THE
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE
A Weekly Illustrated Journal
of
HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.
(Established in 1841.)

VOL. XXIII.—THIRD SERIES.

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1898.

LONDON:
41, WELLINGTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.
1898.
OLD ORCHARDS.

OFFICIAL returns give a total exceeding 112,000 acres as devoted to orchards in the counties of Hereford shire, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, and Worcestershire, this being considerably more than half the acreage occupied with orchards in the whole of England. At first sight this total looks very encouraging, for all who believe that no better Apples are grown than those produced on British soil; but unfortunately it is misleading, and, like many bare official statistics, requires investigation before a correct idea can be formed of the true meaning. A survey of the counties named gives a different aspect to the question, and I have no hesitation in saying that one-half of the acreage recorded is occupied with worthless trees, or with those that are rapidly approaching this condition. This opinion is not the result of a cursory examination, but has been formed after some years of observation and repeated journeys through the chief districts of the five counties mentioned. The subject has been impressed upon my mind most forcibly by recent opportunities for studying the matter, and it seems to me of such importance that I have submitted this brief review of the subject to the Editor of the Gardeners' Chronicle, in the hope that he may be able to find space for it in its widely-read pages.

When the general extension of orchard planting in England took place, in the beginning and towards the middle of the seventeenth century, the principal object in view was the production of cider. It is recorded that Lord Scudamore, when ambassador in France during the reign of Charles I., obtained from Normandy large numbers of scions of the best cider Apples, which were introduced into Herefordshire and distributed throughout the country.

When Dr. John Beale published his treatise on the Hereford orchards in 1657, he considered them "a pattern for the whole of England," and there is abundant evidence from his and other writers that in those early days considerable and careful attention was given both to the selection of varieties and to general cultivation. But Herefordshire seems to have been well in advance, though, in later years, both Somersetshire and Devonshire became equally celebrated, and for a period, the last-named county was pre-eminent for its cider production. Certainly, when Hugh Stafford's Treatise on Cider Making appeared in 1729 it was an important industry there, and had been so for many years.

In the seventeenth century, many writers contributed greatly to the extension of Apple culture, and it must be said that the methods advocated in the majority of cases were very closely in accord with the best practice of modern times. The orchards were primarily selected for their qualities as cider-fruits, enormous quantities of this beverage were manufactured, and for a time the best brands are said to have effectually taken the place of the French and German wines amongst the higher classes of society. It was also the labourer's constant drink. In the latter case, after a time, fermented malt liquors gradually superseded the lighter cider, and to this end, probably, less careful methods of preparation had contributed. As the cider industry declined, so the interest in the orchards waned, and as large numbers of the trees were of varieties unfitted for other use, the fruit was of little value for sale, and the plantations were simply left to themselves.

What is most strikingly evident in the majority of the old orchards at the present time is not the result of ten or twenty years' neglect, it is the effect of a decadence of interest which must in many instances date back to or beyond the beginning of the nineteenth century. It has been said that in the England of 1729, all will live to an age of 200 to 1,000 years, but there is little doubt the most profitable period in the life of a standard Apple-tree on the crab stock is from twenty to sixty or eighty years; at least so far as my experience and observation extend. This period, of course, is not defined, is usually broken by the death of the scions; it is known, this appears to be the time when the greatest crops are borne, though in regard to healthy trees the period may be prolonged to 100 years or more. This of course is assuming that the orchard cultivation has been consistently followed throughout. If it ever was, one thoroughly stunted very little can be done to alter it, and the best treatment seems lost. By far the most serious neglect is in the want of attention to cultivating the soil over the roots and around the trees. The older writers generally the greed in injury resulting to the trees. That permanent injury does result from growing
and satisfactory to both sides. This has been done in the following ways, and either of the first two might well be extended: 1st, the landlord finding all the trees, and the tenant undertaking the labour of land-preparation, planting, and subsequent attention to 2nd, the tenant providing both trees and labour, but with an agreement that at the termination of his tenancy he shall receive compensation based on valuation from the incoming tenant or landlord, and 3rd, the tenant supplying trees and labour, but the former remits for his ownership, property, to be disposed of as he may determine, but the land-owner not to be liable for compensation.

The last is the least satisfactory, and in some cases resulted in very hard proceedings, for if a difference should arise between the landlord and tenant, the latter, unless he holds a lease, may be compelled to quit without realising any return for his labour and expense.

On the other hand, a careless tenant may allow his plantation to become a disgrace and danger to the neighbouring orchards. In the other cases the landlord has some control over the cultivation, as it is part of the contract that the trees shall be properly tended.

Thoughtful men who are interested in horticultural or agricultural questions of the day cannot but recognise that with the enormous demand for pulpwood, a simple means of increasing our own supplies—but these must consist of good fruit; and wherever planting is undertaken, proved varieties only should be selected. The poor and damaged fruits being exported is a most unsightly sight, and when some great foreign public or collector's letter brings down the prices, injures the trade, and convey very erroneous ideas of the returns to be realised from good fruit. A Planter.

**NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.**

*CYPRIPEMIDUM CRAWSHAWI*. & sp.

Some time ago, Messrs. J. Charleworth & Co., of Heaton, Bradford, received from the Slan States a few plants of a quite new Cypripedium, which after the manner peculiar to many good things, did not readily bear fruit. The plant which I have seen somewhat resembles C. parishii in growth, but the size and size of the plant are more those of C. Charlesworthii. It is a very beautiful thing, more fleshly than those of that species, and bright green above, and entirely greyish-green beneath, the plant in no part exhibiting the purple markings usually so well-marked in this species. The collector's letter sends with a fine dried flower have now been forwarded. The collector says: "It is an entirely new Cypripedium. The flower-stalk is pale green and hairy; the flower is shaped like Cypripedium Charlesworthii, but it is larger, and the purple markings are entirely absent. In this the upper sepal is pure white, with a pale green blotch at the base, and a very slight tinge of the same colour at the tip. The petal is greenish-white, or greenish-yellow, together with a greeng-fiallour colour—my natives describe this as 'waen-pye-a-ban'—a soft yellow. The welfare of this very glorious, and I consider it a much finer thing than C. Charlesworthii." The dried flower sent to me by the collector to bear out the collector's statement exactly. It may roughly be described as resembling C. insignis Sandeiro, in colour, but with none of the form of C. Charlesworthii. However, it is superior to both. Mr. Charlesworth wishes it should be sterilised by his sister, James O'Brien.

**ORCHID NOTES AND GLEANINGS.**

**ONOTOGLOSSUM ISLEINAT.**

This plant greatly resembles O. grande in its pseudo-bulbs and foliage, the leaves being longer. The scape rises from the base of the leaves, and is erect. A plant now in flower, at the Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, is carrying fourteen flowers, the sepals and petals being pale yellow in colour, with constant-brown blotches and markings the lip a delicate purple. The column bears the distinguishing pair of horns of reddish-chocolate colour. It enjoys a position at the cool end of the Cattleya-house, and, flowering late in the year, is a useful introduction. The three varieties of this species and in cultivation distinct from the type in their broader sepals and petals, or in their colour, the best known of which is perhaps O. insleini sanderiana. It is a native of Mexico, and was first introduced by Mr. Moore in 1859. "K. & D."

**LELIA ALBIDA.**

This pretty winter-flowering Orchid seems to have flowering with exceptional beauty this year, if we may judge by the fine examples sent by various correspondents. The leaves of L. brownei, Exq., of Lilian- dundul, come a grand inference, the flowers of which were unusually large, the sepals and petals cream-white, the apex of the lip light rose, central keel dark orange colour. From Walter C. Walker, Esq., Winchmore Hill, the fine L. a. var. Stobartianus, with the sepals and petals tipped with rose-purple; and L. a. var. Walkeri, a still finer flower in the same way. Another fine form, with rose-purple sepals and petals, is sent me by Mr. J. Watts of Clifton. L. albida is perhaps the very floriforous plant, and with proper management it may be grown in an ordinary greenhouse or conservatory.

**THE ROSARY.**

**CLOTH OF GOLD ROSE.**

"Wild Rose" did well, in a recent issue, to call attention to the beautiful hardy roses which are grown at Sander's; but now another beauty comes into view. We had a very pretty specimen of the Cloth of Gold this season; it bears the description given it in the catalogue, and it has come true. The new form of the Cloth of Gold is no less common than Cloth of Gold, but the later the plant the more magnificent it is. The variety is also used with appreciation of the public, and with the increasing popularity of the other. And the probability is, that where the Cloth of Gold grew and bloomed in years long ago it would do equally well to-day. The old form of Cloth of Gold Roserished often through reckless slaughter, so pointed out by "Wild Rose," or through inadvertent cutting-back, severe pruning, or frost injury. Possibly your correspondent was in error in describing a Cloth of Gold Rose, with a stem 15 inches in diameter. [Circumference was intended. En.] But a point should be made of the size and age of the Cloth of Gold or other golden or other Rose, as showing their capabilities of withstanding severe treatment. If the Cloth of Gold or other Rose is of the true that the bigger, the better the Cloth-tree, and the harder, and also the more floriferous. Hence, in many cases, no sooner was the veteran Cloth of Gold or other Rose, than it was immediately exported, either by slow degrees or suddenly. The concentration of vital force into the few new growths the root shoots off into fishbone-like lengths, sappy, and full of life, and those ripening imperfectly would extend beyond the bounds of the plant. The stupid practice of cutting back old Ros or Rosette Rosess almost to the ground-line is responsible for the loss of many a valuable plant; and when breaking it for, apply to a competent man. The plants are shorn of their beauty. On the heels of such a practice follows a struggle for life, rather than a revival of health; and the younger and smaller shoots being more tender than the ancient stems that were cut out, hence a general decline in vigour sets in. This useless destruction of the aged Rosess left the more tender parts of the plants several feet nearer to the ground, thus probably reducing them to more degrees of cold than provide 10 to 20 feet higher. Hence, after all attempts being general or artificial, it takes some of the tenderer Rosess years to regain their normal degree of hardiness. This fact is evident by the losses amongst Marachel Niel as well as Clorinda. The collection of altitude on the hardiness of Rosess has not receive the attention it deserves, for thousands of plants of Marachel Niel have been killed to the ground line; while tall and beautiful plants of Deg-rosess, The Glory, Banksm, or climbing Rosess on high walls or up trees, have escaped unhurt. D. T. F.

**SEDUM SEMPERVIVUM.**

This new introduction from Asia Minor, found by M. Sieve of Mesia, is a pretty Sedum-like species possessing cinquefoil red flowers, which are produced in great abundance, see fig. 7, p. 19, which shows the plant of its natural size. It is a plant well adapted for carpet-beding, and everyone who has seen it is surprised at the beauty of the plant, U. Demarest. [This can hardly be called new. It is described at length by the Editor in our volume for December 14, 1873, p. 760.]

**NOVELTIES OF 1897.**

(Continued from p. 2.)

Messrs. F. SANDER & CO., St. Albans, out of their important collection have introduced Eriopis Helene, a pretty species with yellow winter flowers; Luedemannia Sandeira, a very distinct novelty; Maxillaria eleganlanta, yellow and purple; M. dichroma; the singular looking Lycaste Moreana, and the fine L. Smulni paledonture, and L. Deb.; also Leptotes nana, the singular white Delphinium Gratia-rndianum, and the floriferous D. Bancroftianum, said by some to be a form of D. speciosum, but quite a slender plant. Of these varieties of showy species, Messrs. Sanderflowered Cattleya McDonald floribunda, C. Stordeo "Queen Empress," C. Mossie "Empress of India," and C. M. rubens. Of their hybrids, the best are Cattleya *× Dominian "Empress," and L.-C. × "Our Queen," shown at the Royal Horticultural Society's show on June 13; and among their introductions to the Cattleya are C. × Mrs. D. Solomon (Lathamianum aureum × Spiricarianum); C. × Mrs. E. Uihlein (villorum aureum × Leuanum gigantiarum); C. × conci- villa, C. × Oakes Ames (Batacillium × clivire); C. × Clement Moore (Dautierni × Leuanum); C. × Rodklinia (Harrimana × insigne Sandeiro); and a number of others. Also in Messrs. Sander's list for the year are Leo-Cattleya × "Fire Queen," Odontog-losum grande var. Pittianum, Thino-Cultrata, Maxillaria, and others of not small importance to be described, either by slow degrees or suddenly. The concentration of vital force into the few new growths the root shoots off into fishbone-like lengths, sappy, and full of life, and those ripening imperfectly would extend beyond the bounds of the plant. The stupid practice of cutting back old Ros or Rosette Rosess almost to the ground-line is responsible for the loss of many a valuable plant; and when breaking it for, apply to a competent man. The plants are shorn of their beauty. On the heels of such a practice follows a struggle for life, rather than a revival of health; and the younger and smaller shoots being more tender than the ancient stems that were cut out, hence a general decline in vigour sets in. This useless destruction of the aged Rosess left the more tender parts of the plants several feet nearer to the ground, thus probably reducing them to more degrees of cold than provide 10 to 20 feet higher. Hence, after all attempts being general or artificial, it takes some of the tenderer Rosess years to regain their normal degree of hardiness. This fact is evident by the losses amongst Marachel Niel as well as Clorinda. The collection of altitude on the hardiness of Rosess has not receive the attention it deserves, for thousands of plants of Marachel Niel have been killed to the ground line; while tall and beautiful plants of Deg-rosess, The Glory, Banksm, or climbing Rosess on high walls or up trees, have escaped unhurt. D. T. F.