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tenth of the total number of the window-boxes are in these towns and their suburbs. Mine are in a street of thirty houses where, from the number of window-boxes we garden partly for our neighbours, so that all the world enjoys our window-boxes, or may do so and welcome. Last year the Fuchsias were the “observed of all observers.” On the opposite side of the house Pelargoniums and other lovers of the sun do better in the boxes, are Fuchsia and all sorts.

During the past winter my boxes have been filled with evergreens, including variegated Euphorbus, Aucuba japonica, Thunia aurea, delici Cupressus, and some plants of Yucca recurva which are much admired; those were all grown from seeds, filling up the boxes handsomely. Small plants would have been looked on asaskant by the neighbours as poor skinny things. If economy be an object, these same plants may remain in the boxes the whole year round. For the sake of variety, I prefer to remove the evergreens, which are plunged in their pots in the garden on the south side of the house, to be used again in autumn. The boxes are refilled immediately—Cresscas, early Tulips, Hyacinths, Double Snowdrops, Primroses, Hesperis, and Violets, being amongst the earliest flowers adapted for the window-sill. Aubretia and various alpines may be introduced at this time. I have a box whose edges are at this moment overhung nicely with four varieties of bright green Saxifrages, and several other plants of that class which are found in most nurseries: mourning over rocks, or overclapping the face of dwarf walls. It is needless to name all these things, space forbidding it, and the intelligent student of box-gardening will soon discover that the methods of decoration are inexhaustible and that he must necessarily find a sort of cultivation for all sorts of cacti. The alpines alone, or Ferns and Selaginellas, are charming subjects, especially for north aspects.

Flowers that come next in succession are Narcissus, Anemone, Ranunculus, Polyanthnas, Pansy, Wallflowers, Lily, the Valley, Brompton, and many more. Then come Nemophila and Mignonette, Lobelia speciosa, Echeverias, Cyclamenus, Musc, Heath, Amanthus, Cinerarias, the graceful Dielytra spectabilis, and many others, followed by all the flowers of summer. I have no beginning in this or her original genius I would recommend copying the work of others, just as artists in another department study the models of their predecessors. The following arrangement has been admired—the box painted green and planted with scarlet and white Pelargoniums mixed with yellow Calceolarias bordered with Musk and Lobelia species. But the last touch of art was the arch wreathed with Canary Creeper (Tropaeolum peregrinum, commonly called canariensis), and passing from end to end of the boxes, growing between the stones, may be objectionable in some cases, as they obscure the view; but that does not apply to the training of creepers up the sides of the windows, which has a charming effect. The various kinds of Pelargoniums breed the list of summer flowers for the boxes: and the number is so great, and the variety that contrasts may be obtained without the use of other flowers, except small ones used as edgings; or the Pelargoniums may be planted with patches of such annuals as Nemophila and Mignonette between them, beginning with plants already named, and with Sweet Peas, Convulculus, Canary Creeper, and Ecoremops ran a classy running up the window sides.

Sub-tropical plants, such as Dracons, Ficus, Palms, and others, have become favourites in recent times, but without enlarging on them here, I must be content to notice two methods by which renewals may be effected, namely, by means of one’s own reserve garden and greenhouse, or by purchase. The latter is probably the cheapest method, especially in towns where plants of all sorts are provided in enormous quantities, and where private gardening is a costly pleasure. H. E.

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

CYTRYPEDION BELLATULUM, n. sp.

This is near to C. Godfroye. The leaves, however, are blunt, very strong, 10 inches long by 3 inches in width, beautifully marbled with light hieroglyphic spots above, with innumerable brown dots underneath. The immense flower, 11 inches in circumference, is spotted all over, some of the spots being very large; the colour is white, or whitish-yellow. It is an introduction of the indefatigable Messrs. H. Low & Co. The staminode is novel. It is much longer than in any other variety, oblong, truncate at the apex, nearly free from hairs, and beautifully spotted with peculiar, circular markings. I have studied numbers of flowers of the affinity. No one, however, has been so liberal in sending specimens as Mr. W. P. Barter, who has been kind enough to send me some numbers of flowers of Cytripedium Godfroye always with their leaves. And all that number does not show a single staminode comparable to that of Mr. W. Low’s sending. H. E. Low [Certified at the Royal Horticultural Society, May 22. Ed.]

POLYSTACHYA LEONENSIS, Robb. f.

This curious little Polystachya, described a long time since, is now, I believe, in cultivation in the Niger Expedition (Otta Bot. Hamburg, p. 112) has at length been introduced alive, and may be seen in flower in the New collection. It was received from Sierra Leone, and so closely resembles Barter’s dried specimen collected that I have scarcely a doubt is belongs to the same species. The very characteristic thick roots, clothed with white velvety tomentum, the habit, and the velutinous peduncle and pedicels, enable me to compare the racemes at present a little shorter, I think this merely a question of development, for I can find no essential difference in the flowers. This specimen enables me to add a note as to the bulbs, which are very depressed, half an inch across, and arranged in a string along the creeping rhizome so thickly as to touch each other. The upper sepalas and petals are light green, the lateral sepals suffused with brownish-purple in their lower half, the lip white, with the lateral lobes suffused with light purple behind, the front lobe, the central keel and the basal part of the lip covered with a curious white mealiness. H. R. Delf.