

THE TREE DAISY.



AUSTRALIA produces several bushy plants of the composite order, the flowers of which closely resemble those of our common daisy. As a rule they are not sufficiently ornamental to be worthy of a place in our plant-houses, nor sufficiently hardy to endure the rigours of our winter season. The one here figured, *Olearia dentata*,



THE TREE DAISY (*Olearia dentata*).

from the "Botanical Magazine" (tab. 5973), is one of the handsomest

and hardiest, and may be entered on the select list of "beautiful trees for kind climates." Dr. Hooker says, in speaking of the tree daisies, "Many of them would thrive well and form great ornaments in the gardens in the mild part of the West of England," and adds, that "the present species forms a fine bush in the Scilly Isles." This tree daisy is a native of the east coast of Australia, from Port Jackson, the Blue Mountains, and Illawarra, southward to Twofold Bay. The plant is not known in English nurseries.

ON RAISING ROSES FROM SEED.



HERE is a good show of scarlet "heps" now on the wild roses, and the roses of the garden are not altogether destitute of similar adornments. It will be reasonable, therefore, to offer a few practical remarks on the raising of roses from seed.

It is generally believed by amateurs that to raise seedling roses is a most difficult and tedious business; but that is a mistake. There can be nothing easier. To obtain new and fine varieties worth naming is another matter, but it would be a grand mistake to suppose that elaborate manipulations in hybridizing, or as we should more properly say, crossing, are necessary. Very few of all the roses that are in the catalogues have been obtained by systematic crossing; they have for the most part been obtained in the same way as good geraniums, good carnations, good dahlias, and good chrysanthemums are obtained, by simply saving seed from the best varieties and carefully raising plants therefrom. It is, nevertheless, a fact that, as a rule, systematic raising gives the best results, and the rosarian may therefore be properly advised to operate on selected flowers with a view to obtain seed of a character predetermined by the operator. If he is not disposed to make so refined a pastime of raising seedlings, he may be content to save seed as he can get it, and take his chance of what it may produce.

Our climate is not quite favourable to the raising of new roses, and that is the principal reason why we have to depend upon the rose-growers of sunny France. Nevertheless, the many splendid varieties that have been raised by Messrs. Paul, by Mr. Ward, and others, not only prove the possibility, but afford abundant encouragement to the English amateur, who in a fine autumn may ensure abundance of good seed; and in a wet and cold autumn must be content to rest from his labours on getting perhaps a score of ripe heps instead of hundreds or thousands. How then is the seed to be obtained? The simplest mode of procedure will be to plant out in a sunny position, on rather poor soil, a selection of the very finest roses known. The site should be dry and breezy; if shut in by trees, or in any degree swampy, it will not produce good seed. A luxuriant growth is not to be desired, in fact a somewhat starving and roasting condition favour seed production, but the seed-producing plants should not be starved to the extent of impairing their