

fine flavour and hardy constitution. This is not a new variety, as it has been in cultivation several years, and it can therefore be all the more heartily commended. There are several types of the *Batavian Endive* in cultivation, some with leaves not much broader than the common dandelion, and of a very indifferent flavour, whilst others, like *Fraser's Improved Broad Leaved*, have broad leaves, and are when well blanched of good flavour. It may be assumed that the greater the breadth of the leaf the finer the flavour when blanched, and the nearer the approach to a well blanched cos lettuce; and therefore the *Improved Round Leaved Batavian* may be considered a welcome addition. This variety is said to have much broader leaves than the broadest of the *Batavian* types, and a more compact habit. It is certainly well worth a trial by those who grow endive for winter salading, and to me it appears difficult to have a salad worthy of the name without a plenty of good endive. This also is in the hands of Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons.

New peas are plentiful this season, and Messrs. Hurst and Sons, Leadenhall Street, E.C., offer a set of four varieties, raised by Mr. Laxton, and which have been selected from the collection sent out for trial last season. They are:—*William the First*, a dwarf wrinkled marrow, of excellent flavour and appearance; the pods are handsome, and well filled. *Popular* is recommended as a useful variety for main crops, the pods being large and well-filled, and the peas of a good colour and flavour when cooked. *Omega* claims attention as a late pea, and may be described as a dwarf *Ne Plus Ultra*; the usual height is thirty inches, and although sticks are necessary the expense will be trifling, as very short sticks will suffice. The last on the list is *Superlative*, which is remarkable for the size of the pods only, and is not desirable for small gardens, as the pods, although large, are by no means well filled.

Of new broccolis, *Cooling's Matchless*, in the hands of Mr. Cooling, of Bath, and *Watts' Excelsior*, in the hands of Messrs. T. Watts and Son, 56, Gold Street, Northampton, are both first-class varieties; they are large, of good colour, and in flavour very excellent. Samples of the former, exhibited last spring at South Kensington, were of gigantic proportions, and, as regards colour and appearance, were as near perfection as they possibly could be.

STRELITZIA REGINA.

BY WILLIAM COLE,

Head Gardener, Ealing Park.



THIS fine old plant, notwithstanding its interesting and attractive character when in bloom, is but little known, and it is a rare occurrence to meet with it in any but large gardens. At the present time, we have in the stove here a large specimen which has been in flower or some time, and will continue to produce its flowers throughout

January.

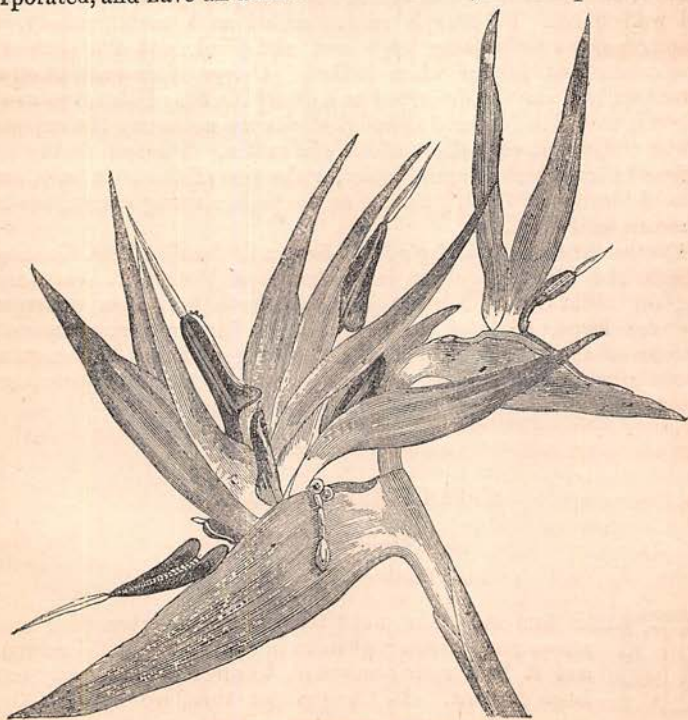
the winter; and it has occurred to me that a few remarks upon it would be of service in inducing some of those amateurs, who possess



STRELITZIA REGINA.

a stove, to add it to their collections. The flowers, as the accompanying illustration shows, are remarkable for their curious appearance, and the colours—rich orange-red and deep blue—are very rich and striking. A well-grown specimen is also exceedingly noble in aspect, and is at all times very ornamental. The accompanying illustration of the plant conveys a fair idea of its general character.

It is very easy to manage, and requires no special system of culture to insure its remaining in healthy condition and flowering freely. It succeeds admirably when potted in compost consisting of equal parts peat and loam, which should be well incorporated, and have an addition of leaf-mould, and sharp silver sand.



STRELITZIA REGINA. (Flower-spike.)

For large specimens, the soil should be used in a lumpy state, and a

few small crocks mixed with the soil to keep it open to enable the roots to extend freely. Liberal supplies of water will be necessary when the plants are in full growth. At other times moderate supplies only will be required, and during October and November the soil should be kept rather dry, to afford the plants a season of rest, previous to pushing up their flower-spikes. The latter, it should be remembered, are produced in succession, and the flowers also expand, one or two at a time, on each spike, and consequently a supply is yielded, extending over a very considerable period.

CHERRY CULTURE.

BY THOMAS TRUSSLER,

Head Gardener, Knighton, Buckhurst Hill.



THE cultivation of the choicer kind of cherries does not appear to receive that amount of attention it should do, for in many cases the trees are left pretty much to themselves, and in others the commoner kinds only are grown. There is not, perhaps, much that is really new to be said upon the subject, for all good cultivators are well agreed upon the main points in the planting and management of the trees, but a few hints just now will perhaps be of some service to many readers of the FLORAL WORLD.

In the first place, it is well that those varieties which produce fruit of good flavour, and handsome in appearance, and are, moreover, of free growth, and productive, should be selected, for it is not desirable to plant small or, in fact, larger gardens, with trees that will not amply pay for all the labour and attention necessary to keep them in proper order. In gardens of limited dimensions, which will not afford accommodation for more than a limited number of trees, preference should be given to those kinds which produce fruit suitable for the dessert; but, if possible, room should be found for a few trees of varieties such as the *Morello*, which yield fruit best adapted for culinary purposes. There are nearly two hundred varieties in cultivation, and from these I have selected the following as the best in their respective classes, and likely to maintain a succession over the longest possible period:—

DESSERT.—Ripening in June, *Belle d' Orleans*, *Early Red Bigarreau*, *Early Purple Gean*, *Werder*, *Early Black*; ripening in July, *Black Tartarian*, *Frogmore Early Bigarreau*, *May Duke*, *Elton*, *Royal Duke*, *Joc-o-sot*, *Bigarreau*, *Mary*; ripening in August, *Florence*, *Late Bigarreau*, *Late Duke*; ripening in September, *Coe's Late Carnation*, *Büttner's Yellow*, *Bigarreau d' Hildesheim*, *Rival*.

CULINARY.—*Kentish Belle*, *Magnifique*, and *Morello*.

All the foregoing may be grown as bushes, pyramids, standards, and espaliers, or trained to a wall. They are all of excellent quality,

January.