

Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

GARDEN NOTES.

Cosmos are making strong growth. If not already staked, they should have immediate attention, otherwise they are very apt to be knocked about by winds. These plants require a lot of room; four to five feet each way is not too much; they are very handsome when well grown, and give enormous quantities of flowers.

Roses have this season done remarkably well. All spent blooms should be picked off to prevent seeding, which greatly weakens the plants. Syringe any plants showing greenfly, and keep a look out for mildew, and any plants, which show the slightest attack of the fungus dust with flowers of sulphur.

Petunias are now making a fine display. Where a good strain of these has been secured, they are well worth good culture. The trouble we find is to get them good. The ordinary plain edged varieties are easily obtained, but the fringed sorts are very shy seeders, and consequently the seed is expensive and difficult to secure; an extra selected stock will generally produce from 50 to 70 per cent of true fringed varieties.



The Layias.

Although old garden annuals do not appear to be made so much of as might be supposed, considering their very showy flowers, free habit, and usefulness during the summer and early months, some of the species, for instance, *L. platyglossa* and *L. Douglasi*, and better known under the old name of *Calliostroa*, but later introductions, such as *glandulosa*, *heterotricha*, *elegans*, and others, are much showier, with a dwarfer and neater habit of growth, and altogether better adapted for the flower garden. These are the kinds of annuals that always show best in large groups. When sown in small patches and allowed to grow up too closely together, they look weedy, are always lying down, and never flower so well as when each plant is given plenty of space to develop its branches as well as its roots. It is more satisfactory in every way to see a well-grown specimen than a weakly struggling one with few, and usually badly-coloured,

flowers. Give plenty of light and air to all the annuals, feed them well, and you will be well repaid for your trouble. The *Layias* are very suitable for cutting, lasting as they do for a considerable time in good condition.



LILAC TREES.

Lilacs are so well known for their troublesome habit of producing suckers, that the notice of the Rumpenheim Lilacs in the current number of the "Kew Bulletin" is of some interest. For many years a pair of Lilacs grew in the gardens at Cambridge Cottage (the residence at Kew of the two last Dukes of Cambridge), which formed clean trunks and produced no suckers. The larger trunk was four feet two inches high, and two feet in girth. It is suggested that the plants, which were brought from Rumpenheim on the Main, near Frankfort, were originally raised from seed, and not from cuttings, as is more commonly the case, and that the lack of suckers may possibly be attributed to the circumstances. Since the death of the late Duke in 1904 the trees have been moved, one of them to Windsor, the other to the lawn in front of Kew Palace.



THE JUBILEE EXHIBITION AT HAARLEM, 1910

The Dutch Bulb Growers' Society has hitherto held an exhibition in the month of March every fifth year. The last show was held in 1905, and, although the quality of the exhibits was acknowledged to be good, the limited interest shown by cultivators in the function proved that such exhibitions no longer fulfilled the requirements of the day. The visitors, and especially the foreign judges, were unanimously of the opinion that in future such shows should be held at the natural flowering season in the open. At the last general meeting of the society, it was decided to adopt the suggestion, already mentioned in these columns, to hold the next exhibition during the natural flowering season of the bulbs in 1910, the society's jubilee year.

Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles.

Most lovers of plants, especially open air plants, seek the blue flowers, and often complain that they are so scarce. We begin to think it is not true; there are so many beautiful bulbs and other plants that really blue plants for the garden are numerous. Among the shrubs blue flowers are, perhaps, not so numerous, although the shrubby *Solanum* and the blue *Buddleias* help a little. The queen of all blue-flowering shrubs, however, is that variety of a Californian plant called *Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles*. For the southern and warmer

A GARDENER'S SON WHO HAS EARNED OVER £100,000.

Kubalik, the violinist, who, by the time he was 26, had earned over £100,000 by his playing, writes a correspondent, is the son of a gardener at Prague. He has inherited his father's horticultural tastes, and on his recent world's tour took the opportunity to collect specimens of tropical trees, roots, and plants to embellish his own beautiful garden at Kolin, where he lives, within a few miles of his birth-place. He says Colombo is the loveliest place he has ever visited, but no one could conceive



Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles.

counties it would be difficult to name anything so constant, so pretty in colour, so easily grown, either as a shrub or against a wall in cool districts. In the garden in which our photograph was taken this shrub flowers the whole summer and autumn, and in different positions—sometimes against walls and sometimes on exposed banks.



PEA, THE GLADSTONE.

Gardeners who experience a difficulty in maintaining a supply of culinary peas late in the season should give this variety a trial. During seasons of drought, even when planted in light, shallow, or gravelly soils, it has proved one of the most reliable varieties. The plant is remarkably strong in constitution, and the foliage resists attacks of mildew when many other varieties are infested with the fungus. A long succession of pods is maintained, whilst another desirable point is that the shoots seldom exceed 4 feet in height, although they furnish as many pods as taller-growing varieties. Being comparatively dwarf they do not require tall sticks, and can be easily protected from the depredations of birds which in many gardens are troublesome amongst late peas. In addition to the good qualities mentioned may be added the size of pod (often a pod contains 10 peas) and excellence of flavour. This pea is often seen in the prize collections of vegetables at many of the leading exhibitions throughout the country. Although the Gladstone is a late pea and is generally one of the latest sown, it does well as a mid-season variety. Although this variety is longer in coming into bearing than many others, the crop is of such excellence that it is well worthy of a place in all gardens where peas of good quality are valued, more especially in those where mid-season and late varieties have proved difficult to cultivate with success.

the floral beauties of the Sandwich Islands. Flowers are so abundant there that they grow even on the roofs of the houses. On leaving his concert at Honolulu, the populace accompanied him in procession back to his ship. Each of the processionists carried a wreath of flowers. These wreaths they presented to him, and they were piled up on the deck. As the ship left the island the visitor had to throw some of the wreaths over his shoulder into the sea. This is a native custom betokening a "farewell to Flower Island." Kubalik is at present touring the chief English and Scottish towns, and appearing nightly on the concert platform, but he says he longs for his garden at Kolin, where his wife is with his four little girls. His castle at Kolin is built in the midst of a forest.



THE BALANCE OF NATURE.

Of all the evils against which the gardener has to contend, the most persistent, most implacable, are the numberless varieties of insect fungus pests which are an ever-present menace to fruits and crops. Thanks to the scientific methods of the modern horticulturist, these pests are, as a rule, kept within reasonable bounds, though it may happen at times, as in the case of the recent outbreaks of American Gooseberry mildew, that some mysterious malady makes its appearance in the gardens of the country, baffling for a time all the science and skill of the plant doctor. Much has been done in recent years in the matter of providing means to cope with the attacks of plant pests of all kinds, though, perhaps, the most remarkable and most successful development has been the enlisting of the forces of Nature herself for this purpose. Plant pests are not by any means the monarchs of all they survey. Just as "big fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em," so the parasites of plant life are preyed upon by equally voracious insect foes. Members of the ichneumon family of insects work terrible



Layia elegans.