

# Life in the Garden.

## Practical Advice for Amateurs.

### SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

**Flowers.**—Asters, Candytuft (giant flowering), Empress Carnations, Clarkia, Dianthus, Godetia, Hilychrysum, Larkspur, Lupins (annual sorts), Mignonette, Nemophila, Shirley Poppies, Schizanthus, Stocks, Sweet Peas.

**Vegetable.**—Asparagus, Broad Beans, Cabbage, Cauliflowers, Cape Gooseberry, Early Horn Carrot, Cress, Leek, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas (William Hirst, Gradus, Daisy), Parsley, Parsnip, Radish, Spinach, Tomato, and White Turnip.

**Planting.**—Potatoes, Artichokes, Rhubarb, Herbs, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Onions, Shelter and Fruiting Trees and Bushes, Roses, Gladioli Bulbs, Lilies, Tuberoses.

### GENERAL GARDEN WORK.

SPRING always brings us face to face with any amount of work in our gardens, and some amateurs are occasionally puzzled what to set about first; we would strongly urge that first place be given to planting such things as roses, fruit trees, or shrubs, which may have been overlooked or have arrived late; all such should be got in at once. Then choose a dry situation in which to plant early potatoes; some of the fine old Kidneys are again on the market, and are well worth growing. Continue to plant broad beans for successional crops. Sow early peas. Onions can still be sown this month, and autumn sown onions can be transplanted. Continue planting out cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce. Saladings should be sown every ten days, where a succession is required. A few early carrots and parsnips may be sown on deeply-dug ground. Carnations, hollyhocks, antirrhinums and penstemons can be planted out when soil is suitable. Dig over all vacant land in readiness for future work. Where seedlings are being raised in frames or greenhouse, see that air is freely admitted, without cold draughts. Unless this important point is carefully attended to, the seedlings will get "drawn," and will never make nice, hardy, "stocky" plants.

Finish pruning and regulating the branches of fruit trees. Any grafting required is best done during August. Where fruit trees have not received their winter wash, they should be attended to without further delay.

### The Lyon Rose.

IN the future this rose will doubtless be looked upon as the commencement of a new group, that is, the mingling of the Briar hybrids with the Hybrid Teas. We have it on the authority of the raiser, M. Pernet-Ducher, that the Lyon Rose is the result of a cross between the Hybrid Tea Mme. Melanie Souper and an unnamed variety, itself the direct offspring of Soleil d'Or. I cannot say we have gained a hardy rose in this cross, as one would have thought by a mingling of the very hardy Briar hybrid Soleil d'Or, for plants of the Lyon Rose imported last autumn have behaved most strangely, the growths turning quite black, doubtless the result of frost (say an English writer). This will be a serious hindrance to the extensive planting one would have liked to carry out with such a beautifully coloured rose. There is this to be said about the variety under notice:—I believe if it were earthed up, and its growths cut back hard in the autumn, we should find the base of the plants little the worse for the winter frost.

more form by all lovers of the rose, excepting exhibitors, who apparently look upon size and form as more essential than vigour or fragrance.

### New Rhododendron.

Rhododendron Souliei has been introduced to Europe by Messrs. James Veitch and Sons, through their late collector,

which received a first-class certificate when exhibited before the R.H.S. Floral Committee, was only about a foot high, and bore two trusses of rather flatish, rose-pink coloured flowers, some three to four inches across. R. Souliei is a native of the neighbourhood of Tatienu, Western China, at altitudes of from 8000 to 11,500 feet. Like all the Chinese rhododendrons, it is local in its distribution, and within its altitudinal limit forms dense thickets, often an acre or



Rhododendron Souliei, a new Chinese species.

I expect to see some grand flowers this summer from maiden plants. Those who saw the fine group of roses of his own raising which M. Pernet-Ducher exhibited at the Franco-British Exhibition, will remember how grandly Lyon Rose stood out among them all, the marvellously taking colour of shrimp pink being admired by the numerous visitors. The flowers, which are large, full, and with broad petals, are generally borne singly, but occasionally two or three appear on the same shoot. The buds are tipped coral red, with a chrome yellow base. The half-open flowers are salmon pink, shaded with chrome yellow at the base, toning to shrimp pink at the tips, a colour-combination that it certain to appeal to all classes.

In planting this rose, one must afford it plenty of space, for its growths are somewhat spreading in habit. It cannot fail to make a beautiful free-headed standard, the spreading nature of its growths aiding in this, which may be still further assisted by pruning to outward-looking eyes. One of the most neglected details of cultivating standard roses is a fearless thinning out of the centres of the heads of the tree, which not only hinders the perfect development of the outer growths, but is a harbour for many insect pests. When, therefore, we have a variety that is naturally spreading, this relieves us to some extent of the work of such thinning.

Evidently Lyon Rose has "caught on" in America, for they are already asking for it by the thousand. But this is a characteristic of our friends on the other side. When a thing is good they "go" for it without any hesitation, and with their system of raising plants from own roots under glass it is not difficult to quickly get up a large stock. I should say Lyon Rose will be a fine market variety; certainly it will be a superb rose for pot culture. Last season on pot-grown plants the grand flowers, almost as perfect as a camellia, were much admired.

I intend to try Lyon Rose as a wall plant, believing, as I do, that it will be an excellent variety for that purpose, and if grown on a south or west wall its growths will be assured of a thorough ripening. Being sweetly scented, it should become a general favourite, for I find that next to colour this important attribute is more valued than

Mr. Wilson, who sent seeds from China in the late autumn of 1905. Plants raised from these seeds flowered for the first time in Coombe Wood Nursery in May last. These plants have stood out in the open ground unharmed by the severe winter, and the young growths have withstood the late spring frosts, so there is every promise of this species proving hardy in England. The specimen,

more in extent. In height the bushes vary from three to 12 feet, and the flowers, which are borne in great profusion, vary from pale to deep rose. The leaves are medium-sized, ovate, with cordate base, and when young have a very pronounced glaucous metallic lustre.

### NOTABLE SWEET PEAS.

The Rev. David R. Williamson writes to us as follows from Kirkcaldy, Angus, N.B., on June 1st: "My sweet peas, sown in the open ground about the middle of February, promise to flower very early this year. Two American varieties, of great attractiveness have already thrown out their initial flower buds, at least three weeks earlier than they did last year; while such precious British varieties as Dobbie's Mid Blue, The King, a magnificent creation, and Mrs. Andrew Ireland, one of the loveliest of recent introductions, are almost equally far advanced, with remarkable strength of flowering shoots. I had the King in flower last season for the first time, and I admired it immensely for its form, fine colour and noble dimensions. It is such finer during the heat of summer than in the cooler autumnal months. It may, therefore, be regarded as a notable example of the law of variation, for I am not aware that either of its distinguished parents has this special characteristic. Mid Blue should prove, in virtue of its highly aristocratic colour, an invaluable acquisition. I also anticipate with great interest the opening of Mrs. Routzou Spencer, so greatly admired by Mr. Sydnam, of Birmingham, who describes it as the gem of the present year; though I question if it will be an advance on its notably beautiful parent, Mrs. Henry Bell. In Asta Ohn Spencer and several unnamed Spencer hybrids, I am deeply interested, especially as they came to me from far California. It may interest Mr.



A single bloom of the Lyon Rose.