescence of his unique *Cymbidium Traceyanum*, one of three spikes borne on the plant this year (Cultural Commendation), also a grand spike of *Lælio-Cattleya × Nysa* (*L. crispata* × *C. Warscewiczii*) which surpasses *L. c. × Exoniensis* (First-class Certificate); *Cypripedium × Leeanum* superbum, *C. × Glatea*, *C. iosigne Sanderæ*, *C. i. Sanderiana*, and the rare *Brassia antherotis* (Botanical Certificate).

R. I. Measures, Esq., Cambridge Lodge, Camberwell (gr., Mr. Chapman), showed *Cypripedium venustum* *Measuresianum*, an extraordinary and beautiful form with white and green flowers, without any of the brown and red seen in the type (Award of Merit); the beautiful *Pleurothallis scapha* (Botanical Certificate); and *Cypripedium × Celens*.

His Grace, the Duke of Northumberland, Sion House, Brentford (gr., Mr. G. Wythes), showed an effective group of cut spikes of *Calanthe* set up with Maidenhair Ferns (Silver Bankian Medal); W. Vanner, Esq., Camden Wood, Chislehurst (gr., Mr. G. H. Robbins), showed *Cypripedium × pulchellum* (grande × *Sedeni candidulum*); and *C. × Io-Spicerianum*. F. Wigan, Esq., Clare Lawn, East Sheen (grower, Mr. W. H. Young), staged *Cypripedium × Wiganianum* (? *Harrisianum* × *Ashburtoniæ*), a distinct and rather striking flower. J. F. Ebner, Esq., Woodlands, Beckenham (gr., Mr. A. Waite), sent *Cypripedium × Sallieri anrum* (Award of Merit). H. Hainsworth, Esq., St. John's Park, B'ackheath, showed *Cirrhopetalum ornatisimum*.

T. Statter, Esq., Stand Hall, Whitefield, Manchester (gr., Mr. R. Johnson), showed *Cypripedium × villosum* × *oceanthum superbum* × ?) a flower of the *C. nitens* class, with purple colouring showing through the upper sepal.

M. Wells, Esq., Bloomfield, Sale, Manchester (gr., Mr. Hinde), sent *Lælio-Cattleya × exoniensis*; and E. Ashworth, Esq., Harefield Hall, Wilmslow, Cheshire, showed *Lælia anceps Amesiana*.

#### Fruit Committee.

Present: P. Crowley, Esq., in the chair; and Messrs. Henry Vilmorin, G. Bunyard, G. Tabor, H. Pearson, J. Cheal, C. W. Cummins, W. Warren, T. J. Saltmarsh, J. Wright, A. Dean, J. A. Laing, W. Bates, J. Willard, C. Ross, G. Wythes, F. Q. Lane, J. Hudson, W. Balderson, G. H. Sage, J. Smith, A. H. Pearson, and R. Hogg.

The exhibits were not numerous, but a capital collection of Apples was staged by Messrs. H. Lane & Son, Berkhampstead, including a large heap of Lane's Prince Albert and King of the Pippins; also dishes of many other varieties in first-class condition. Some of the more noticeable were Norfolk Beauty, Golden Noble, Yorkshire Greening, Peagood's Non-such, Lady Henniker, Fearn's Pippin, Hoary Morning, Gascoigne's Scarlet, Annie Elizabeth, Bismarck, Hanwell Souring, Blenheim Orange, Court Pendu Plat, Calville Rouge Précoce (a very pretty little fruit), Warner's King, Col. Vaughan, &c. (Silver Knightian Medal).

A smaller collection of Apples and a few Pears came from Messrs. Jno. Laing & Sons, Forest Hill, S.E.; good examples of Norfolk Beauty, Waltham Abbey Seedling, Alfriston. King of the Pippins, Bramley's Seedling, &c. The Pears were Easter Beurré and Catillac (Bronze Bankian Medal).

A fine collection of Kales was put up by Messrs. Jas. Veitch & Sons, Chelsea, including a number of variegated forms; also the Palm-tree Kale, one of the largest varieties, of dark green; Veitch's Late Curled, and Chelsea Exquisite Curled Kale. Three stems of Brussels Sprouts, Ne Plus Ultra, were from the same exhibitors (Vote of Thanks).

From the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Chiswick were sent several heads of Cabbage, Christmas Drumhead (Award of Merit), and several