



Pteris argentea.
Adiantum formosum.

Sarracenia Drummondii.—*Adiantum cultratum.* *Pteris macrophyllus.* *Daria diversifolia.*

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

Here spreads a range of level plots,
Of box-fringed beds, where lurking knots
Of buried flowers repose, to bring
Kind greeting to the early spring:

THE brightest flower of the winter garden—the very gem of January, until the crocus comes to rival it—is the winter aconite. The old writers called it yellow or winter wolf's-bane. Clare well describes this flower—

The winter aconite,
With buttercup-like flowers, that shut at night;
Its green leaf furling round its cup of gold,
Like tender maiden muffled from the cold.

IN our last year's number we gave a series of illustrated notes on the wild flowers of our native land, and we now occupy our space with a companion series relating to exotic plants in cultivation; selecting in each month a few of those most worthy of interest, either from their beauty or singularity.

The fern tribe may certainly claim our attention as possessing the former of these qualities in an eminent degree; and, many of the species being evergreens, they give a fresh, verdant appearance to the conservatory when it is forsaken by the gay flowers of summer: or, if grown under a glass shade, or "temple," they form a delightful ornament to the dwelling-house at all seasons.

In the above group a variety of these graceful forms are given, and, as their attraction lies principally in their form and transparent texture, our descriptions of each individual will be very brief.

The large-leaved brake (*Pteris macrophyllus*) is a very fine species. The leaves are almost entirely surrounded by a thickened margin containing the organs of fructification.

Adiantum formosum and *A. cultratum*, two species of maiden-hair, have the glossy black stems and delicate leaves so well known in the British maiden-hair fern.

Pteris argentea (the silver brake), and *Daria diversifolia*, are the other two species represented.

The large centre object is a most remarkable species of side-saddle flower (*Sarracenia Drummondii*). In the summer it bears curious purple flowers, but its chief interest lies in its wonderfully-formed tubular leaves: they have somewhat the shape of a postman's horn, are about two feet in height, and of a vivid green colour, except at the upper expanded, end where they are most beautifully marbled with red, green, and white. This plant requires a very high temperature for its cultivation, as much as from 80 to 100 degrees.

We will here mention that the plants figured in this series of groups were drawn, almost without exception, from the rich collection of Messrs. Veitch, of the Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, whose name is so frequently and honourably mentioned in botanical works as cultivators and introducers of the most recherché novelties, principally acquired through the medium of their indefatigable collectors, Messrs. Wm. and Thos. Lobb, who have been long engaged in ransacking the most distant regions of the earth of their choicest floral treasures; and we have much pleasure in acknowledging the kind assistance of Messrs. Veitch in affording us all the required information and every other facility for the production of these sketches.



Oxalis Deppel.
Tulipa suaveolens, var.

Narcissus tereticaulis.
Tulipa suaveolens, var.

Echeveria Notusa.
Crocus pusillus.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

A tale of spring around the distant haze
Seems muttering pleasures with the lengthened days;
Morn wakens, mottled off with May-day stains,
And shower-drops hang the grassy-sprouting plains;
Or on the naked thorn of brassy hue,
Drip glistening, like a summer stream of dew.
The woodman in his pathway, down the wood,
Crushes with hasty step full many a bud
Of early primrose; yet, if timely spied,
Shattered some old half-rotten stump beside,
The sight will cheer his solitary hour,
And urge his feet to strive and save the flower.

MANY of the early-flowering bulbous plants now begin to rouse from their winter torpor and give us an earnest of the flush of life that is so soon to fill the conservatory, and, a little later, the garden also, with gaiety. Pre-eminent among these glad heralds of spring is the early dwarf or Van Thol tulip, (*Tulipa suaveolens*), a distinct species from the tall, May-flowering tulip; and the merry-blossomed and fragrant jonquil. We figure a beautiful Spanish species of the latter—the round-stalked jonquil (*Narcissus tereticaulis*), in which the stary part is white, and the cup citron yellow.

The blunt-leaved echeveria (*Echeveria retusa*) is a valuable acquisition to the greenhouse, as it continues in flower during the whole of the winter months from November to April—a period during which the presence of so ornamental an inmate cannot but be most acceptable. In form and colour this is a very

picturesque plant; the thick fleshy stem springs from the centre of a rose-shaped tuft of leaves, lying on the ground much like those of the common houseleek, to which the plant is allied. The stalk is terminated by a drooping panicle of crimson and yellow flowers of an elegant bell shape, and which contrast finely with the general hoary sea-green colour of the plant. Mexico is the native country.

The Neapolitan crocus (*Crocus pusillus*) belongs to a family remarkable for its kindly peculiarity of choosing seasons deserted by almost every other blossom to illuminate our gardens with a glow of purple and gold. About twenty species of this genus are known, and an infinity of varieties the result of cultivation. This is an elegant little white crocus, with brown stripes.

Deppes' wood-sorrel (*Oxalis Deppel*) is a highly-ornamental species from Mexico, having the curiously-folded heart-shaped leaves of our native wood-sorrel; but the whole plant is on a much larger scale. The tall stem bears at the top an umbel of flowers, which are of a rich coppery-red colour. This very pretty plant continues to flower from this period until November, and is tolerably hardy.

By judicious management a considerable number of later flowering greenhouse plants may be brought into bloom now; and in like manner the autumnal flowers may be retarded for a few months, so as to lead to the same result.

We subjoin a short list of winter or early spring-flowering plants:—

Several species of winter orchids and heaths:—*Epacris nivalis*, *Epacris miniata*, *Acacia grandis*, *Acacia pulchella*, *Crowea saligna*, *Euphorbia splendens*, *Gesneria zebrina*.

MARCH.



Epacris delicata E. *purpurescens*.
Cyclamen persicum.
Scilla praecox.

Burchellia Capensis.
Camellia—"Countess of Orkney." *C. imbricata*.
Cineraria.

Azalea Amona.
Cytisus racemosus.
Primula sinensis.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

How many a thing that pretty is, delays
The wanderer's steps beneath the sun's soft rays.
Gay daffodils bend o'er the watery gleam,
Doubling their flickering image in the stream;
The woody nook, where bells of brightest blue
Have clothed the ground with heaven's ethereal hue;
The lane's high-sloping bank, where pale primrose,
With hundreds of its gentle kindred blows;
And speckled daisies, that on upland bare,
Their round eyes opening, scatter gladness there:
Man looks on nature with a grateful smile,
And thinks of nature's bounteous Lord the while."

TOWARDS the latter end of this month we shall find the greenhouse arrayed in an almost summerlike luxuriance of bloom, with all that freshness and delicacy peculiar to the *Flora* of spring. Our group contains a fair selection from the contents of the conservatory at this period.

The camellias cannot be said to belong naturally to the early spring, but by cultivation they may be induced to flower at almost any period of the year. The white variety figured is that called "the Countess of Orkney"—a lovely white camellia with a blush centre, and one of the most *recherché* of new varieties. The other is a deep red one of fine form, called *imbricata*.

The Chinese primrose (*Primula sinensis*) and the various cinerarias are such general and well-known favourites, that description would be superfluous, and

their beauty rather than their novelty have tempted us in this as in other instances to add them to our bouquet, and the same may be said of the *Persian cyclamen* (*Cyclamen Persicum*). The golden branches of the *cytistus* (*Cytisus racemosus*) have a very cheerful effect; and the shrub is such a free flowerer as to be an extremely valuable object in the greenhouse.

The delicate azalea (*Azalea amona*) is a very small and neat-growing species, brought from China by Mr. Fortune. The flowers are purplish crimson. Nothing can exceed the brilliant effect of a fine plant of this or one of the kindred varieties, of which there are several, very similar in appearance—the sparkling waxen flowers, growing in tall dense spikes, a foot or more in length.

We are indebted to Australia for the beautiful heath-like genus—*epacris*—of which we figure two kinds—one, the purplish *epacris* (*Epacris purpurescens*), has pale purple starlike flowers; and the other (*Epacris delicata*), a far more striking sort, has tubular flowers, bright crimson, with white at the end, and grow in clusters round the slender stem. From the small delicate aspect of the plant one would hardly suppose it to belong to the same genus as the magnificent azaleas which, with their towering blaze of bloom, form the pride of our conservatories and flower-shows.

The Cape *burchellia* (*Burchellia Capensis*) is an extremely ornamental shrubby plant, bearing at the top a cluster of tubular flowers, of bright orange colour, a hue not very common in flowers at this season.

The early-flowering squill (*Scilla praecox*) is a highly-attractive and lively little bulbous plant, with numerous bright blue flowers. It belongs to the same genus as our native "blue-bells."

APRIL.



Vanda tricolor.
Ansellia Africana.

Cypripedium barbatum.
Phalaenopsis Grandiflora.
Dendrobium Cambridgeanum.

Dendrobium nobile.
Calanthe vestita.
Oncidium sarcoides.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

Come, gentle Spring! ethereal Mildness, come,
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around, veil'd in a show'r
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.

THE profuse flowering of the almond-tree, which is seen at this or a somewhat earlier period of the spring, was formerly considered as indicative of an abundant harvest. This is alluded to by Virgil:—

Mark well the flowering almond in the wood;
If odorous blooms the bearing branches load,
The glebe will answer to the sylvan reign,
Great heats will follow, and large crops of grain.
But if a wood of leaves o'ershadow the tree,
Such, and so barren, will the harvest be;
In vain the hind shall vex the threshing-floor,
For empty straw and chaff shall be thy store.

The tribe of orchidaceous plants, of which our present group is composed, may fairly rank among the most interesting, or we would say marvellous, of vegetable productions, whether in respect of their vivacious colouring and grotesque aspect, the singular structure or the exquisite perfume of their flowers.

Their mode of growth also is not less extraordinary. A great number of the most splendid being parasitical, attaching themselves by their snake-like roots to the trunks of living or decayed and fallen trees, investing the former with a wealth of colours and fragrance not theirs by nature, and rendering

the latter more beautiful in death than when in the full vigour of life. It is the presence of these plants which often constitutes the chief beauty of the tropical forest.

The large-flowered phalaenopsis (*Phalaenopsis grandiflora*) has beautiful moth-like white flowers; and, though our limited space only enables us to give a solitary blossom, they actually grow in long pendent wreaths of twelve or fifteen, producing a most brilliant effect.

The three-coloured vanda (*Vanda tricolor*) is a noble plant with luxuriant plaited foliage, and fine showy flowers, of very agreeable odour.

The bearded cypripedium (*Cypripedium barbatum*) is a striking plant, from Java, belonging to the same genus as the common lady's slipper, our finest native orchid. This species has very curious flowers, finely striped and spotted with brownish purple, and the leaves are beautifully chequered with black.

The clothed calanthe (*Calanthe vestita*) is an exceedingly elegant species; the flowers, which are very abundant, being of most beautiful form, and in colour white with rose-coloured eye.

Less gay and attractive than these, but equally singular, is the African ansellia (*Ansellia Africana*)—greenish yellow spotted with purple. The noble dendrobium (*Dendrobium nobile*), and Duke of Cambridge's dendrobium (*Dendrobium Cambridgeanum*), are two splendid species. The former is pale purple, the centre ornamented with a purple spot of intense richness. The tint of the latter is fulvous orange, with centre of rich velvety brown.

The whole of these are from the choice collection of Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea, well known as most extensive and successful cultivators of this fascinating tribe of plants.

MAY.



Delytra spectabilis.
Acacia undulata-folia.
Rosa Devonensis.

Pelargonium—"Gaiety."

Chorozema varium.
Rhododendron ciliatum.
Tulipa suaveolens.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

All the flowers that gild the spring,
Hither their still music bring;
If Heaven bless them, thankful, they
Smell more sweet, and look more gay.
Though their voices gentle be,
Streams have too their melody;
Night and day they warbling run,
Never pause, but still sing on.
Wako, for shame, my sluggish heart,
Wake and gladly sing thy part;
Learn of birds, and streams, and flowers,
How to use thy nobler powers.

RETURNING to the greenhouse, we find that the multitude of flowers that now tenant it is so great, and has such varied claims on our admiration, as to render it a matter of some perplexity to make a fair selection, especially one so limited as ours must necessarily be; so we must be content with noticing the few that enter into the above group.

Among the most valuable late additions to our stock of hardy ornamental plants is the beautiful *delytra* (*Delytra spectabilis*) sent over to the Horticultural Society by Mr. Fortune, from the north of China, and reckoned the most estimable of all his numerous acquisitions in that country. From its great beauty, and the perfect ease attending its cultivation, it is becoming a very general favourite from the Court to the cottage. The foliage of this plant is extremely graceful and luxuriant; and the flowers, which are

of a bright clear pink, are quite unique for the quaint elegance of their form.

The fringed rhododendron (*Rhododendron ciliatum*) is a good specimen of that beautiful section of the genus known as the Sikkim Himalaya rhododendrons; it is of a rosy white colour, and delicate form and texture.

There is an interesting little legend attached to the generic name of the small papilionaceous flower above, *Chorozema varium*. M. Labillardiere, a French botanist, discovered it on the coast of New Holland, near a spot where, after having been tantalized by finding many salt springs, his party came upon an abundant supply of fresh water, to their great joy and relief; and in allusion to this circumstance, of which he speaks with much feeling in his book, he named the plant *Chorozema*, from *choros*, a joyful assembly, and *zema*, drink. The flowers are orange red with purple centre.

The Devonshire rose (*Rosa Devonensis*) is a fine variety of the tea-rose: cream coloured, with yellow centre; and possessing the delicious tea-like fragrance peculiar to this highly-prized class of roses, of which this is considered one of the choicest kinds.

It is astonishing to witness the number of new pelargoniums—or, as they are popularly called, geraniums, which are every year produced by the efforts of the florist; not that we can always sympathise with the triumphs of his art, preferring the picturesqueness of the older and more unsophisticated varieties to the trim formality of many of the modern "perfections."

Most of the species of acacia, with their globular-tufted flowers, are very lively ornaments to the greenhouse.

JUNE.

*Arides quinquevulnera.**Cattleya mossiae.**Calogyne Wallichiana.*

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

The shining pansy, trimmed with golden lace;
 The tall-topped lark-heels, feathered thick with flowers;
 The woodbine, climbing o'er the door in bowers;
 The London tufts of many a mottled hue;
 The pale pink pea, and monkshood darkly blue;
 The white and purple gillyflowers, that stay
 Lingering in blossom summer half away;
 The single blood-walls, of a luscious smell,
 Old-fashioned flowers which housewives love so well;
 The columbines, stone-blue, or deep night-brown,
 Their honeycomb-like blossoms hanging down;
 Each cottage garden's fond adopted child,
 Though heaths still claim them, where they yet go wild;
 With marjoram knots, sweet-briar, and ribbon-grass,
 And lavender, the choice of every lass.

JUNE may be considered the grand culminating month for orchids, and magnificent, indeed, is the display furnished by this marvellous tribe to our summer flower-shows. Our space would be more than filled with merely a catalogue of species eminent for beauty; whether of form, colour, or fragrance. But, if we would select from these one worthy to be queen over all the rest, our choice would not hesitate to fall on the matchless *Cattleya*, named after Mrs. Moss, of Liverpool (*Cattleya Mossiae*), which unites in itself every admirable quality that can grace a flower.

The flowers are considerably the largest of any known orchideous plant, being sometimes more than eight inches across and twenty-four in circumference; they possess a powerful fragrance, and their texture and colouring are the most delicate and rich that can be conceived. All the upper divisions

of the flower are of a pale but brilliant purple, of the greatest purity, and the lower lip and throat are charmingly variegated with tints of crimson, purple, and deep yellow. The foliage of this superb plant is also very fine. There are other species of *Cattleya* which are hardly inferior to the present in beauty; and there is no period of the year, even throughout the winter months, at which some species or other of this magnificent genus may not be found in bloom. One that flowers in the autumn—the curled cattleya (*Cattleya crispa*)—is one of the greatest ornaments of the hothouse at that season. The flowers are individually smaller than those of the first-mentioned species, but come out in clusters of several together; and their colouring is of such sparkling richness that they have a most dazzling effect.

Calogyne Wallichiana—named after the celebrated botanical traveller, Dr. Wallich, by whom it was discovered in the region of the Himalaya mountains—is a very beautiful orchid, and extremely curious in its appearance and mode of growth; the flowers springing abruptly from the side of the bulb, and not coming out till after its one solitary leaf has decayed and disappeared. The bulbs themselves are as singular as the flowers are beautiful—growing on the surface of the ground, dark-green in colour, and covered with a loose network of fibres. The tints of the flower are purplish pink, yellow, and white, the lip being also dashed sparingly with red spots.

Arides quinquevulnera is one of the famous air plants, so called in allusion to their property of existing many months suspended in that element. The flowers are arrayed in long spikes, of delicate colours and delicious fragrance. In their native country they are hung up in rooms a little before their flowering time; and there they continue to unfold their dainty blossoms in gradual succession for many weeks. There is considerable difficulty attending their cultivation in this country.

JULY.



Sollya Drummondii.
Achimenes gigantea.
Gloxinia—"Napoleon." G. tripedia.

Erica rubella.
Rhododendron—"Princess Royal."

Erica intermedia.
Desfontainia spinosa.
Helipterum humile.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

The cottage garden, most for use designed,
Is not of beauty destitute. The vine
Mantles the little casement, and the briar
Drops fragrant dew among the July flowers;
And pansies rayed, and freaked with mottled pinks,
Grow among balm, and rosemary, and rue;
There honeysuckles flaunt and roses blow
Almost uncultured—some with dark green leaves
Contrast their flowers of pure unsullied white;
Others like velvet robes of regal state,
Of richest crimson: white in thorny moss,
Enshrined and cradled, the most lovely wear
The hues of youthful beauty's glowing cheek.

Crowned with the sickle and the wheat sheaf,
Blithe Autumn, nodding o'er the yellow plain,
Comes jovial on.

THE rich tropical race of plants to which the *Gloxinias*, *Achimenes*, and other beautiful genera belong is now a prominent and most attractive feature in the stove. The gloxinias are favourites in every hothouse, from the pure and brilliant colours of their beautifully-formed flowers, and their rich velvety foliage: white, with purple or crimson throats, are the most frequent and beautiful varieties, but many have the flowers entirely purple, red, or white. The giant *Achimenes* (*Achimenes gigantea*) is a brilliant companion to these last, with its spike of painted yellow and scarlet flowers.

The prickly *desfontainia* (*D. spinosa*) is one of the most remarkable plants with which we are acquainted. It is a hardy evergreen shrub with glossy foliage like the holly, from a small shrub of which it is, in fact, hardly distinguishable until it flowers, when we are surprised by the appearance of beautiful tubular blossoms, often two inches in length, of a rich scarlet colour, tipped with yellow, the surface being glossy, as if varnished. It was sent to Messrs. Veitch from the Andes of Patagonia, by their collector, Mr. William Lobb, who discovered it in the region of snow.

Many of the fairest heaths are now in bloom—we figure *Erica intermedia*, a fine white species; and *Erica rubella*, a lively little pink one.

The rhododendron represented is a most lovely hybrid variety, produced last season by Messrs. Veitch, between the white species, *Rhododendron jasmini-florum*, and the yellow *Rhododendron javanicum*: the result of this mixture being, most unexpectedly, a bright rose-coloured variety of the greatest beauty, which worthily bears the name of the "Princess Royal."

A very ornamental little flower is the Drummond's sollya (*Sollya Drummondii*), with its small blossoms of the brightest azure, suspended at the end of light thread-like stalks, so as to be stirred by the slightest breath of air. Australia has furnished us with this pretty climber.

The helipterums, one species of which (*H. humile*) is figured, belong to the class of plants called everlastings, which are remarkable for their property of retaining the texture and colour of their flowers when gathered and dried. The present species is very ornamental, and has large rosy and white flowers.

AUGUST.



Oncidium papilio.
Hoya faxtoni.

Miltonia spectabilis.
Stephanotis floribundus.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

A drowsy indolence now hangs on all;
Each creature seeks some place of rest, some shelter,
From the oppressive heat; silence prevails,
Nor low, nor bark, nor chirp of bird is heard;
In shady nooks the sheep and kine convene.
Within the narrow shadow of the cot
The sleepy dog lies stretched upon his side,
Nor heeds the footsteps of the passer by,
Or at the sound but raises half an eyelid,
Then gives a feeble growl and sleeps again.
No sound is heard but humming of the bee,
For she alone retires not from her labour,
Nor leaves a meadow flower unsought for gain.

We select a group of four only, out of the crowd of flowery beauties which are in perfection during this month, among which the orchids are still paramount in attraction; and, belonging to this tribe, one of Flora's chief curiosities is now to be met with in bloom—it is the butterfly-plant (*Oncidium papilio*), in which Nature seems to have amused herself by simulating some form of insect life, as a parallel feat to the imitation of vegetable life by the well-known leaf-insect. The flower in question has a yellow ground, figured with rich brownish red, in a manner very similar to the markings on the wings of some butterflies, the animated air of the plant being very much assisted by the hornlike appendages to the quasi head and two black dots that have the appearance of eyes; added to which, the flower is poised at the end of a wire-like stalk, a yard or more in length, so that it seems to be dancing in the air over the

surrounding plants, like some gay insect. The remarkable appearance and comparative facility of cultivation possessed by this plant render it a desirable and frequent inhabitant of the hothouse.

The other orchid figured is the beautiful mitonia (*Miltonia spectabilis*), a species less grotesque and curious than others of its family, but second to few in loveliness—the contour being very graceful, and the colouring extremely rich and harmonious; the upper part of the flower is cream-coloured, and the lower lip pale purple, richly veined and shaded with deeper tints of the same; Brazil is its native country—Trinidad being that of the butterfly-plant.

If the last-mentioned plant is remarkable for its strong resemblance to a creature of the animal kingdom, another of our group is no less so with regard to the mineral world, for the flowers of some of the species of hoyas, especially of the one figured—Paxton's hoyas (*Hoya faxtoni*)—have quite the appearance of exquisite pieces of jewellery: five little amethysts of beautiful polish, set in stars of frosted silver, are what the individual flowers may be compared to, and almost mistaken for. These, again, are made up into globular clusters of ten or twelve each, which are suspended at intervals from among the bright green leaves which clothe the twining stem. The hoyas are principally natives of China.

The stephanotis (*Stephanotis floribundus*) is one of the most valuable ornaments to the stove at this period of the year, as with its surpassing beauty of flower and foliage it combines a rich fragrance that renders it doubly acceptable. Its habit is that of a trailing plant, the stem running for several yards along a trellised roof, and throwing out a profusion of thick glossy foliage, and clusters of lovely white jessamine-like flowers. It comes from Madagascar. A high stove heat is necessary for the cultivation of all these plants.



Fuschia—"Duchess of Lancaster."
Philesia buxifolia.

Amaryllis reticulata.

Impatiens Jerdoniae.
Gardenia radicans. Saponaria multiflora.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

Whither be the violets gone,
Those that bloomed of late so gay,
And, in fragrant garlands strown,
Decked the blooming flower-queen's way?
Youth, alas! the spring must fly,
Yonder violets withered lie.

Whither be the roses fled,
We so gaily singing bound,
When the brow of shepherd maid,
And the herdsman's hat was crowned?
Maiden, summer days must fly,
Yonder roses withered lie.

ALREADY some of the summer luxuriance has passed away from the conservatory as well as from the garden—fuschias, amaryllises, and heaths, forming the principal greenhouse stock; but many of the favourites of last month still continue in bloom.

The singular species of balsam (*Impatiens Jerdoniae*), named after Mrs. Jerdon, and lately introduced, is a great acquisition, keeping up a constant succession of its scarlet and yellow parrot-like flowers for a length of time. This plant would hardly be recognised by any but a botanist as belonging to the same genus as the common balsam (*Impatiens balsamina*), so different is it in its whole appearance and attitude. This species is from the Neilgherry hills, and it flourishes in a warm greenhouse heat.

Gardenia radicans, one of the species known as the Cape jessamine, is a plant, which though of great beauty, owes its charms still more to the exquisite odour of its flowers, which are scarcely surpassed in the whole varied range of vegetable perfumes for delicacy and sweetness. It has the form of a small shrub, with large white flowers, and belongs to the same natural order as the plants which produce coffee, Peruvian bark, madder, and innumerable plants of beauty and value. China is its native region.

Among the beautiful varieties of fuschia which are constantly being produced by crossing and other processes of cultivation, that named the "Duchess of Lancaster" is one of the latest and best, the corolla being of a deep and lovely rose tint; the tube and radiating parts, or sepals, white, slightly tinged with red at the tips.

The netted-veined amaryllis (*Amaryllis reticulata*) is one of a superb genus, every species of which is worthy a place in the greenhouse or stove, as well for the magnificence of the flower, as for the general noble bearing of the plant. The well-known Mexican lily, and the Belladonna lily, belong to this genus.

The many-flowered soapwort (*Saponaria multiflora*) is a pretty little border or pot plant, with pink flowers of very elegant form.

A very beautiful and valuable plant of recent introduction is the box-leaved philesia (*Philesia buxifolia*), found by Mr. Lobb, the indefatigable collector of Messrs. Veitch, on the Andes of Patagonia, and supposed, from the nature of the situation in which it was discovered growing, to be quite hardy and capable of enduring our climate without protection. It is a remarkable plant, having the character of a low bushy shrub, with dry evergreen leaves; and yet the flowers are quite lily-like in appearance, and of large size in their native country, having been seen there of the size of a tulip; the specimen from which our figure was taken was of considerably smaller size. The flowers are of a delicate rose colour and waxy texture. There is a charming hothouse climber—the rosy Lappageria (*Lappageria rosea*)—belonging to the same tribe as the last, which in its flowers it closely resembles, though the plants are totally opposite in general appearance and habit of growth,—this being a lofty climber, and the other a low shrub.



Nymphaea cœrulea.

Nymphaea Devonensis.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

The little bird, yet to salute the morn,
 Upon the naked branches sets her foot—
 The leaves now lying on the mossy root—
 And there a silly chirruping doth keep,
 As though she fain would sing, yet fain would weep;
 Praising fair summer, that so soon is gone,
 Or mourning winter, too fast coming on.

THE water-lilies figured above are of the most lovely denizens of the aquarium or aquatic stove, which, though it cannot be said to be in its full glory during this month, still retains that freshness of foliage which renders this department of the conservatory the most attractive to many, notwithstanding the overpowering moist heat so necessary to its well-being.

A rude breath
 May shake its leaves a moment; but its root
 Is far too deep for storms.

The Devonshire water-lily (*Nymphaea Devonensis*), a magnificent aquatic, is said to be a hybrid produced by crossing two tropical species—the white *N. dentata* and the red *N. rubra*. The colour of this variety is a bright crimson, which contrasts most admirably with the deep green of the floating leaves on which the flower rests: the leaves are beautifully toothed and waved at the edge. The blue species (*Nymphaea cœrulea*) figured is principally distinguished from the other kinds by its colour, which is of a delicate and peculiar azure tint, the centre being bright yellow.

What can be more fairy-like in its beauty than the picture that a well-stocked and flourishing aquarium presents? The surface of the water studded with lilies—red, white, and blue—in bud and full bloom, and other aquatic flowers of various tints of yellow, with here and there the freshest green tufts of *Pistia stratiotes*, a gigantic tropical duck-weed, and the edge of the water fringed with the numerous rich-leaved plants which thrive best in this situation. Then there is that vegetable wonder from the rivers of the new world, the magnificent Victoria lily (*Victoria regia*), which requires almost a house to itself, with its circle of leaves, each from five to seven feet across, and flowers of corresponding magnitude.

Our remarks have referred entirely to a tropical collection; but we have, growing wild in our rivers and lakes, plants in nearly every respect as worthy of the cultivator's attention, with the advantage that they can be cultivated without the trouble and expense of artificial heat; and enjoyed without the inconvenience attending the strongly-heated atmosphere required for plants of warmer latitudes. The white water-lily of Britain, the delicate frog-bit, the flowering rush—one of the handsomest of European plants, the fringed villarsia, the water-violet, the arrow-head, and other native water plants, would stock an aquarium that would rival the exotic one in luxuriance and beauty; and it is very probable that by cultivation, and crossing with exotic species, varieties might be produced, partaking of the magnificence of one, and the hardiness of the other,

Sometimes they bloom with bells like amethysts; and then
 Paler, and shaded, like a maiden's cheek,
 With gradual blushes; while others white, as white
 As rime that hangs upon the frozen spray.

NOVEMBER.



Babingtonia Camphorosma.
Abutilon striatum.

Erica imperialis.
Chrysanthemum Sinense.

Erica Burnelli.
Sedum Sieboldii.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

The withered leaves bestrew the garden path,
Made miry with the fall of fleeting showers;
The sun emits a feeble ray, which hath
No power to warm or cheer the gloomy hours;
The robin only sings among the bowers,
Now bare and desolate, his simple lay;
All other birds are mute and sad, or they
Have flitted with the spring and summer flowers;
Yet are the borders not entirely bare,
For many-tinted asters still remain,
And bright chrysanthemums nod here and there
Their heads, to chilling blast and pelting rain.

DEAD and cheerless as the aspect of the garden and field has now become, the glad blossoms that are still put forth under the protection of the conservatory are rendered doubly welcome by contrast with the barrenness without.

The innumerable forms of the Chinese chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum Sinense*), November's own flowers, now flourish gaily in the greenhouse; and, if the weather be tolerably favourable, do not refuse to lend their charms even to the garden; but October is preferable for their display in this situation. We figure one of the handsomest white varieties, also a red one.

The remainder of our group are plants requiring some degree of artificial warmth for their preservation. Many beautiful species of the heath tribe choose the dreary winter months for flowering; among these is the imperial heath (*Erica imperialis*), a noble species, bearing at the top a circle of large

tubular flowers, with a glossy surface, as if varnished; their colour is bright crimson-red to within a short distance of the mouth, when it is shaded off into bright green, with a charming effect.

Burnell's heath (*Erica Burnelli*) is another lovely kind; half of the flower tube in this being rose-tinted, the rest white.

The striated-flowered Abutilon (*Abutilon striatum*), from Brazil, is a shrubby greenhouse plant of great value, as it produces throughout the year a succession of elegant bell-shaped blossoms suspended on long stalks. They are of rich orange colour, strongly veined with crimson. The exceedingly graceful outline of these flowers has been frequently adopted in various branches of ornamental manufacture; for instance, a fully-expanded flower gives, when inverted, a beautiful shape for a wine-glass or other vessel.

The camphor-scented Babingtonia (*Babingtonia Camphorosma*), one of the myrtle tribe, is a cheerful little shrub, having somewhat the appearance of a heath in foliage—this is from the Swan River, in New Holland, a district which has furnished so many valuable contributions to the catalogue of half-hardy plants.

Siebold's stonecrop (*Sedum Sieboldii*) is principally remarkable for its tapering wreaths of leaves which droop over the sides of the pot in a very graceful manner; the stalk is terminated by a cluster of small blue flowers which appear in the summer, but we notice the plant now for the sake of its leaves, which are beautiful in their colouring as well as their arrangement—they are of a glaucous green in the centre, shaded off to red towards the margin. Japan is the native country.



Sonerilla Margaritacea.
Dionaea muscipula.

Cissus discolor.
Cephalotus follicularis.

Lycopodium stoloniferum.
Anaclochilus setaceus.

FLOWERS AND BOTANICAL NOTES BY W. S. COLEMAN.

See Winter comes to rule the varied year,
Sullen and sad, with all his rising train—
Vapours and clouds and storms.

OUR concluding group, like the first, is composed of some of the more remarkable forms of leaves, being a selection from what the gardener calls "foliage plants," or plants which depend rather on their leaves than their flowers for their beauty or interest; in which points many of them are hardly excelled by any tenants of the conservatory, besides possessing the great advantage of remaining in equal perfection all the year through. Some of these rival in the richness of their tints the brightest flowers, such as *Dracena*, *Caladium*, *Calathea*, and *Cissus discolor*. We figure the leaves of the last mentioned; but no engraving can show the beautiful variety and gradation on the rich velvet of its upper surface. The centre rib and principal veins are marked by various shades of purple and black; between the veins are silvery patches of white, and towards the edges the purple softens off into a lovely subdued green, forming altogether one of the most harmonious little pieces of colouring with which Nature indulges us.

The pearly sonnerilla (*Sonerilla margaritacea*) is one of the most charming of recent introductions. It has glossy green leaves, studded over with lustrous pearl-like spots, and in the summer is ornamented with a spike of pink flowers of much beauty.

The curious plants from Java, called *Anaclochilus*, well deserve a place in any collection where sufficient heat is maintained. One of these plants at first sight gives the idea of a number of strange insects congregated on the

ground, each leaf being so marked and shaped as to resemble the closed wings of a large beetle or moth—blackish green or brown, with golden or silvery veins, being the usual colouring. *Anaclochilus setaceus* is the species figured.

Several species of club-moss—half moss half fern-like feathery little plants—are very ornamental, for edging the aquarium, and for other purposes where their fresh bright green is acceptable. We figure the creeping-rooted club-moss (*Lycopodium stoloniferum*).

We must now notice two of those curious mechanical contrivances which are met with in the leaves of some plants. The first is the half-animated Venus' Fly-trap (*Dionaea muscipula*), whose leaves have the singular power of closing over and imprisoning for life any unfortunate insects which may alight on their surface; whither it is said they are tempted by a sweet liquor which exudes from the glands on the surface.

There are several genera of plants bearing pitcher-like appendages to their leaves—that best known being the genus *Nepenthes*, the old pitcher-plants; but there is a little New Holland bog-plant, the Australian pitcher-plant (*Cephalotus follicularis*), of comparatively recent introduction, which, though of very small size, is equal in interest to any of the others. It produces a circle of pouches or pitchers of curious construction, resting on the ground, each being provided with a membranous lid; from the centre rises a spike of small white flowers. To the list of plants remarkable for their foliage we can now add one—perhaps the greatest curiosity of all—the extraordinary "Lattice plant" (*Ovairandra fenestralis*), lately brought from Madagascar by a missionary, and now in the possession of Messrs. Veitch. It was figured and described in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for November 3rd, 1855.