

THE FLOWER-GARDEN, &c.

BY MRS. LOUDON.

JANUARY.

The principal work that can be done in a garden in January is to protect tender plants from frost, and this is a task of no small difficulty in pleasure-grounds and shrubberies, as damp must be guarded against as well as cold. After warm dry summers the task of protecting half-hardy shrubs during the winter is rendered comparatively easy, by the ripening and hardening of the wood; but after a summer like that of 1848, the young wood which has grown remains even in winter green and succulent, and is as easily killed as the stalk of any herbaceous plant. After such a season it will be useless to attempt to cover the stems and leaves of half-hardy evergreens, particularly those with thick fleshy leaves, like the camellia and the evergreen magnolia; and the best way will be to protect their roots and the lower part of the stem with a thick mulching of straw or decayed leaves. In most situations, the acacias and other Australian plants which require matting to preserve their stems, will probably be killed to the ground; but it must be observed, that when acacias are killed by frost, the stem only should be cut down, and the root should be left in the ground, as in most cases it will send up fresh shoots the following spring. Herbaceous plants require no other treatment than covering the roots with dead leaves, as the stems generally die down in autumn. The tree pæony is, however, frequently affected by spring frosts, and it is best protected by a skeleton framework of hoops, covered with matting, sufficiently large and light to admit of its being taken off in the middle of the day, when the air has been warmed by the sun. Bulbs, when they are left in the ground during the winter, should never be covered with straw, and only moderately with dead leaves, as they are easily injured by damp, and when deeply covered they are frequently attacked by mice. Alpine plants are most easily protected by plunging the pots in a bed of earth, over which is placed a skeleton frame made of half hoops at regular distances, and covered with matting. It must be observed that in all cases where it is directed to protect plants by covering them with mats, which are to be taken off during the day when it is not actually freezing, the mats must always be replaced before the sun sets; or, as a safer rule, they should only be taken off between ten in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon. The eggs of insects should be sought for at this season, and destroyed wherever they can be found.

In greenhouses as much mischief is often done by keeping the plants too hot, as would have been experienced by exposing them to the cold. The proper heat, for a greenhouse is never to let the thermometer fall lower than 40°, nor rise above 45°. Air should also be given regularly every day when it is not actually freezing. It is an important axiom in plant culture, that air is as necessary as water; and the admission of air to a greenhouse, particularly during winter, is absolutely essential for the health of the plants. Plants obtain nourishment from air as well as from water; and when they have too much water and too little air, they invariably damp off. The sashes of every greenhouse should be made to open at the top, to admit the exit of the heated air before any cold air is suffered to enter; as, if the lower sashes are opened first, so as to admit the cold air before the heated air has escaped, the latter is condensed, and falls back upon the plants in visible drops, and this is found to be highly injurious to them. Plants may be preserved during winter in what is called a cold pit, quite as well as in a greenhouse. A cold pit is an excavation in the ground, to the depth of about three and a half or four feet, and about six feet long and four feet wide. It is lined with brick, the brick-work being raised about a foot above the surface of the ground, and a wooden

frame, the angle of which should be between 15° and 25°, fixed to it, in which a sash light is made to slide. The plants are placed at the bottom of the pit, and, when the weather is very cold, a mat is placed over the glass. In most places plants may be preserved in pits of this kind during the most severe winter without fire heat. When the plants to be preserved are very small, the pit need not be made so deep. When plants are kept in pits of this nature, they will require air to be given to them every fine day between ten and three. It should never be forgotten that all plants, whether in the open air or in a greenhouse, should be kept as dry as possible during winter. Plants in pits and greenhouses should have no more water given to them than is sufficient to keep them alive.

Among the few ornamental plants which are in flower at this season, may be mentioned a new kind of yellow jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*), which was introduced by Mr. Fortune, from Naukin in China, in July, 1844. It was at first kept in a greenhouse; but, like most of the other plants which have been introduced from China, it was soon found to do best in the open air; and it flowered beautifully in the garden of the Horticultural Society at Chiswick, for the first time, in January, 1848. The flowers are produced in great

abundance, but are destitute of fragrance, and appear without the leaves. The plant is generally trained to a trellis, or tied to an upright post three or four feet high, so as to permit the young twigs to hang down, which they are naturally inclined to do.

FEBRUARY.

There is very little to be done in the pleasure-grounds and shrubbery in this month; but the gravel walks in both should be attended to, as gravel walks are very liable to be injured by melting snow. Care, therefore, should be taken, as

soon as a thaw commences, or before, to remove a portion of the snow; and, as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry, the walks should be carefully rolled. Seeds of trees and shrubs are generally sown in this month; and the rule for sowing them is to let the soil be as deep above the seed as the seed is thick.

In the flower-garden great care should still be taken to protect the half-hardy plants, not only from the frost, but from the sun, which at this season is frequently very powerful. It must be observed that the mischief done by frost is always very greatly increased if the sun be permitted to shine upon the frozen plant: it is like exposing a frost-bitten person to the heat of a great fire. The best thing that can be done when a plant is frozen is to cover it over with a flower-pot, or some other covering, till the air has gradually become sufficiently warm to thaw it slowly. The choicer kinds of anemones and ranunculuses are planted in this month. They are generally planted in rows about five inches apart and two inches deep; and a little sand is put under each tuber when it is planted. In planting the ranunculus tubers, care should be taken to put the claws downwards, and not break off any part of them, as when the claws are broken off the tubers are very apt to rot. In planting the anemone tubers, the eye or bud should always be kept uppermost. This is generally considered the season for manuring a flower-garden, and the best kind of manure for the purpose is the remains of an old hot-bed. Decayed leaves, which have become a kind of mould, and chopped turf taken from an old pasture, are also very useful for enriching the ground intended for flowers; but guano and the new kinds of mineral manures are very dangerous in inexperienced hands, and even first-rate gardeners frequently find them produce injurious effects.

Very few flowers are in blossom in February, though sometimes a few early crocuses and snowdrops make their appearance even in the beginning of the month; and cinerarias, kalmias, and a few other plants, forced into flower by fire heat, are seen in the greenhouses. In the shrubbery, almost the only ornamental tree in flower is the *Chimonanthus fragrans*, or winter flower, which produces its delightfully fragrant flowers from December to March, though they are in the greatest perfection about February. This very interesting plant was introduced so long ago as 1776; but, as it was at first supposed that it would not live without protection, and as it will not flower till it is of a considerable size, it was very little grown. At last it struck some cultivator, that, as it was a native of Japan, it might very possibly live in the open air, as many plants from that country are found to do in England; and it is now found to grow freely in the open gardens in the neighbourhood of London, and to produce abundance of flowers, particularly if trained against a wall. The flowers are yellowish, with a purple mark at the bottom of each petal, and they appear before the leaves, which are of a smooth shining light green. There are two varieties: the first, which is common, has the flowers much larger and handsomer than those of the species but not quite so fragrant; and the other, which is very rare, has the flowers much smaller, and entirely yellow. In China and Japan, it is said that at great banquets pieces of the *chimonanthus* are laid by every plate. Plants of this shrub may be procured in most of the nurseries at about three-and-sixpence each; observing that it is known best under its old name of *Calycanthus præcox*.



CHIMONANTHUS FRAGRANS GRANDIFLORUS.

In greenhouses ventilation ought to be carefully attended to. Whenever the air is mild, and the sun shines, the door should be opened, as well as the windows, for at least half an hour in the middle of every day, so that there may be a free current of air through the house. All the dead leaves should be removed as soon as they are sufficiently decayed to come off the plant without injuring it; and if any moss or green matter appears on the surface of the earth in the pots, it should be removed, and the earth loosened with a flat piece of stick about an inch broad. It must be observed, that what has been said of removing the dead leaves does not apply to bulbous plants, as their leaves should be left on as long as possible. Plants require very little water at this season; but fire heat is even more useful than in the middle of winter, as it serves to dry up the damp, which is now a most dangerous enemy to plants. Where cuttings of greenhouse plants which were struck in autumn have been kept several together in one pot during the winter, they should now be potted separately.

A hot-bed may be made in this month for raising the seeds of tender flowers and striking cuttings. The manure used need not be more than two feet deep, and it should extend three or four inches beyond the frame on every side. When the steam of the manure is sufficiently gone off, a layer of light soil, six inches thick, should be spread over the bed. In this bed may be plunged pots containing the seeds of petunias and verbenas of various kinds, *Phlox Drummondii*, several sorts of mimulus, the blue lobelias, &c., and also of the following kinds of climbing plants, which will be found very useful for training against verandas, or to cover iron railings during summer:—The canary-bird flower (*Tropæolum peregrinum*), *Lophospermum scandens*, *L. Hendersoni*, *Maurandia Barclayana*, *Ecemocarpus scaber*, *Rhodochiton volubile*, *Thunbergia alata*, *T. alata alba*, *T. aurantiaca*, *T. a. superba*, and *Ipomœa rubro-carulea*. The bulbs of various kinds of amaryllis, and those of *Agapanthus umbellatus*, may now be potted in a compost of two parts of loam and one of rotten manure from an old hot-bed, with a little rough sand, and the pots plunged in the hot-bed. They should be watered when potted; but they will not require any more water until they begin to grow. The tubers of *Fuchsia fulgens* and *Salvia patens*, and the bulbs of *Achimenes longiflora*, may be treated in the same manner.

MARCH.

In this month turf is generally laid down, the ground having been first dug over, levelled, and rolled with a heavy roller. It is then slightly watered, if the weather happens to be dry; and the turf, which is brought to the ground in long strips rolled up, is laid down, the edges being carefully joined, and the pieces made to fit exactly. The turf is then generally beaten with a heavy beater, and carefully rolled. Where a lawn has been laid down a long time, it should be frequently rolled in this month, as lawns are very apt to become uneven during winter. The grass should now begin to be mown once a fortnight, as it is impossible to have a fine closely covered surface of grass without regular mowing: the rule is, once a month in winter, that is, in December, January, and February; and once a fortnight for the rest of the year. In warm moist seasons, the grass sometimes grows so fast as to require mowing once a week in summer; but in dry seasons the roots are apt to be burnt, and the grass killed, if it is mown too often.

In the flower-garden most of the plants will now require to be taken up, divided, and re-planted; a little fresh earth being given to them, and all the decayed parts cut out before they are re-planted. The seeds of half-hardy annuals, such as the China asters, Chinese pinks, French and African marigolds, everlasting, and ten-week stock, may now be sown in a slight hot-bed; and a few of the more hardy annuals, such as the sunflower, larkspur, lupin, convolvulus, candytuft, and poppy, may be sown in the open border; also some of the Cali-

fornian annuals, such as *Nemophila insignis* and *N. maculata*, *Gilia bicolor* and *tricolor*, and all the kinds of *Leptosiphon*. Carnations and pinks which were raised from layers last year should now be planted out where they are to flower. Box edgings should also be now planted, and gravel walks made where necessary. Old gravel walks which are in a bad state may now be raked or forked over, and then rulled, though this should never be done when the walks are wet.

In the open ground, the crocuses, hepaticas, and other spring plants are now in full flower; and in the shrubberies, the ash



MAHONIA AQUIFOLIUM.

These plants, which have all been introduced within the last thirty years, are some of the most valuable additions that have been made for many years. One of the most splendid kinds is the holly-leaved ash-berberry (*Mahonia Aquifolium*). It is an evergreen, and its leaves, which are of a beautiful dark shining green in summer, assume a purplish tinge in autumn and winter, and are of a beautiful yellowish red when they are quite young. The flowers, which are of a brilliant golden yellow, are produced in large clusters in March and April, and they are succeeded by clusters of dark purple fruit, covered with

the most beautiful violet bloom. The plant is a native of California and Mexico, and, indeed, it is found on nearly all the north-west coast of North America, growing in rich vegetable soil in woods, where it forms a thick undergrowth. When it was first introduced into England, in 1823, the plants sold in nurseries at ten guineas each; and, as it could only be propagated very slowly by layers, the plants continued to be sold at a high price for several years. As, however, it is now found that it can be propagated by seeds, which ripen freely in this country, plants can be procured in most nurseries at sixpence each. There are several other kinds of Mahonia, the largest and most showy of which is called *M. fascicularis*. It has bluish-green leaves, which look as if covered with a fine bloom, and its flowers are produced in great abundance. It is much taller than the other species, but it is rather too tender to live in English gardens without the protection of a wall; and as it does not ripen its seeds freely, it is still rather dear. Hybrid plants, however, have been raised by crossing this with some of the other species. *M. repens* seldom rises above two feet high; and *M. glumacea* has the peculiarity of producing its flowers in October.

In greenhouses the plants should be carefully examined, and re-potted when necessary, taking care that the fresh pots are quite clean and dry. Cuttings of greenhouse plants are frequently made at this season. The shoot should be cut off as smooth as possible, and planted in sandy soil, the earth being pressed firmly round it. The length of the cutting is generally about five or six inches, and two of the lower leaves are cut off with a sharp knife close to the stem. Cuttings of camellias and other hard-wooded greenhouse plants are generally made at this season from the points of the shoots, after the spring growth has been completed, but before the young wood has thoroughly ripened. The cuttings are generally planted about an inch deep, and covered with a bell-glass. Those of the different kinds of heath, being very difficult to strike, are generally made not more than one or two inches long, and they are planted in pure white sand, being then covered with a bell-glass, and the pot plunged in a hot-bed. Cuttings of cactus, mesembryanthemum, and other fleshy-leaved plants, should be dried for two or three days before they are planted, as if they are put in the ground when the wound is fresh they will rot.

APRIL.

In the pleasure-ground and shrubbery, half-hardy shrubs are generally



DIELYTRA SPECTABILIS.

planted at this season. If they have been kept in pots, the ball of earth about the roots should be broken, and the roots carefully spread out before they are covered with earth, which should be to the depth of only from two to four inches, according to the soil; the greatest depth being necessary in the lightest soil. The Provence, white, and moss roses should now have their young shoots shortened to three or four buds; but the hybrid Provence roses should have five or six buds left; and the hybrid China, the Bourbon, and the Scotch roses, if intended for planting against a post, or a wooden frame, should have only the tips of their shoots taken off. The evergreen roses should be left at their full length; for if they are cut in they will produce long vigorous shoots, covered with an abundance of leaves, but having no flowers.

In the flower-garden, the early-flowering dwarf kinds of dahlia may be planted; and as the auriculas will now begin to flower, they should be shielded, if possible, from the effects of the weather. The hardy annuals that were sown in March in the open border should now be thinned, and the seeds of the remainder of the hardy annual plants should be sown. In thinning the annuals

that have come up, care should be taken not to pull up or loosen those which are intended to remain. Annuals should always be thinned according to their height, three or four of the larger kinds being left in each patch; while of the dwarf kinds it may be safe to leave as many as seven or eight. Some few annuals are worth the trouble of transplanting; but when this is the case, the hole in which they are to be put should be made with the point of the trowel, instead of using the dibber, as the latter instrument renders the earth on the sides of the hole so compact that it is impossible for the roots of a young and feeble plant to penetrate into it. Among the flowers which are most beautiful in this month may be mentioned *Dielytra spectabilis*, introduced by Mr. Fortune, from China, in 1846. It is quite hardy in ordinary flower-gardens; the stems dying down to the ground in autumn, and the roots remaining dormant until the following spring, when the plant again appears, and flowers in April, May, and June. It is readily increased by dividing the roots in spring when the young shoots begin to appear, or by cuttings taken off in summer. It will grow in any common garden soil; but the situation in which it is placed should be sheltered from high winds, but its leaves resemble those of the tree fern.

The greenhouse will require very little attention in this month, except as relates to watering the plants regularly, and giving them air. The plants that are coming into flower should be syringed over their leaves every other day till the flowers expand, when the syringing should be discontinued. In small greenhouses where there are vines, they begin to show flower-buds in this month.

In the conservatory, climbing plants are generally pruned and thinned at this season. The passion-flower should have its side shoots cut to within half an inch of the main stem; and this will occasion strong blossoming shoots to spring from the part left. *Maurandias* may be treated in a similar manner; but most of the other greenhouse climbers will only require thinning. When camellias are required to blossom early, they should be placed, during this month, in a hot-house, or some other situation where they can be kept at a heat of from 50° to 60°; taking care that, while they are kept in this heat, they are regularly watered every day and their leaves syringed every other day.

MAY

In the lawn worms are often very troublesome during this month; and, to kill them, the grass should be watered with lime-water, made by mixing forty gallons of water with one peck of freshly-slacked lime. The mixture should be well stirred, and then suffered to stand till the sediment is deposited.

The trees and shrubs which were planted in April should be frequently watered; the grass should be mown once a fortnight, and raked up, so as to cover the ground about the roots of the newly-planted trees, in order to keep them moist. The buds of the roses should be examined in this month, as they are very apt to have a small caterpillar in them, which, if not removed, will either destroy the bud, or, at least, prevent it from expanding.

In the flower-garden, some of the hyacinths and tulips will probably have their leaves sufficiently decayed to come off when slightly pulled with the hand; and, when this is the case, the bulbs should be taken up and spread out on a mat in some dry airy place. The crocuses, snowdrops, and corniflages should, however, be left in the ground. The tubers of the tall-growing dahlias may be planted in this month; and when they are put into the ground care should be taken to place the eyes or buds uppermost, covering the crown with about three inches of soil.

*Weigelia rosea* is a new plant which flowers in this month, introduced from China, by Mr. Fortune, in 1846. It forms a handsome middle-sized bush, resembling the *Philadelphus*, or, as it is generally called, the *Syringa*, or mock orange, and it is quite as hardy as that well-known plant. The flowers of the *Weigelia* are of a beautiful bright rose-colour; and they are produced in great numbers, hanging down in graceful natural festoons. The plant will grow well in any common garden soil; and it is propagated by cuttings, made at any time in the spring or summer. Though so recently introduced, it is so easily propagated that it is already advertised in some nurseries at eighteen-pence a plant. This plant is nearly allied to the fly honeysuckle. The half-hardy annuals and climbing plants, which were raised in hot-beds, may now be planted out in beds, previously prepared by digging in a coating of the remains of an old hot-bed, or of rotten leaves. If the plants, however, have been kept in the hot-bed where they were raised, they should be hardened, by placing the pots first in a greenhouse or cold frame, and then in the open air, first only in the middle of the day, and afterwards all day long, before the plants are taken out of their pots and finally placed in the open ground. In putting the plants into the ground, care should be taken to keep them at least a foot apart; and those that have long trailing branches should be planted with their branches to the north, the branches being pegged down immediately. As the art of pegging down judiciously is of the greatest possible importance to the beauty of a flower-garden, it is natural that amateurs should be anxious to know what to us for the purpose. Most gardening books say short hooked sticks; but these are not always to be obtained, particularly in suburban gardens. A correspondent of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* has lately recommended hair-pins, which answer the purpose very well, and which, though they may be despised by regular gardeners, are certainly very convenient for a lady, as they are very easily procured and easily managed. Another correspondent of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, who espouses the hair-pins, recommends taking pieces of bast mat, and twisting them so hard as to be able to force them into the ground; but this appears to me rather a difficult operation, and, as I have not been able to accomplish it myself, I think few ladies will be able to manage it, and that, therefore, it will be best for them to try the hair-pins, or to use small bent pieces of wire, prepared for the purpose, which are sold at some of the ironmongers. When plants are pegged down, the branches should be spread carefully over the beds, and the pegs placed at the joints.

Most of the greenhouse plants may be removed into the open air in this month; and, if they are to remain in pots, they are generally shifted about this time. When plants are re-potted, the earth should be shaken in, and gently pressed



WEIGELIA ROSEA.

down, but not too firmly: as, in one case, if hollow places are left between the roots and the pot, the roots will wither; while, in the other, if the earth is too compact, the roots will not be able to penetrate through it, and it will become impervious alike to air and water. Where vines are grown in a greenhouse, the berries will now be generally set, and experienced gardeners always thin them, as more grapes are produced on each bunch than can be ripened. It is, however, rather a difficult operation for an inexperienced person, as the bunches must not be touched by the hand, and, consequently, it is generally safer for amateurs to leave the bunches without thinning the grapes. It will be, however, necessary to prune the vines, as the shoots generally push out vigorously at this season, and consequently gardeners generally cut off the ends of the shoots, leaving not above two joints on each. The greenhouse should be kept warm and as moist as possible while the grapes are swelling; but the vines should not be syringed, the moisture being produced by pouring water on the floor.

A great many caterpillars are found at this season; and they should be sought for, and destroyed early in the month, while they are small, as they have done their principal mischief when they have attained their full size.

JUNE.

In the month of June there is very little to be done in the flower-garden. The work of preparation is over, and that of enjoyment has begun. In the pleasure-ground, however, the lawn should be mown every fortnight, and rolled every week; and in the flower-garden the annual flowers should be tied up and cut in where it is necessary to make them appear neat. Carnations are now going into flower, and as the buds are very apt to burst on one side before they open, some gardeners separate the sepals regularly all round with a penknife; others, to prevent the calyx opening too far, tie a piece of waxed thread round the middle; and others cut a piece of cardboard so as just to encircle the calyx, so that when the flowers expand the petals appear to rest upon the card, and, of course, form a regular flower. Box edgings should be cut about the middle of this month, if the weather be moist; but, if the weather be dry, it is generally considered advisable to wait for rain, as box edgings which are cut when the weather is dry are very apt to look brown, and to die half-way down the shoots. Amongst the multitude of plants which are in flower at this season, the most ornamental shrub is decidedly *Ceanothus azureus*, which is now covered with panicles of flowers, of a brilliant celestial blue. It is a native of Mexico, whence it was introduced in 1818, and it flowers best when growing against a wall. In its native country its bark is considered useful in cases of fever. There are several other species of *Ceanothus*, and amongst them the common red root, or New Jersey tea (*C. americanus*). *C. azureus* is, however, by far the most ornamental species of the genus, and it may be procured in any nursery for about eighteen-pence a plant. *Ceanothus* is nearly allied to the genus *Rhamnus*.



As the greenhouse plants are now generally set out in the open air, the principal care that they require is to remove the dead leaves, and to prevent the roots from striking through the hole in the bottom of the pots. If any of the plants appear to droop when they evidently do not want water, they should be turned out of the pot on the hand, and their roots examined, as there is most probably a worm in the pot, which should be instantly removed, as worms in pots are very destructive by cutting through the roots. If any plants are kept in the greenhouse at this season, they should be frequently and carefully examined, as they are very apt to become infested with some kind of *Aphis*. They should also be watered and syringed every day, unless any chance to be in flower, when the syringing may be dispensed with.

In the vinery a moist atmosphere will be no longer requisite.

JULY.

VERY little requires to be done in the shrubbery at this season; but evergreen plants may now be removed if they are watered immediately after transplanting. The rhododendrons and other plants which have done flowering should have their seed pods removed as soon as they are formed, as if they are allowed to ripen their seeds every season, they will become weak and die in a few years of premature old age. In hot dry weather, choice plants in the shrubbery should be watered; but it is of no use doing so unless the surface of the ground is first loosened. Plants should never be watered with cold spring-water, as it is always injurious, and in very hot weather positively dangerous. Where there is no other water, it should be exposed to the atmosphere for several days before it is used.

In the flower-garden, this is the season for making layers. A layer is the branch of a plant, which is twisted or wounded so as to prevent the free circulation of the sap, and to occasion an accumulation of it to be deposited in the part just above the obstruction, which is buried in the ground in the hope that the warmth and moisture by which it is surrounded may induce it to send out roots. In general the layer is cut half through at the bend, and sometimes it is partially slit up. Sometimes layers are made all round a plant, the branches being pegged down so as to form a circle round the main stem. Many plants are propagated in this manner, and, among others, verbenas and carnations. Cuttings are also made at this season; and what are called plippings, which are, in fact, cuttings of pinks and carnations. This is also the season for budding roses. When this last operation is to be performed, the bud is taken from a shoot of the current year; but the stock may be of several years' growth. The bud is cut out by making a transverse incision in the wood, a little below an eye, which is met by two longitudinal cuts, meeting a short distance above the eye, so that when the bud is taken from the scion, it is with a triangular piece of bark, attached to which should always be a small portion of the wood, which, however, must be removed before the bud is inserted in the stock. When



LEYCESTERIA FORMOSA.

which, however, must be removed before the bud is inserted in the stock. When

the bud is prepared, two slits in the shape of an inverted T are made in the stock, and the bark on each side of the long cut being raised with a knife, the bark to which the bud is attached is slipped in, and tied in its place with bast mat; the principal care required in the operation being to make the horizontal edge of the cut in the stock fit exactly to the horizontal edge of the bud. One of the most beautiful shrubs now in flower is the *Leycesteria formosa*; as the deep green of its stem and leaves contrasts strongly with the reddish purple hue of the large bracteae which shade its white flowers. It is generally considered to be allied to the honeysuckles. The plant was originally introduced in 1824; but being little known, it was neglected and forgotten till it was re-introduced from Nepal, in 1836. It is quite hardy, and has the advantage of growing and flowering freely close to the sea. The tamarisk is another plant which will also grow close to the sea; but most other flowering shrubs are seriously injured by the spray.

In the greenhouse there is nothing to be done this month, except in the way of cleaning it, by whitewashing, painting, &c. if the plants have been all removed to the open air. Many of the greenhouse plants may, however, be propagated by layers or cuttings, and, in particular, cuttings may be made of hydrangeas, camellias, shrubby cinerarias and calceolarias, and pelargoniums (geraniums); and the cuttings that were made in March should be potted off. Camellias may be also budded or inarched in this month. It may here be observed, that whenever cuttings of woody plants are made at this season, they should be taken off at the junction between the old wood and the new; and they generally grow so readily, that if pots be scarce, they may be planted in rich earth in a warm border, provided they are closely covered with a hand-glass. In making cuttings of camellias, orange and lemon trees, the sweet-scented daphne, and other woody greenhouse plants, however, pots should be preferred; and they are found to strike soonest if the even base of the cutting is made to rest against the earthenware bottom of the pot; and in this way much larger cuttings can be struck than could be done by any other mode.

In the vinery, the principal duty of the gardener is to keep a dry atmosphere while the grapes are ripening, and to guard against wasps and other insects. At this season, some gardeners cut off the side shoots of their vines.

AUGUST.

In the pleasure-ground and shrubbery the strong shoots of the coarser-growing shrubs should be shortened, or they will overpower the weaker ones. It is a very common fault, in planting shrubberies, to place choice and delicate shrubs near common coarse-growing ones, and then, in a few years, surprise is expressed that the valuable shrubs have vanished, and only the common kinds remain. The seed-vessels of the roses, rhododendrons, and other flowering shrubs, should be taken off as soon as the flowers have fallen, in order to prevent the ripening of the seeds, which would weaken the plants. If the flowers of all shrubs were removed as soon as the petals have fallen, the plants would not only be strengthened, but in many cases a second crop would be produced. Towards the end of the month, evergreen shrubs may be transplanted if they have completed their spring growth. Holes should be dug for re-planting before the plants are taken up, as evergreens should not be kept out of the ground a moment longer than can be avoided; the drying of their roots being very injurious to them. As large a ball of earth should be taken up with the plants as possible; and as soon as the plants are put into their places and a little earth thrown upon their roots, a quantity of water should be poured in through an old birch broom, a colander, or anything that will break the force of the water and prevent it from washing the earth away from the roots, and yet permit a sufficient quantity to be given to make the ground around the roots a kind of puddle. As soon as the watering has dried up a little, the earth should be filled in to the level of the ground, though it should not then be trodden; but after remaining four-and-twenty hours, it may be trodden down quite firm, and afterwards the surface dressed with a rake. In about a fortnight, if the weather should be dry, a good soaking of water should be given to the plants; and if the ground sinks at all, it should be filled up again level to the surface. If the weather should continue hot and dry, another thorough watering should be given at the end of another fortnight; and these waterings may be repeated occasionally, if they should be rendered necessary by the season, observing, however, that it is better to water the plants very seldom, and to give them a large quantity of water at a time, than to water them often, and to give them but a little each time.

In the flower-garden there is very little to be done. The flowering plants should be watered if they appear to droop; and the layers that were made from the carnations and pinks should be potted.

The greenhouse plants in the open air should be regularly watered every evening; and the auriculas may be re-potted. Among the new plants that flower at this season may be mentioned the New Zealand speedwell (*Veronica speciosa*), which was introduced in 1843. It is a very showy plant, growing from three to six feet high, and producing large spikes of dark purple flowers. Though so lately introduced, it is already marked in some of the nurserymen's catalogues at eighteen-pence a plant. It is very nearly hardy, but it succeeds better when planted in a conservatory than in the open air, unless it is in a warm sheltered situation.



VERONICA SPECIOSA.

In the vinery, the grapes will now be ripe, and moisture and dust should both be guarded against till they are cut. As soon as the grapes are all removed, the leaves of the vines should be well syringed, and the plants watered at the roots.

SEPTEMBER.

In this month the principal thing to be attended to in the shrubbery is to endeavour as much as possible to harden the tender trees and shrubs; and the only way to do this is to keep the roots as dry as possible, and to expose the branches to the full influence of the sun and air. Where half-hardy trees are grown against a flued wall, the fire should be continued at this season, though the

flowers are all over and even the leaves are beginning to fall, in order to ripen the young wood, that it may produce flower-buds for the ensuing year. Tender plants that have been grown in a dry soil, and have had their wood well ripened, will bear a much greater degree of cold than half-hardy plants which have been grown in a damp close situation, with stagnant water about the roots.

In the flower-garden, the annual plants which have done flowering should be pulled up and thrown away, as nothing can have a more wretched appearance than long, dry, leafless stems; and the bed from which they have been removed should be raked smooth. Beds for hyacinths and tulips should be prepared by



ANEMONE JAPONICA.

trenching them two feet or three feet deep, if the soil will admit of that being done without breaking into the sub-soil; and at about eight inches from the surface should be laid a thick stratum of strong loam and rotten manure well mixed. The beds should then be filled up with lighter loam, and left to settle for four or five weeks. Beds for ranunculuses and anemones are also sometimes prepared at this season, though it is better in most soils to postpone making them till February. There are, perhaps, few genera that have so great a variety in their flowers as the *Anemone*. The common garden anemones, as is well known, are of different shades of pink and purple; the wood anemone is white; the *Anemone palmata* of a brilliant yellow; and *A. apennina* of a celestial blue. But none of these flowers, though they are all beautiful, can be compared in splendour with the *Anemone japonica*, the flowers of which are of a bright

rose colour, and as large as a rose of the kind called *Rosa gallica*. This splendid plant, which is quite hardy, and which grows in favourable situations to the height of three or four feet, was introduced from China, by Mr. Fortune, in the year 1844; and though it was at first kept in the greenhouse, it is now found to produce larger and finer flowers in the open air in this month. In Japan, it is said to be found in damp woods, on the edges of rivulets; but it appears also to grow in mountainous places, both in Japan and China. Though so recently introduced, it may be procured in most of the nurseries at nine-pence a plant.

In the greenhouse, some of the more tender kinds of plants should now be housed, particularly the pelargoniums, the succulent plants, and the oranges and lemons. When the plants are first taken into the house the glasses may be left open night and day, but towards the end of the month they should be closed about five o'clock in the afternoon, and not opened again till about eight the following morning. If vines are grown in the greenhouse, the plants should not be taken into the house till the grapes are all gathered. Greenhouse plants should be pruned and cleaned before they are taken into the house, and well syringed, to clear them from insects. In this month the Cape bulbs should be potted, and put into a cold pit. If any cuttings of hydrangea, or other plants, were made and put into the open border in July, they should now be potted and placed in a cold pit.

Some gardeners prune their vines at this season; as they say the buds are strengthened by their doing so, and a better crop is produced the following year.

OCTOBER.

OCTOBER is rather a busy month for the gardener, as it is the season for laying out grounds, planting shrubberies, &c. Directions have already been given for planting evergreens, and the same plan may be pursued with deciduous shrubs. It is a great but very common fault in planting shrubberies, to place the plants too near each other. The choice plants, that are intended to remain, should be at such a distance as to allow for ten years' growth before they touch, and the intermediate spaces should be filled up with common plants, a few of which should be cut down every year as the other plants grow. By this treatment the shrubbery will never have a bare and desolate appearance, and the fine plants will be allowed to assume their proper forms and habit of growth. Care should also be taken not to plant the shrubs which are to remain too near the walks, as if they are badly placed in this respect, they will, in a few years, either require to be cut in so as to spoil their shapes, or they will overhang the walks so as to destroy half the enjoyment of the garden. When roses are planted, a pit should be dug for each, about two feet deep every way, and very rotten manure or thoroughly decayed leaves should be mixed up with the soil when the roses are planted. Roses that are already in the ground should have very rotten manure or thoroughly decayed leaves laid over their roots, on the surface of the ground. Every fifth or sixth year roses



CESTRUM AURANTIACUM.

should be taken up and their roots shortened, after which they should be replanted in fresh and very rich soil.

Hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, and several other bulbous and tuberous-rooted plants grown in the open ground, should be planted at this season, the hyacinths and tulips being planted in the beds prepared for them in September.

All the greenhouse plants should now be taken into the houses, and those plants which have done flowering should have as little water as possible, so as to prevent them from drooping; while, on the other hand, the chrysanthemums, and other plants which have not yet flowered, should have a great deal of water at this season, to assist them in perfecting their buds. The cuttings which were made of greenhouse plants intended for the open border the following summer, should now be put into cold pits to preserve them during the winter. The Cape bulbs, and the bulbs of *Agapanthus*, *Crinum*, and the beautiful Japan lilies, may now be potted and placed in a cold pit, where they will flower about the same time as those will do which are planted the following spring in a hot-bed. *Cestrum aurantiacum*, or the orange-coloured cestrum, is an exceedingly beautiful greenhouse plant, which was introduced by Mr. Skinner, from Giate-nala, in 1843. Its flowers, though they are called orange-coloured, are, in fact, of the colour of a ripe apricot, a very unusual tint among flowers, and they have a strong perfume of orange-peel. They remain a long time on the tree without fading, and when they drop they are succeeded by snow-white pear-shaped berries, which are almost as ornamental as the flowers. The leaves are also very handsome, and of a dark shining green. The genus *Cestrum* was comparatively little known before the introduction of this beautiful plant; it belongs to the nightshade family.

NOVEMBER.

In the pleasure-ground and shrubbery the dead leaves should be swept up as they fall and carried to some place where they can lie to rot, being turned over occasionally while they are in a state of decay. If there is no snow on the ground the gravel walks may be raked over to destroy the moss, and then rolled; and the lawn may be rolled.

Roses should be pruned at this season when they are intended to flower early, and each kind requires a different mode of pruning, as mentioned in April. It must be observed, however, that only the hardy roses will bear pruning at this season. The Scotch roses, the sweet briars, and the various kinds of climbing roses, should have only the tips of their shoots shortened; and the Bourbon and China roses, &c., should not be pruned till spring. Even at this season some shrubs are in flower in the open air; and amongst them may be mentioned *Garrya elliptica*, a handsome evergreen shrub, a native of the western coast of North America. The plant was introduced by Douglas in 1828, and it was long supposed to be the only species in the genus, the genus itself being so distinct that it cannot be placed in any known order. Lately, however, two or three other species have been introduced. For some years this plant continued scarce and dear, so that in 1834 plants were a guinea each; but they have now been so much increased by the quantities of seed imported, that they may be obtained at eighteen-pence each.



GARRYA ELLIPTICA.

There is scarcely anything to do in the flower-garden, except that tulips, hyacinths, crocuses, and some other similar bulbs, may still be planted if they were neglected in October.

DECEMBER.

VERY little can be done in the garden at this season, as the ground is generally covered with snow. As long as the frost continues the snow is not injurious to plants, but rather beneficial to them, as it serves as a covering to keep them warm; but as soon as it begins to melt, it should be thrown off the flower-beds and lawn, as snow water is so particularly cold and chilling that it will kill not only delicate flowering plants but the finer kinds of grasses.

In the flower-garden the half-hardy plants will only require to be protected; and in the greenhouse and cold pit the same rules must be attended to as in November. *Daphne Fortuni* is a beautiful greenhouse plant, very nearly allied to the common Mezereon, which flowers in England in December and January, though in China it is in full flower in March and April. It is at present extremely rare, but as it appears to strike freely from cuttings, it will probably soon become sufficiently abundant to try if it will stand the English winters in the open air, in which case it will probably blossom at the same time as in China. It was introduced in 1844 by Mr. Fortune.



DAPHNE FORTUNI.