



THE

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

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and can be counted and valued, and their condition indicates how they have been manured and otherwise treated. In some parts of Italy it is the practice to make an inventory of all the trees on a holding when the tenant enters, describing the number of trees of each kind in each enclosure, indicating the condition of the whole in general, if not of each, and valuing them. When the tenant quits, a similar inventory is made, and he is entitled to receive, or required to pay, any difference in the two valuations, according to whether he has caused appreciation or deterioration during his tenancy. Whether or not any allowance is made for natural improvement on the one hand, or deterioration similar to the reasonable "wear and tear" in a house, on the other, I cannot say. Perhaps some such plan could be adopted in this country.

The simplest reform, however—and I believe that fruit growers and farmers can get it if they will but act together—would be that of striking out the stipulation in the Agricultural Holdings Act which requires the landlord's consent to entitle the tenant to compensation for planting fruit trees, and for other permanent improvements. But as I have always been a friend—an unappreciated friend—to landlords, I must state one objection to this proposal. It would be hard to come down upon a poor, embarrassed landlord, or upon one fairly well-to-do, but only a tenant for life, for £20 an acre or more on 100 or 200 acres, in the form of compensation to an outgoing tenant. Therefore, it seems to me that if the tenant is to be entitled to compensation for costly improvements made without the landlord's consent, the latter should have the option of presenting the right of free sale to the former. Or, perhaps, as landlords have always opposed free sale, it will be but a fitting lesson to them to make the amendment in the Agricultural Holdings Act just suggested, and to leave them to sue for free sale which, I fancy, under the altered circumstances, many of them would very quickly demand. At any rate, in one way or another, I contend, it is the right and the duty of the public to insist that the law of the land shall be so altered as to encourage, instead of hindering, the greatest profitable development of the resources of the soil. They should not recognise the right of a man who is allowed to "hold an estate in land"—the nearest approach to absolute ownership recognised by the law of this country—to keep it as a desert waste, or anything like a desert waste, if it will pay for improvement, and there are capitalists able and willing to improve it. Or, to limit the application of this principle of public right and duty to the subject before us, I say that the people of this country, desirous as they are to see planting increased, should insist on their representatives in Parliament, without unnecessary delay, so amending or adding to the statutes as to afford to every cultivator of the soil full security for the unexhausted value of any improvement in the planting and culture of fruit which he is able and willing to carry out.

PLANT NOTES.

OXALIS BOWEL.

THERE are a great number of really pretty-flowered Wood Sorrels, and Kew is the only place in England where a representative collection of them may be seen. One of the very best of them is that above named. It is a free-growing plant, with trifoliate leaves 4 inches across on stalks 8 inches long; the leaflets are broad obovate, 2½ inches across, bright green, rather fleshy. The flowers are in umbels on the end of drooping peduncles 1 foot long. There are about a dozen flowers in each umbel, each having a stalk 1½ inch long; the corolla is fully 1 inch across, perfectly circular, and coloured deep rose with a yellow eye. To grow this plant to perfection, it should be planted in a border, as it is at Kew in the succulent house, where several clumps of it have been in flower for some weeks. Probably it would do equally well in baskets. It is a plant which may be recommended as a first-rate winter-flowering greenhouse Oxalis.

BEGONIA GERANIODES.

This has the reputation of being a small uninteresting plant, with white flowers, and a delicate constitution, and we have never seen it grown as a pot plant when it did not deserve that reputation; but when planted in a border in a warm, dry, sunny greenhouse, it is a really charming Begonia, which is saying a good deal in these days of Begonia wonders. Two years ago about fifty tubers of *B. geranioides* were imported direct from Natal to Kew. They were planted in a horder in a Succulent-house under the conditions which have been so successful with *Streptocarpus*. The Begonias are in flower now. They have kidney-shaped leaves, 6 inches across, on erect stalks 8 inches long. The flowers are on erect leafy panicles a foot high, and each flower is 1½ inch across, snow-white, with a small button-like bunch of bright yellow stamens in the middle. Each plant has quite a sheaf of blossom, and as every flower faces upwards, the effect is charming. The female flowers have five segments, and a large three-winged white ovary. These plants have been in flower about a month, and they are still very fine.

CASSEDEEIRA TRIPHYLLA.

This Fern has just been added to the cultivated collection at Kew. It is quite distinct from any other Fern known to me, and it is pretty enough to be noted here. The fronds are 4 inches high, erect; the stalks wiry and shining black, the blade trifoliate, each leaflet 1½ inch long, and less than a quarter of an inch wide, crenulate, deep shining green. The sori are in close rows along the margin of the segments, on the underside. The genus is related to *Cheilanthes*. The plant at Kew is a compact little tuft of fronds, and it appears to thrive perfectly in a dry, sunny greenhouse. It is a native of Brazil. *W. Watson.*

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

CYPRIPEDIUM CENANTHUM, JOSEPHINE JOLIBOIS ×, *hyb. gall.*

THIS comes very near to *Cypridium cenanthum* superbum. But its flower is larger, and the staminode is quite distinct. The leaf at hand is quite of *Harrisianum* shape and is covered with rather obscure, dark, interrupted, broken bars. The bract is much shorter than the hairy, green, india-purple ribbed ovary, green with indian-purple lines and freckles. The dorsal sepal is very broad, adorned with an upper white, broad margin, with numerous india-purple veins on the light green, inferior part, and the veins are covered with darker spots of the same colour, which give a moniliform appearance. Petals nearly ciliate, ligulate acute, of a pallid ochre ground colour, greenish at the base, where there are numerous roundish dark, india-purple spots. The whole traversed by ten dark, purplish-brown nerves with some short, transverse, oblique bars in the anterior part running from one longitudinal nerve to the next. Dorsal sepal narrow, shorter than the lip, with india-purple nerves outside on the lightest greenish ground, quite covered with dense short purple hairs, while inside these are but a few short lines of India-purple freckles, not surpassing the base. The lip is that of *Cypridium Harrisianum*, very pallid, having much olive colour underneath, some light brownish-purple above, and an ochre-coloured margin around the mouth. The involved margins of the stalk have numerous light, round spots; similar ones are to be seen in the interior, covered with very numerous dark hairs. The staminode is yellow, finally light-red-dish, rather retuse in front, with two large lateral lobes and a very small apiculus in the sinus of both.

Mr. R. Measures, of The Woodlands, Streatham, the *facile princeps* of *Cypridists*, has raised this from *Cypridium Harrisianum* and *C. insigne* Chantini.

There can be no doubt if we knew how near all these varieties of *Cypridium insigne* stand one to another, that those children of *insigne* and *Harrisianum* should be kept under the common name of *C. cenanthum* ×. I have good reason to believe that this is also the view of Mr. R. Measures. Allusion is made to a similar plant in the *Journal de la Société*

Nationale d'Horticulture de France, 3rd series, ix., May, 1888, p. 296. Mons. M. R. Jolibois, jardinier en chef au Luxembourg, crossed *C. Harrisianum* and *C. insigne* Chantini in 1882, and the first flower opened, after a very long period in bud, on April 15, 1888. It was dedicated to Madame Josephine Jolibois, the mother of Mons. Jolibois. I suppose it must be the same, though there is no full description given. Monsieur R. Jolibois states, that some plants have simply green leaves, while others show "les feuilles maculées," which, no doubt, refers to the darker broken bars, above-mentioned. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

CYPRIPEDIUM ELLIOTTIANUM, n. sp.

This glorious new introduction of Messrs. Sander & Co.'s, from the Philippines is now in bloom at the St. Albans Nursery. The plant is of noble habit, resembling *C. Stonei*; leaves bright green, from 1 foot to 15 inches long, and 1½ to 2 inches broad; the older stout purple-dotted scape, over 1 foot in height, bore evidence of the presence of five flowers, but on that in bloom only two. The bracts are spathaceous, and very showy, from 1—1½ inch long, whitish, with narrow chocolate lines. The 2-inch long ovaries bear handsome flowers, which call to mind the beautiful *C. Rothschildianum* and *C. praestans*, from both of which, however, it is widely distinguished. The dorsal sepal is 1½ inch wide and 2¼ long, pointed, ivory-white, with fifteen dark crimson lines of various lengths; the lower sepals are similar, but smaller. The lip is nearly like that of *C. Stonei* in colour and shape, and has the same fold on the under side; ivory-white, delicately veined and tinted rose. The petals are also white, spotted in the upper portion with crimson blotches, which run into three or four narrow lines to the points, the upper portions being wavy and ciliated, much as in *C. Sanderianum*. The staminode (unless abnormal) is narrow and curved under, as in *C. Rothschildianum*. Altogether it is a very beautiful species, which seems to embody the good features of most of its section. *James O'Brien.*

THE GENUS POLYCYCNIS.

This is a highly curious little genus of Orchids, occasionally met with in cultivation, though perhaps less commonly at the present time than some years ago, when *Gongoras*, *Catasetum*, *Cynoches*, and other allied genera, were more in fashion. The rare *P. lepida* is just now flowering in the Kew collection, thus furnishing a convenient opportunity for giving a brief account of the known species of the genus. *Polycynis* was described in 1855 by Professor Reichenbach (*Bonplandia*, iii., p. 218), the name being derived from *polys*, many, and *kyknos*, a swan, in allusion to the numerous flowers on the raceme, each having a slender, gracefully curved column, like the neck of a swan; in fact, the genus is very closely allied to *Cynoches*, the swan's-neck Orchids, though at present it has not been known to play such singular freaks as producing sometimes one kind of flowers, and at other times totally differently ones, occasionally varying the proceedings by developing both kinds of flowers at once. One may perhaps say that it bears the same relation to *Cynoches* that *Mormodes* does to *Catasetum*, for *Mormodes* only produces one kind of flowers, while its more sportive relation has no fewer than three kinds, and more than once accomplished the seemingly impossible feat of presenting to Dr. Lindley flowers of two different genera on the same inflorescence—a freak which that accomplished botanist found not a little perplexing. However, we are aware of these tricks at the present day, and shall, perhaps, learn more of the history of this strange genus when some one will take in hand the cultivation of as many of the species as can be got together. Some of the species are certainly handsome, all of them grotesque, and few genera are more imperfectly known. But to return to our subject. *Polycynis* has more of the general appearance of *Gongora* than of any other genus, though its free upper sepal readily distinguishes it; for in *Gongora* the upper sepal and column are united for some distance, one appearing