

range-taker of almost any man in our army."

There is no doubt that the Forbes one-man folding rangefinder would be a most valuable acquisition to the material of the army.

It consists of two parts—the base and the binocular, but space prevents our entering upon any detailed description of its working in the present article. It may be stated that the length of the base is 6 feet, and when folded 3 feet 6 inches, that the weight of base is $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and the weight of binocular 1 lb.

H. C. F.

Saints' Flowers

It is a very natural and instinctive feeling that the flower which comes into bloom about the festival of a saint should be associated with his or her name. Moreover, in this changeable climate we sometimes forget the passing of the seasons, but the flowers never do, and they follow the almanac more closely than we are perhaps aware of. The snowdrop, or fair maid of February, is known as the purification flower, a suitable and appropriately named flower to begin the list with. It is our first favourite, we see it when the ground is still patched with snow, and nowhere does it seem sweeter than on the graves of those we have loved, whence it springs, a true emblem of purification, and not the least among the flowers of remembrance. The saffron crocus used to be placed on the altar on the eve of St. Valentine's Day; saffron in the olden days being much used in Lent on account of its enlivening qualities. It was even used to strew floors with. The pansy is also associated with St. Valentine. It is the French forget-me-not, and is certainly a flower of remembrance though one would not call it a seasonal flower. So little notice is now taken of St. Valentine's Day, and so few valentines are sent that the significance of the pansy as St. Valentine's flower no longer appeals to us. That beautiful fritillary, the crown imperial, is dedicated, I believe, to St. Edward, the King of the West Saxons, whose anniversary is March 18. The cuckoo-flower, the milkmaid, the cardamine of the herbalists, is the

lady's-smock, as it blooms about the time of the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for hundreds of years about the most important religious festival in England. (Our lady's petticoats, by the way, was the name given by the devout to the anemone which grew on Calvary, and was said to be stained by the drops of sacred blood.) This flower is naturally associated more with the bird, for it is at its best when the voice of the cuckoo is heard in the land. The veronics, to which the speedwell belongs, are associated by a curious but not unbeautiful legend with St. Veronica. The holy woman is said to have tendered a napkin to our Lord as he stopped, hot and wearied, in front of her door on His way to Calvary. The flower is said to bear some resemblance to the miraculous image of His face left on the napkin. Then we have herb Christopher and herb Robert, the rather pungent geranium of the hedgerows, the most continuous and, perhaps, the prettiest of summer flowers. The St. John's wort was hung over doorways and windows on the eve of St. John the Baptist to exorcise evil spirits. It seems to have kept its dedication name better than any other flower. The Canterbury bell is St. Augustine's flower, a graceful tribute to the great Kentish missionary, and Kent, it would seem, is the county *par excellence* for this flower. May 26 is perhaps just a little too early for the flower, and one would have thought June 14 also somewhat early for St. Barnaby's thistle; still one may put it all down to the alteration in the calendar. There is a carline thistle associated with Charlemagne; an angel is said to have recommended it to him in a dream, as a means of staying the plague which was destroying his army. But we do not recognise Charles the Hammer as a saint. The marguerite, "La Belle Marguerite," and the Michaelmas daisy are two strictly seasonal flowers. Roses are said to fade about St. Margaret's Day. Not all saints' flowers then are so seasonable. The clover leaf is not out by St. Patrick's Day, so that no one need agitate themselves very much as to what plant really does duty for the shamrock.

M. CHURCH,