



[Douglas Elliott photos.
Protea susannae (above) and *P. cynaroides* (below) are among the best of the protea species for growing in the flower garden.



Rock Gardens

Though rock gardens have lost the colourful glory of the spring- and early summer-flowering plants, they must not be neglected. In addition to watering, care must be taken that the more robustly growing subjects do not encroach beyond their proper confines and smother more treasured plants of less vigorous habit. Unless required for seed, all spent flowers should be removed, for some kinds if left to shed their seed have the unfortunate habit of reproducing themselves in unexpected places where they are not wanted. For example, *Geranium sanguineum* may be quite an acquisition in its proper place, but when seedlings of it appear in the midst of a colony of encrusted saxifragas it becomes a pest.

Such plants as *Erinus alpinus*, *Linaria alpina*, and *Papaver alpinum*, which are not "permanents," should be allowed to shed their seed so that fresh young plants may appear to take the place of their parents, which have the habit of disappearing. Many of the charming miniature alpinas are seen to better advantage in little crevices where they have grown from self-sown seed than where, perhaps, they have been planted with every care.

Kniphofias

The kniphofias (tritomas), better known as torch lilies or red-hot poker, as a class will flower from early summer until mid-autumn. Most of the popular varieties now on the market are usually in full bloom during January and February. Though kniphofias frequently are planted near the margins of pools so that the vividly coloured flowers may be reflected in the water, they will succeed even in comparatively poor soil and dry situations. However, they respond to good cultivation, and the clumps should be lifted every 3 or 4 years, divided up, and replanted.

Proteas

Natives of South Africa, the proteas are grey-leaved evergreen shrubs particularly suitable for well-drained, sunny, and open situations. They will succeed in most soils, and they have the added advantage of withstanding the effects of dry weather better than most shrubs.

The bushes in general habit of growth are not elegant, but the flowers are most interesting, being conspicuous, in some cases beautiful, and when suitably arranged useful for indoor decorations. The bushes can be induced to grow more shapely by pruning them back immediately the flowers are over. Care should be taken not to prune back too hard beyond the healthy foliage.

Some of the best species for the garden are *Protea susannae*, *P. cynaroides*, *P. compacta*, and *P. longiflora*.

Carnations and Pinks

Despite the fact that the carnation has been cultivated for hundreds of years, it is still one of the most popular of garden and florists' flowers. Excluding the marguerite carnation, which is raised annually from seed, three main types are worth attention—the border carnations, in which are included the picotees and which flower