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Society's Day, November 11 and 12, 1887.

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HYBRID TEAS.

There has, however, of late years been an attempt to establish another class—what are called hybrid Teas; and this has tended to create no little confusion—a confusion which I can but think is likely to make "confusion worse confounded." The hybrid perpetual Roses originated from the hybrid China crossed with varieties of China and Bourbon Roses. "The hybrid China itself owes its origin," says Mr. Rivers (than whom there is no higher authority), "to the Tea-scented Noisette and Bourbon Roses, fertilised with the French Provinces and other summer Roses, and also to the latter crossed with the former;" so that if we take any hybrid perpetual and seek for its parentage, it would be very difficult to determine it. In some there is a manifest evidence of Tea blood, so that when any one commences to hybridise them with Teas, or vice versa, it is not the same as hybridising two distinct species—the blood is already mixed up, and the term pedigree as applied to them is a misnomer [not necessarily, Ed.]. The first of the so-called hybrid Teas was Cheshunt Hybrid, a chance seedling raised by Messrs. Paul & Son; it is by them supposed to be a seedling between Madame de Tartas and Camille de Rohan; it has been and is a most useful Rose of a colour not beloved by the fair sex, but most free-flowering, and as a climbing Rose valued in all parts of the world. La France evidently has a good deal of Tea blood in it, but had always been classed as a hybrid perpetual till of late years Guillot has placed it with Reine Marie Henriette, Camoens, &c., amongst the hybrid Teas.

The confusion created by attempting to make this a separate class led to the matter being brought before the committee of the National Rose Society, which had already decided that they were not to be exhibited amongst Teas; and it was by them decided that, however called, hybrid Teas or pedigrees, they must be regarded as hybrid perpetuals, and shown with them. This arose mainly from one instance of the results of the attempt to make a new class. At one show a stand for hybrid perpetuals was disqualified because it contained a bloom of Lady Mary Fitzwilliam, while a few days after the Silver Medal for the best hybrid perpetual at the provincial show of the National Rose Society at Manchester had been awarded to it, Wild Rose.

(Calculated.)

IRIS GERMANICA.

To grow what will really flourish in his particular garden, instead of breaking his heart over plants that are quite unsuited to his soil and climate, is advice which old gardeners continually find themselves impressing upon the beginner. I am induced to say a few words upon the so-called German Irises, because they are plants so good-natured as to do well in most places—even in town gardens—if treated with a moderate amount of kindness, and, when once planted, left undisturbed. I was told when I began to cultivate these Irises that they were fond of damp, and though I doubted the truth of the statement then, I have no doubt as to its truth now; mine, at any rate, do best in the dry part of the garden.

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