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VINES ON WALLS.

Amongst other old books on gardening I happen to possess two, both of which give considerable prominence to the culture of Vines on walls. Of course, the means for growing fruit of any kind under glass two hundred years ago would have been only too rich by people now, and those of limited means were desirous of cultivating Grape-vines, it would become a question of utilising walls for the purpose or going without Grapes. Even now, as one can walk through the villages of Surrey and some other counties in the south of England, where a gable end of a house is exposed to the south, a while Sweetwater Grape-vine has been planted, probably not in quite recent years, as many of them may be considered to have been planted half a century or more ago. In most cases they bear very poor Grapes, nor anything like a fair crop, not because the Vines are too old, but because sufficient attention is not given to them. The numerous main branches have been fixed to the walls years ago, and the laterals have been spurred back year after year, until they are now so wide that they form upon the County Council lecturers might instruct the villagers both gradually to cut out the old gnarled stems and replace them by young wood trained up from the base of the Vine, as only in this way can fruitful spurs be obtained.

Vines grown out-of-doors are liable to mildew; this troublesome pest invariably settles upon the bunches, and I do not know an better way to guard against this than to cover the bunches with a mixture of flour and leaves from it without singeing with soft soap water in which some flowers-sulphur has been well mixed. The sulphur can be singed off with clear water subsequent to the bunches, and the term of gariners who grow Vines under glass, is unknown upon out-of-doors Vines. With proper cultivation I get bunches of Grapes weighing 2 lb. on the south end of my house, but they seldom ripen well. The red are trained in the same way as that in which gariners train them in vineyards.

A good treatise on fruit-culture was written by a clergyman, the Rev. John Lawrence A.M., rector of Yelverton, Northamptonshire, and published by Bernard Lintot, between the Temple Gates in Fleet Street, in 1716. The worthy clergyman was a good gariner, and had to work with limited means, and he has devised methods to ripen his Grapes, such as training the Vines on the sloping roofs, and also by putting the bunches into flasks (glass flasks probably, but he does not say so). In the flask syriphes soon to them in order to make the mould for the free air, and has an insipid taste; and the slopes, though they subjected the more of the sun's rays, yet did the fruit more to the rains, dew, and wind. This rector, evidently self-taught, had some failures, but he gave the sum of his successful culture of Vines and fruit-trees in this very fourth edition. He found that walls were best, and the climate was much the same as our own, although Old Sol, according to the astronomers, must have increased twenty miles or so in diameter by combustion during the intervening years.

The varieties cultivated were the White Muscadine and the Black Cluster—these were two most to be depended upon, and the White Raisin Grape was admirable for tarts. Doubtless if the same care were exercised in cultivating Grape-vines now, and the right season of the same measure of success would be attained. Our author writes—"Vine of all others needs pruning most, and though it is easiest performed yet it is least understood. Our climate is not so favourable, and the sun so bountiful of his ripening heats, but there is need of all the care and the greatest art to help nature forward in bringing Grapes to any degree of perfection in England," but I think slyly and timely care has seldom been possessed by a year but I had good Grapes, and most years great plenty." Mr. Lawrence deals with all manner of fruit-trees, and gives excellent advice as to planting, pruning, and subsequent summer and autumn treatment.

As some evidence of the interest taken in fruit-tree culture another book on the same subject was published in that year, 1717, "The Improver in Paradise Retrieved; or a Method of Managing and Improving Fruit-trees against Walls or in Hedges, contrary to Mr. Lawrence and others upon Gardening," by Samuel Collins, Esq. Printed for John Collins, Seedsman, near against the Maypole in the Strand.

Mr. Collins seems to have rushed into print principally to show the mistakes in practice and errors of judgment made by the aforesaid worthy Rector. I did not intend to follow in the discussion of this subject to the importance each author attached to Vines and Vine culture on walls. Mr. Collins advises two ways of growing them; the more practical of the two was to train the growth in single rods to the wall, although the distances apart, 14 inches, would be too close to each other. Once in eight or nine years each rod was to be cut down near to the ground, and young rods were to take their place, the cultivator of course being careful only to cut down intermediate shoots, so that the wall would always be furnished with fruiting canes while the young canes were in process of development. His second method was to train three canes from one root up to the top of a wall furnished with fan-trained Peaches and Nectarines. These Vines fill the wall to the top at what height sooner, and as the roots do not prejudice the stone, there is none of the leaves damage the fruits, but in wet summers very much condude to the keeping of it soundly."

In the first decade of the nineteenth century an improvement in the methods of cultivating fruit-trees was written by Mr. Wm. Forsyth, gardener to His Majesty at Kensington and St. James's, and it is rather curious that he should deal with the treatment of Vines on walls which he has planted between the wall and the house as the trees trained exactly as recommended by Mr. Collins nearly a hundred years previously. The Vines had been badly neglected at the time they passed into the care of Mr. Forsyth. The fruit produced was small, hard and unripe, and was sent to the table." He cut them down and trained up two canes from each plant, allowing them to grow to their full length. Two of these canes produced 120 fine bunches of Grapes, weighing about a pound and a quarter each. The following year (1791) he trained five Vines in the same way with considerable success, and in the third year, when all the Vines on the wall had been furnished with young wood (1793), he sent "for the use of His Majesty and the royal family, 378 baskets of Grapes, each weighing about 3 lb." Mr. Forsyth does not state whether the garden was at Kensington Palace or at St. James's, nor does he state the variety from which he obtained such good results. For the results were good, as he adds, "Every one who saw them said that the large bunches were as fine as forced Grapes." The varieties recommended by Mr. Forsyth for open walls were the July Grape, and specially Morillon Noire Halte, the white or common Muscadine or Chasselas, the white Frigant or Muscat Blanc, the small black Cluster; the Aurena or true Burgundy Grape the best for making wine.

There are hundreds of gable ends of houses and walls furnished with Grape-vines, which bear none or worthless fruit, owing to their neglect, or care, and not being kept upon them; the old branches have, as has been stated, had the laterals spurred back in some instances for half a century, until the Vine is utterly exhausted. I know plenty such, but are of no value whatsoever, positions that
Quick," adding "that he had never seen a thick base to any hedge made with this plant." This no doubt was owing to the fact that the plants were not allowed to become established on the ground the first year after planting, as recommended by me on p. 29. Or it may have been that the Frenchman was not accustomed to having the plants as soon as planted, in order not to waste time. H. W. Ward.

THE Evesham Gardeners' French Trip: will it bear fruit?—Some of the elder of the Evesham Rural Society visited France last winter with excellent results. They had no very doubtful of the result of trying to force Lettuce after the French method in Evesham, and point out that as many as thirty years ago there were great quantities of ripe Lettuce on the market in December. The work is done near Paris. But they forget that they did not try the right variety, and it is pretty certain that no better can be obtained than that which the Frenchman does. Everything depends upon that work being properly performed. Then it is claimed that the atmosphere in the valley of the Aven is too humid, and that the plants will damp off. The remedy for that is care and attention in the ventilation of the frames and cloches. The difficulty of obtaining manure is probably more imaginary than real, it can be bought in Birm- mingham if wanted, and the railing companies are certain to grant special rates, for they already carry manure from London 106 miles into a fruit-growing district for 5d. a ton. I understand the work of this kind for Evesham if properly approached, and that would bring the cost of the manure up to about 6s. a ton. Would the Lettuce manure be on this ground that there was not to that is, that the Frenchman with expenses heavier than those of the Evesham grocer can send to Paris for carriage of a freight of 5s. a ton, against the Evesham man's 25s., and still make a handsome profit. The experiment is to be made. In a week or so the retired gardener who conducted the Evesham men through the Vity and Juvy gardens will be in Evesham for the purpose of deciding for himself how the experiment sets to work. It is hoped that he will be accompanied by another gardener, who is likely to remain in the district for at least two years, for a very large number of growers are negotiating with him to take an engagement for that period. We shall see what we shall see. Within the last few weeks a large number of glasshouses have been built close to Evesham, and from this it is evident that some of the younger generation of gardeners realise the importance of branching out in a fresh direction. It has always been a source of surprise that in this fertile valley so little is tried in the way of new stocks, but this is now disappearing. Perhaps in no branch of their work do the Evesham men need instruction so much as in transplanting, which is the reverse of their former vegetable. Of recent years there has been a steady improvement in this direction, and less is heard of the parasitic and injurious habit of "chasing," the leaf held in the hand by the young plant, notoriety, but there is still need for great improvement. A case bearing on the necessity of grading fruit occupied Judge Ingham and a jury for some hours on Saturday last. A gardener and dealer, of Hampton, near Evesham, sued a firm of brokers of Covert Garden in £29 2s. 10d. for breach of contract in the purchase of 300 "pots" of Blenheim Apples at 5s. a pot, for planting the same at the contract price, and what plaintiff realised when defendants refused to accept delivery. The plaintiff proved that he purchased 250 lots of best Blenheim at 5s. a pot, all the small to be sorted out. Two consignments of Apples were sent, and both regarded as being large in quantity. The defendants refused to accept any more, so plaintiff had to sell the Apples as best he could. Plaintiff had paid good money for the Apples at a proportion of seconds and, that the best were not very special. For the plaintiff evidence was called to the effect that the fruit was sorted, and that only best Blenheim were sent. After purchase, the fruit was inspected, and the best graded and returned at the following words: "The only question I shall ask the jury is: Were the Apples which were re- turned not just as much, had as much flesh and all been sorted out? You have heard the expert evidence and you have seen the Apples. It is for you after some consultation answered the question in the negative, but intimated that they would like to know whether the below of the department of criticism. The work of this sort is that it is proving satisfactory in these gardens, making healthy growth and cropping exceedingly well. The best French varieties are: Anna Whitehead, its nature. J. C. W., Denbigh.[Our correspond- ent sent excellent specimens of both varieties. Ed.]

I have found this Apple to be by far the most certain cropper, surpassing in this respect both Newton Wonder and Aflatoon. The latter variety does not finish well here, and consequently thrives with keeping. I find Newton Wonder keeps for the longest period, while Lane's Prince Albert keeps well to the end and should certainly add to the interest of this district to plant the variety, as it is a sure cropper. Geo. Ellis, Night Hall Gardens, Ripley, Yorks.

— Mr. Thomas Salisbury in a recent issue of the 'Gardeners' Chronicle,'煌s a list of excellent Apple Lane's Prince Albert. We have no hesitation in saying that in our opinion it has no equal, its cropping capabilities are not compared with those of any other culinary Apple, and with regard to its colour and appearance we saw several tons of this Apple as high as 16s. the ton. It is a large, good dessert variety, and is very desirable. The last variety will turn the scale at 1½ to 2l., and will keep in condition till the end of March, being now in as good a state as at the beginning of February. We do not doubt your correspondent picked his fruits before they were ready for gathering. Mr. Nye, Manager, Wallpole Orchard Co., Watford, Worcestershire.


NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

CYPIFERIUM GRAFTRIAXIUM (Sect. Faphiopedilum), Hook. SANDER.

Unseen this name Meers, Sander & Son, of St. Albans, exhibited a new species of the plant here illustrated (fig. 35). The flowers have so much of the appearance of those of some forms of C. insignis or C. exul, that if be considered as distinct, it is difficult to determine its character or matter of opinion, but the habit is different, and we are told that the leaves are broader than in any form of C. exul. The plant is tufted, the leaves 20cm. long, dark green, tapering to a point. The leaf is linear-oblong, channelled in the middle of the upper surface, midrib prominent beneath, tapering to the base, where they are sharply folded and purple spotted. Apex rounded, minutely notched. The flowers are at their widest expansion, and are borne on a scape which is covered near the top with fine purplish hairs. Bract oblong lanceolate, purple-dotted, with the margins recurved and three-ridged ovary. Standard broadly ovate undulate, puberulous on the outer surface, contracted but not recurved at the base; greenish at the base and margins, the length 2½cm., the width 1½cm., the base and margins porcelain.-white, the whole studded with rather large, nearly
circular purple spots. Lower sepal about half the size of the upper one, shorter than or very slightly exceeding the length of the lip, oblong; greenish with a few purplish dots; lateral petals spreading shining projecting boss near the apex. The most striking differences between this plant and C. exul are to be found in the habit, foliage, and in the standard, which tapers to the base, and

Obituary.

John Kitley. — We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. John Kitley, for the past few years manager to the Orchard Company, Ltd., Scotby, Carlisle. Mr. Kitley was well known as a practical horticulturist, and was well-versed in Agriculture and Forestry. For many years he managed the extensive estates of Eldumurochus, Inverness-shire, removing from there to

FIG. 35. — CYPRIPEDIUM (§ PAPHIPEDILUM) GRAVITANUM (HORT. SANDER).

Flowers greenish-yellow, dorsal sepal porcelain-white above, purple-spotted

ing, slightly incurved, oblong-spataulate, wavy at the margins, pale greenish-brown, and shining; lip of a similar but deeper colour, with a shell-like convolute prolongation on either side; column slightly hairy at the base; staminode roundish, flattened, yellowish, villosulous, with a in the side-lobes of the lip, which are more prolonged. The plant is a native of Annam.

The drawing was made in the nursery of Messrs. Sander, and the description was drawn up from a specimen kindly furnished by those gentlemen. M T. M.