

various French and German designations. Yet a good variety of alba is as beautiful as any, and a mass of it with gladiolus *hutchinsonii* among it is a sight for the gods to delight in, let alone us humble sublimity lovers of the flowers. But the pen has wandered far, and we have not yet touched upon the Poppy or Crown anemones, as we call the varieties of *anemone coronaria*. And what glorious things some of these are! Colouring truly Oriental in its hues and in its brightness—colouring which far surpasses in its intensity the carpets of the East, which are so proverbial for their richness. The tints of the Crown anemone far outshine these, and when we think of the shapes of these flowers, from the exquisite flat cups of the single varieties to the rosette-like doubles, or the wonderful ribbon-like rosettes of some of the *St. Brigid*s, we are more and more enamoured of the race which has given us all these brilliant blossoms.

It is only a step from these to the hortensis or stella forms, with their own charms, both of colour or of form; and but a shorter step to the fulgens varieties, so brilliant in their scarlet that we wonder whence came that gorgeous, glowing scarlet such as we see in the variety named *anemone fulgens græca*.

And now my chat must close, even though many good anemones, such as *pulsatilla*, of which one would fain speak, remain with their beauties untold at the present time, and even though I have not ventured to touch deeply upon the matter-of-fact but useful question of their cultivation. But must wait until our good editor grants permission.—S. Arnott in the "Scottish Gardener."

NECTARINES.

Nectarines are a delicious fruit, preferred by many to peaches, owing probably to their smooth skin, and better carrying qualities. There seems to be an unsatisfied demand for this fine fruit, and growing nectarines for market is a profitable business, where suitable land is available. To succeed in growing this fruit well, there are three points demanding attention. The first is good shelter. It is useless going in for either peaches or nectarines before a good shelter belt has had a few years start. The next point is good cultivation—plenty of manure, and keeping down all weeds; and the third point is spraying with Bordeaux mixture. This should never be neglected, as it prevents leaf curl, a most disastrous fungus. Most growers recommend this spraying to be done a week prior to blooming. We prefer two sprayings, with a week in between, say the first a fortnight before blossoming and the second a week prior.

There are now some fine varieties of this fruit which have been raised locally. The imported sorts sent out by Messrs. Rivers, of England, known as *Early Rivers*, and the *Cardinal* are fairly good in this Dominion; but, we prefer the locally raised as being more certain croppers. *Goldmine*, sent out by Messrs. Hay and Son, is perhaps the best all-round nectarine we have. The fruit is of large size, tender flesh, juicy, and of first-class quality. It ripens about the middle of February, and is a very handsome fruit, suitable for all purposes. We were pleased to observe in a recent French list of nectarines that this variety has found its way there, and is highly spoken of. The *Newboy* is a variety which has done well this year. It is a brilliant crimson-coloured fruit, large and handsome, hardy and, so far as we have observed, does well in most localities. It ripens about the same time as *Goldmine*. *Lippitt's Profile* is an early variety, coming in about the end of January. It is a bright-coloured sort, rich and sweet, but not always a sure cropper. Zealandia, by the same raiser, is one of the very best flavoured kinds we know, but unfortunately it has not, so far, proved a regular cropper, giving one season a great crop, and the following very little. *Anemone*, *Hunt's Tawny*, and *Twyford Surprise* are good cropping sorts, and there is a host of new varieties offering of Australian origin, but not having seen any of them in fruit we are unable to speak of their qualities.

SOWING SEEDS OF PERENNIAL PLANTS.

In sowing seeds of perennials, especially of hardy perennials, which are difficult to germinate, or which normally take several months to germinate, I have found it an excellent practice to cover the soil, after sowing, with loose moss. In seed pans so covered, *Liverwort* never appears on the surface of the soil, even when kept for 18 months or longer. Other advantages are that the moss prevents the watering from beating down the soil, and so, when necessary, enables it to be done freely and without any special care. It also keeps the surface of the soil in a state of equable moisture for a much longer time than when exposed to the air, and so obviates the need of close attention and frequent waterings. The best moss for the purpose is the common green moss that can generally be found in plenty on the north side of the bank and hedges in country lanes in early spring. *Sphagnum* moss will do, and I have used it in an emergency, but it lies more heavily, and has less "spring," and so does not protect the soil so well from an occasional heavy watering or rain, and it is also more difficult to remove when the seedlings appear. A layer of from one quarter to one half an inch of moss is sufficient, spread evenly and loosely immediately after the seed is sown and before watering. To prevent the moss from being blown off in a high wind, when the seed pans are in frames or in the open, it is well to lay pieces of

1-inch mesh wire netting across the top of the pans or pots. Though this use of moss as a covering is specially advantageous in the case of hardy perennials, it is equally good for all seeds of perennials sown under glass, as well as for half-hardy annuals, etc., and I have used it successfully with fine seed such as *Gloxinia*, *Begonia*, and *Streptocarpus*. It is far preferable to the usual plan of covering the pan with glass and brown paper; there is much less damping off, for it allows a freer circulation of air, while giving sufficient and yet not too dense shading. If the moss is used fairly fresh it is easily taken off when the seedlings appear, as it clings together, and can be peeled off in one layer.—A. J. Bliss, in "Gardener's Chronicle."

PARROT TULIP SEEDLINGS.

A gentleman in New Zealand writes to say that seven years ago he was fortunate enough to save some seed from a parrot tulip, and that seven of the seedlings flowered last August. He describes them as being about 15 inches high and of ordinary tulip shape. Two are crimson-pink with the lower part of the segments white, one is light yellow with a bright crimson edge, one is creamy white with a pink edge, and the others are creamy white with slight crimson markings on the divisions. This is an extremely interesting fact, for as far as I can learn it is the first authenticated case of

seedlings raised from a parrot parent. I fancy most of us would have thought some *Platystigma* would have appeared, but it is not so. The origin of parrot tulips is somewhat obscure. From my own observation, and from what I can learn from others they are in all probability sports, and, moreover, any variety may take on this peculiar form. Last April, at one of the Royal Horticultural Society's meetings, I saw a *chrysolora* whose petals were well on the way to becoming parrots; and at Mr. van Tubergan's grounds at Haarlem this spring I saw an *Eleanora* which had quite taken on a parrot form. Mr. E. H. Krelage knows a lilac and yellow parrot that originated some little time ago from a *Hybloemen* tulip in a Haarlem nursery. The reason why they are not met with earlier in the history of the tulip is probably that they were originally looked upon as undesirable and severely repressed. One of the first recorded is called *Le Monstre Jaune*, and in 1743 Weinmann, who pictures several, labels them "*Monstrosities*." As a parallel case I would refer to what has happened to the *chrysanthemum*, the *carnation* and *dahlia* in our own immediate days, when types are popular and much appreciated which a very short time ago were discarded as worthless. The experience of our New Zealand friend seems to bear out my theory. It will be of great service if, after the next flowering season, he will send a note about the behaviour of those which have yet to flower, and also what he finds the result to be of his equally interesting *Platystigma* offspring.



A Group of Tropical Fruits.

1. *Artocarpus incisa* (bread fruit). 2. *Carica Papaya* (Papaw). 3. *Myristica fragrans* (nutmeg). 4. *Passiflora quadrangularis* (Granadilla). 5. *Mungifera indica* (mango).