R.H.S YEAR BOOKS 1958

DAFFODIL AND TULIP

The 1958 issue is dedicated to Mr. Lionel Richardson, who is well known to all breeders and exhibitors of daffodils. Hot-water treatment, its value and effects, is the subject of two useful articles by Prof. van Slogteren, who has had many years experience with this practice and by Mr. D. Horton of the Rosewarne Experimental Station. Mr. Abbiss has contributed an article on Temperature Influence on Bulb Flowers in which he makes a number of interesting points based on his wide experience. Mr. Alec Gray grows a large number of the small narcissi and writes about Small Jonquils, pointing out their chief characteristics. Mr. Wilson gives his usual account of the season, the 1957 one being of particular interest; and Mr. Lea gives beginners some hints on breeding, based on his own experience. Once again there are a number of Overseas contributions and readers will be interested in what Kenneth and Catherine Smith have to say about British varieties in New York. Mr. J. P. Wister has sent an account of the growth of interest in daffodils in America since 1930. Reports of Shows from many countries; another long list of newly registered daffodil names; the results of the Daffodil Ballot and descriptions of many award plants are also included.

LILY

The 1958 issue is dedicated to Frank Kingdon-Ward, the well-known plant collector and explorer who has introduced a number of new lilies. Sir Frederick Stern writes about recent hybrids he has raised or grown at Highdown. There are several articles describing the cultivation of lilies in various parts of this country; Mr. D. Cuthbert writes on the lilies in his Northumberland garden, Mr. G. C. Taylor on lilies in Col. Leslie's garden in Norfolk and Lord Elphinstone discusses the cultivation of American hybrids in Scotland. Readers will be interested in Mr. de Graaff's article on commercial lily growing in Oregon, U.S.A. Other overseas contributions come from Mr. Byam who recounts his experience of lily growing in East Canada and Mr. Barnet writes from New Zealand. Mr. E. B. Anderson prepared a very informative and useful paper on the genus *Erythronium* for a Lily Group discussion and this is published in this issue.

FRUIT

Mr. Raymond Bush has written an interesting article on fruit-growing in Jamaica and includes commercial and garden fruits. Articles which will be of great practical value include: Renovating an old Orchard, by the late P. G. Saunders; Staking Fruit Trees, by Miss Hilary Hughes, and Peaches as Bush Trees, by Mr. N. H. Grubb. Two articles which make a good pair are: The Recognition of Injuries to Fruit, by Mr. D. Green and Mr. V. Fowler, and the Fruit Group Discussion on Spraying. Mr. Eric Hobbis describes an unfamiliar method of training "Pillar" trees and Mr. Fred Streeter contributes an extremely practical article on grape growing in cool houses. Articles of an historical nature include one by the Rev. C. L. Dunkerley, on notable fruit books of the nineteenth century, an account by Mr. C. S. Gundry on the evolution of apple growing in this country, and one on the Perry pear, by Mr. R. R. Williams.

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R.H.S. RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA YEAR BOOK 1958

THE RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA

YEAR BOOK—1958

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

12

THIS issue contains an interesting account of the life and work of the Rhododendron Society by Mr. G. H. Johnstone who was one of its founders. There is a full account of the gardens on the Island of Gigha and among the collections of rhododendrons described are those at Pylewell Park and Westbourn. Mr. Madison has contributed a very interesting article on the effect of the freak season of 1955 on rhododendrons in Seattle, U.S.A. Sir Giles Loder writes about the camellias he saw in California in the early part of the year and Mr. Frederic Heutte describes camellia growing in Virginia.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

Rhododendron cinnabarinum var. *roylei*

Colour photograph by
Michael Cox

Acknowledgements

TO THIS ONLINE EDITION

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Photo, Michael Cox

THE ISLE OF GIGHA

A very fine and unusual form of *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* var. *roylei*
(see p. 29)

THE RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA YEAR BOOK

1958

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CONTENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS

FOREWORD

THE 1958 edition of the *Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book* contains several articles from various parts of the world which should be of great interest to all those who grow or who wish to grow either rhododendrons or camellias. The chief features include the History of the Rhododendron Society, which was formed during the first world war, in 1915. This has been dealt with by MAJOR GEORGE JOHNSTONE in his usual thorough and informative style, and this is followed by an interesting note by MR. CHARLES ELEY, its first Honorary Secretary. The gardens described this year are those of Gigha, COLONEL HORLICK'S garden off the west coast of Scotland; Pylewell Park, belonging to MR. W. WHITAKER in Hampshire; and Westbourn, a small garden near Windsor Great Park belonging to MR. A. C. DOBBS, a well-known retired Eton school-master. That great azalea expert MR. DONALD WATERER writes about Ghent azaleas, which are still the backbone of many of the older azalea plantings in this country. From America comes an interesting contribution on the effect of the severe winter of 1955 on rhododendrons. This parallels to some extent our own survey of that same period in our last year book.

Camellias have been dealt with by three main articles, one by MR. FREDERIC HEUTTE, who describes how they are grown in Virginia and also how the camellia belt in America is gradually extending northwards into the Eastern States. The second account by COLONEL T. DURRANT deals with camellias growing in New Zealand, and last but not least, SIR GILES LODER has contributed a very interesting description of the camellias he saw growing in 1957 in California.

It is also satisfactory to note that the Rhododendron Show was unusually well filled with exhibits this year and showed great variety in spite of the vagaries of the weather.

DIGBY

THE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

By G. H. JOHNSTONE, O.B.E., V.M.H.

THE foundations of the Rhododendron Society were laid in 1915 when on March 15 the first meeting was held at Lanarth, St. Keverne, Cornwall, when there were present MR. C. C. ELEY, LT.-COMDR. J. G. MILLAIS, and MR. P. D. WILLIAMS, to whom at that time Lanarth of course belonged.

There is not much information to be gleaned from the minutes of the first meeting, at which "it was decided to form a Rhododendron Society". The Rules were drafted and a list of those to be invited to become the original members was prepared. This, and the election of MR. ELEY as Honorary Secretary, seem to have completed the business.

No list becomes available to us of those originally invited to join the Society until 1924, nor is any contemporary list of Rules now known to be extant, but the minute-book of the Society enables us through the mists of time to recognize the dim outline of the Rules which shaped its destiny until 1924, when a printed list of these, and of the members, was circulated, and we may assume that the thirteen who are there shown as having joined in 1915 formed the original membership. How limited was the membership at the beginning is shown by the minutes of the third meeting, in which notice is given of a resolution to increase the number of ordinary members to twenty-five. For the rest we can visualize those three friends assembled at Lanarth, where after an afternoon spent in that amazing garden, they sat together in the evening round the hospitable table of MR. P. D. WILLIAMS when the project of a Rhododendron Society formed the principal topic of conversation.

Amongst the Rules of the newly formed Society was one that bound members to contribute to a publication to be entitled *Notes of the Rhododendron Society* which would be circulated annually to all members. Whether or not these *Notes* quite gave expression to the original intention of the three founders is perhaps rather doubtful, but if what was visualized was a more or less intimate correspondence between members of the Society

concerning rhododendrons, their individuality, peculiarities and the difficulty or otherwise of growing them, the *Notes* reached a far higher standard than this and frequently attracted contributions from the leading authorities on the genus, both in this country and in America, most of which contributions remain today of the same practical value as when first published in the Society's *Notes*.

The second meeting, and so the first Annual General Meeting of the newly formed Society, was held at the Chelsea Show on May 23, 1916, when "The Rules and Regulations as printed and circulated were read and discussed, various amendments were suggested and certain alterations decided upon", and the Honorary Secretary was requested to bring forward the Rules and Regulations as amended for further consideration at the next meeting of the Society to be held in the month of October of the same year.

Amongst references to the Rules discussed at this Chelsea meeting of the Society and recorded in the minutes is: "Rule 2.—That the Society shall have power to elect Honorary Members who in number shall not exceed one-quarter of the Ordinary Members." The adoption of this Rule provided the Society with the means to confer the compliment of honorary membership of the Society on some of those who by their work on the genus, whether in this country or elsewhere, had stimulated interest in it, or who for other reasons were recognized authorities on rhododendrons. At the same meeting it was decided that "the Society shall at once commence its activities as laid down in the Rules", which the meeting then proceeded to do by electing as honorary members Professor Bayley Balfour, of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and Mr. W. J. Bean, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The next meeting of the Society was held at the Windsor Hotel, S.W., on October 12, 1916, when it was decided to confirm and adopt the Rules as now drafted; decision as to the printing of them to be postponed until the next Annual General Meeting of the Society.

At this, the second Annual General Meeting, Sir Frederick Moore, Director of the Glasnevin Botanic Garden, was elected an honorary member on the proposition of Sir John Ross, of Bladensburg, while Mr. G. W. E. Loder (later Lord Wakehurst) gave notice to move that the number of ordinary members should be increased to twenty-five. But probably the most productive business done at this meeting was the decision to appoint a small committee "to enquire as to the known forms of pure *Rhododendron*

caucasicum species; and secondly as to what hybrids of interest have been raised from it and why the work was discontinued".

This resulted in the appointment of SIR EDMUND LODER, MR. J. C. WILLIAMS and MR. G. W. E. LODER to constitute the committee, acting in conjunction with the Honorary Secretary. The committee subsequently decided that the work should be divided—SIR EDMUND LODER dealing with hybrids while his brother, GERALD LODER, and J. C. WILLIAMS undertook responsibility for reporting on the species, and the two reports appear in the first number of the first volume of the Society's *Notes* for 1916, wherein the fourteen pages containing them, together with ancillary correspondence between the members of the committee and PROFESSOR BAYLEY BALFOUR—subsequently SIR ISAAC—of Edinburgh Botanic Garden, MR. E. H. WILSON ("Chinese Wilson"), MR. P. D. WILLIAMS and others, are still alive with information and still may be regarded as constituting the "last word" on this rather obscure corner of what has become a vast interest, namely, the hybridization of rhododendrons and the preservation of the purity of species. Here will be found much of the ground covered by the forerunners of present-day rhododendron breeders. The remainder of this number of the *Notes* consists for the most part of descriptions of gardens owned by those contributing; sometimes rather depressing where the garden so described has since fallen into decay either owing to the death of the owner or the pressure of the taxation resulting from two world wars.

The list of honorary members of the Society was further strengthened by the addition at the next Annual General Meeting, on June 12, 1917, of MISS CLARA MANGLES, SIR DAVID PRAIN, the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and PROFESSOR CHARLES SPRAGUE SARGENT, who held a similar office at the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Boston, U.S.A., a good friend to this country and a generous benefactor of our gardens. At the same meeting MR. P. D. WILLIAMS and LT.-COMDR. J. G. MILLAIS were asked to report upon known pure forms of American azaleas and their hybrids.

The same year, 1917, saw the publication of Parts 2 and 3 of Volume 1 of the *Notes*, the whole of Part 2 consisting of articles contributed by J. H. MANGLES to the *Gardeners' Chronicle* and *The Garden*, 1879–84, collected and collated by GERALD LODER, who added a brief note on J. H. MANGLES, his life and work. This collection contains not only much important information given by that amateur pioneer of rhododendron hybrids, but therein we are also

allowed a glimpse of several gardens of old foundation, many of which have survived to our day. It is of interest to get some idea for instance of what impressed MR. MANGLES on a visit to the Edinburgh Botanic Garden in 1881, Messrs. Backhouse's nursery garden at York, Knap Hill and others—some hundred pages of information of abiding interest.

Part 3 of Volume 1 includes the report on the American azaleas by LT.-COMDR. MILLAIS and P. D. WILLIAMS, which forms the major contribution, but there are others of equal value to a student of the genus; thus the same Part 3 contains a record of the rhododendron species then in cultivation at Caerhays and at Werrington Park, where, in the north-east corner of Cornwall within distant view of the misty uplands of Dartmoor, MR. J. C. WILLIAMS undertook the making of a second garden. Some 250 species find mention in this list, accompanied in many cases by the number, or numbers, under which the seed was received from the collectors, while others at that time awaiting identification appear under the collectors' numbers only.

It is probable that at this time (1917) only one other private garden could compile so comprehensive a list of rhododendron species, namely, Leonardslee, and Part 4 of Volume 1 of the *Notes*, published in 1918, has a list supplied by SIR EDMUND LODER of the species in cultivation there. A comparison of these two lists affords an interesting survey of the range of species introduced up to that time; and how much we should like to know how those which find inclusion in one or both of those lists have fared in the intervening forty years.

The fourth Annual General Meeting was held on June 11, 1918, but nothing of general interest appears in the minutes of this meeting, and there being no vacancies for new members, none were proposed. The *Notes* for this year (1918), in addition to the Leonardslee list, already referred to, include a valuable review of the Fortunei Series by W. J. BEAN.

The minute-book shows that the next (fifth) Annual General Meeting was held at 12 Hanover Square, and records that the members subsequently dined together at the Criterion Restaurant, the first of many similar gatherings when meetings of the Society brought the members together. Meantime, the first volume of the Society's *Notes* was completed by the appearance this year (1919) of Part 5, containing for the most part descriptions of what may be termed celebrated gardens with of course special reference to rhododendrons grown in them, and a note of invaluable guidance

to beginners on the growing of rhododendron seedlings by J. C. WILLIAMS is also included.

The minutes of the next Annual General Meeting (June 8, 1920) held at 12 Hanover Square opens with a reference to the great loss the Society had sustained by the death of SIR EDMUND LODER. Other business done included the unanimous acceptance of an offer by GEORGE FORREST to give a talk to the members of the Society on rhododendrons recently discovered by him in China. A transcript of this lecture will be found in Part 1 of Volume 2 of the *Notes* published in the same year. It was also then agreed that constitutional Rule 2 of the Society should be altered to allow the number of honorary members to be eight instead of being limited to one-quarter of the number of ordinary members. The effect of this resolution was to create two vacancies on the list of honorary members which were immediately filled by the election of the two great plant-hunters E. H. WILSON and G. FORREST. The minutes of this meeting also record that "MR. LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD has been elected an ordinary member of the Society". Mention has already been made above of Part 1 of Volume 2 of the Society's *Notes* the publication of which closed its activities for 1920.

Hitherto the Annual General Meeting of the Society had been a somewhat peripatetic event, but the seventh was held (May 11, 1921) by invitation of SIR GEORGE HOLFORD, who became a member in 1917, at Dorchester House, now of course swept away and replaced by the Dorchester Hotel. During this year, 1921, Part 2 of Volume 2 of the Society's *Notes* appeared, containing, *inter alia*, a masterly review by MR. W. J. BEAN of a lately published monograph of azaleas under the joint authorship of E. H. WILSON and ALFRED REHDER which may still be regarded as the most comprehensive authority on the sub-genus available to us, but the monograph is somewhat technical and those seeking an easy approach to the study of it will find it in this contribution by the then newly appointed Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

In the same number of the *Notes* we find the first mention of the rhododendron bug in the form of a digest by MR. CHARLES ELEY of an article on the subject published in September 1922 in the *Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture*, vol. XXIX, No. 6. Perhaps we have got used to the rhododendron bug by now; certainly it does not create the stir which it did in 1922, since when it has had ample opportunity to work its worst on our planting; but it may be that the preference that it shows for *caucasicum* hybrids has

saved us from a far more serious manifestation. Reference to the rhododendron bug brings back to the writer the memory of a correspondence of 1920 or thereabouts in which GERALD LODER, as he then was, wrote to ask his great friend, J. C. WILLIAMS, whether he had got *Leptobyrsa* (*Stephanitis*) *rhododendri* at Caerhays, to which J. C., as he was always called, replied: "I never heard of it, but if it is a plant disease I have!"

In his note in the same number of the Society's publication, MR. G. W. E. LODER, as he then was, also refers to *Stephanitis rhododendri*, stating that one of the symptoms is "a red rust on the underside of the leaf", which today reads much more like evidence of rhododendron rust rather than that of the bug and a pest likely to do much more widely spread damage, especially since its principal victim is *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* and its many beautiful hybrids.

Another contribution of especial interest in this same Part 3 of Volume 2 is a brief review contributed by E. H. WILSON of the rhododendrons of North-Eastern Asia, Manchuria, Korea and Japan, with notes on each and a key to the whole. He mentions, in order to demonstrate how little was known up to about that time of the vast wealth of rhododendrons in China, that MAXIMOWICZ (1870) recognized only five species as indigenous in China.

At the eighth Annual General Meeting held on April 28, 1922, a report was made by four members chosen at the request of The Royal Horticultural Society to represent the Rhododendron Society at a conference with a similar representation of the R.H.S. to decide upon the regulations which should govern the award of a cup given by MR. GERALD LODER in memory of his brother, SIR EDMUND LODER. This marks the introduction of one of the most coveted awards annually made by the R.H.S.: the Loder Rhododendron Cup.

Other business transacted included the passing of a resolution to be sent to SIR ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR on his retirement from the offices which he held at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. The resolution reads as follows: "That the Rhododendron Society desires to convey to SIR ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR an expression of their sense of the great service rendered by him to the science of botany in general and of the genus *Rhododendron* in particular during the thirty-four years in which he has been King's Botanist in Scotland, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh. The mem-

bers of the aforesaid Society entertain a cordial hope that respite from his arduous labour may contribute to SIR ISAAC'S restoration to vigorous health and the enjoyment of well-earned leisure."

Another resolution passed at this meeting reads in the minute-book: "It was agreed that it was desirable to increase the number of honorary members from eight to ten in order to enable PROFESSOR (SIR WILLIAM) WRIGHT SMITH and CAPTAIN (SIR ARTHUR) A. W. HILL to be so elected", and the Honorary Secretary was requested to convene a special meeting to consider this proposal.

If this account of the Society's *Notes* seems to readers to refer overwhelmingly to contributions by our honorary members, it must not be supposed that the ordinary members failed in their undertaking to contribute, but there is insufficient space here to give in any detail the regularity of their contributions and the interest they still awaken: thus in the same Part 3 of Volume 2 there appeared a brief comparison by MR. J. C. WILLIAMS of the influence on our gardens of the Chinese as against the Indian rhododendrons, and in the following Part 4 a map is included which shows the routes travelled in China by WILSON, FORREST and KINGDON WARD; this was contributed by the late MR. E. H. WILDING in 1923, since when KINGDON WARD has covered a vast area of new ground.

Both FORREST and WILSON were contributors to this issue of the Society's *Notes*, the former with the transcript of a lecture by him on trees and shrubs in Yunnan, and WILSON on the rhododendrons of Hupeh, while the late SIR ARTHUR HILL writes here on an experiment undertaken at Kew for the preservation of the viability of pollen. It is also in this same issue that MR. CHARLES ELEY, Honorary Secretary, contributes a brief note regarding the emblematical die which MR. GERALD LODER had offered to the Society at a meeting of members in the previous year, when the proposed design was shown to those attending; and the thanks of the Society to MR. LODER were framed in a resolution passed at the next ensuing Annual General Meeting, the ninth, at Dorchester House on April 25, 1923.

The note on this die, to which reference is made above, is as follows: "I have ascertained the following particulars regarding the Society's emblem from MR. GERALD W. E. LODER (who presented the die to the Society in 1922) and publish them here for the purpose of record.

"The design for the emblem was suggested by MR. LODER and the rhododendron truss in the centre of it was drawn by SIR HERBERT

MAXWELL. The Greek word which signifies 'Rhododendron-lovers' was composed by DR. M. R. JAMES, Provost of Eton, and the Greek characters were also designed by DR. JAMES in conjunction with MR. H. E. LUXMORE."

Part 4 of Volume 2, 1924, includes a list of members, which list was also incorporated in a new issue of the Rules and Regulations of the Society, and shows nine honorary members and twenty-five ordinary members, of whom thirteen were original members of the Society in 1915.

The minutes of a meeting of members (November 21, 1923) record a vote of thanks to MR. J. C. WILLIAMS for his gift of a card index of rhododendron species originally prepared by the late SIR ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR, and it was decided that this card index should be kept in London and that the assistance of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden should be sought in keeping it up to date. At this meeting it was also agreed that, in so far as funds admitted, the *Notes* should contain illustrations, which resolution resulted in the publication in Part 4 of Volume 2 of the map prepared by E. H. WILDING to which reference has already been made, but at the next Annual General Meeting it was reported that without special subscriptions the funds of the Society could not provide sufficient for illustrations to be included with the printing of the *Notes*. It

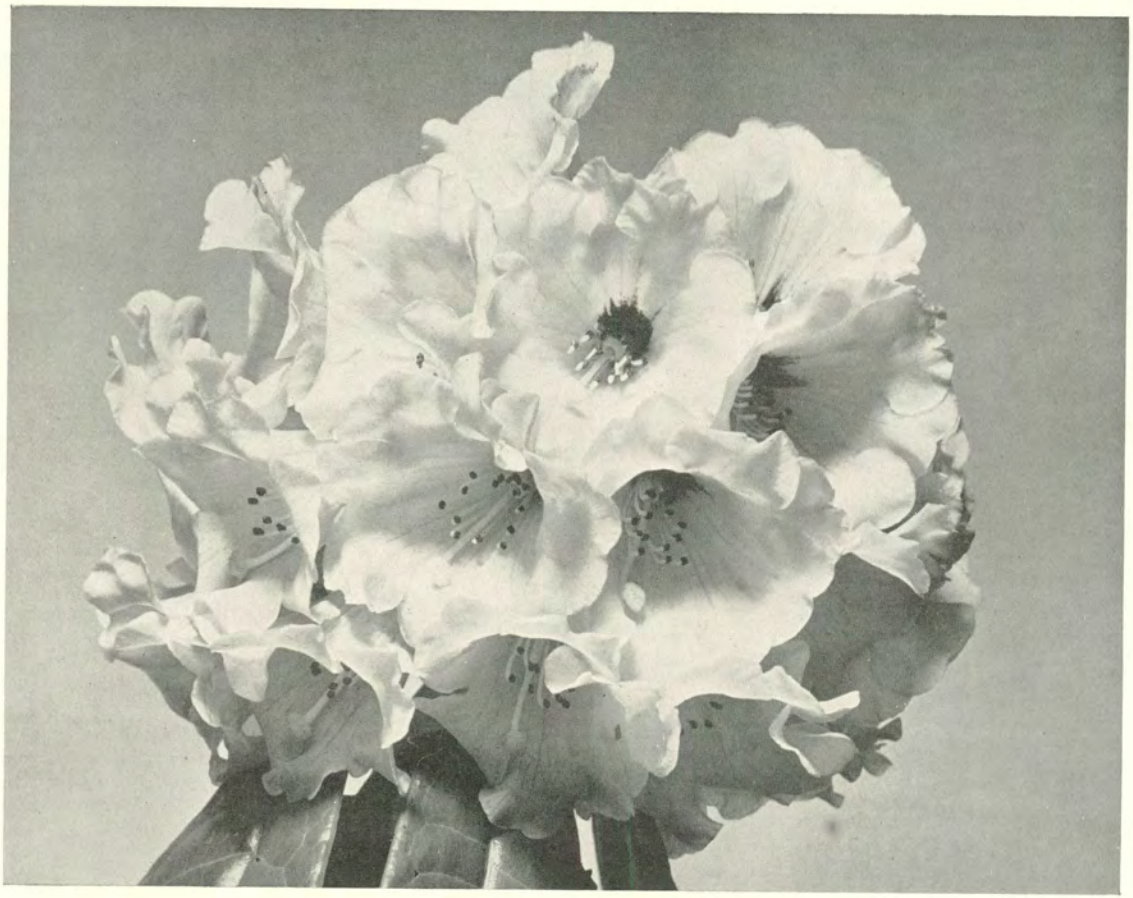
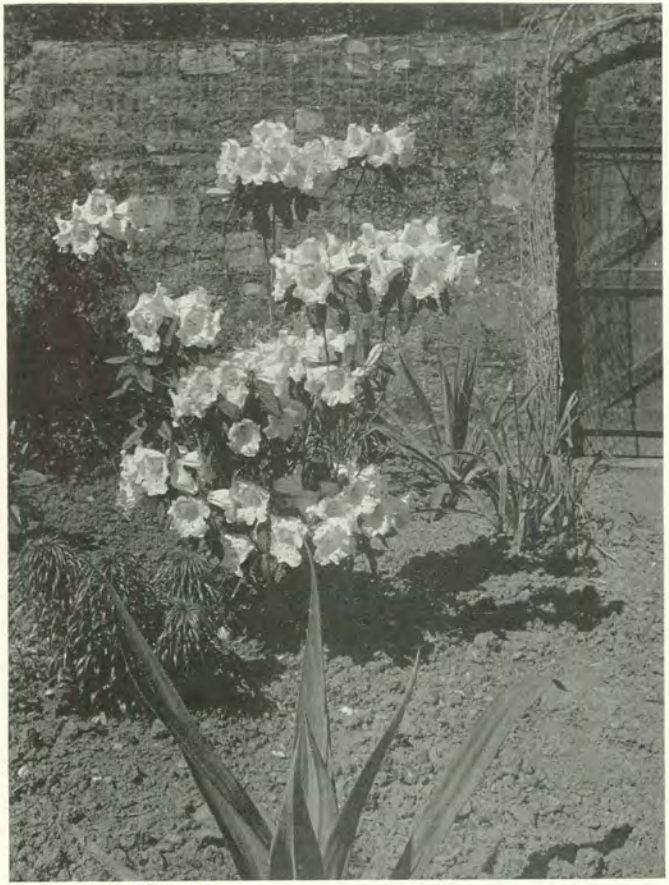


FIG. 1—*Rhododendron mollyanum* 'Benmore' F.C.C. April 9, 1957, when shown by The Younger Botanic Garden, at Benmore, at the Rhododendron show in Glasgow, organized by the National Trust of Scotland (see p. 110)

Photo, H. W. Moulson



Photos, Michael Cox

THE ISLE OF GIGHA

FIG. 2—*Rhododendron lindleyi* growing in the walled

FIG. 3—*Rhododendron taggianum* (see p. 27)

was at this, the eleventh Annual General Meeting, which was held at Dorchester House on May 6, 1925, that Dr. (later Sir Arthur) Hill read a communication from Mr. Hutchinson of Kew Gardens regarding the preparation of an illustrated descriptive list of rhododendrons, and Dr. Hill invited the Society's co-operation in the project, this being the first mention of what was to become the most important achievement of the Society and maybe its lasting memorial. A committee was appointed to consider the project and to report to a general meeting which was subsequently arranged to meet at Dorchester House (June 23, 1925), when Dr. Hill addressed those present on his proposals for the production of a monograph on the rhododendron genus. Moreover, it was at this same meeting that the decision was made that the Society should accept responsibility for the organization of a Rhododendron Show in 1926.

Meantime Volume 2 of the *Notes* was completed with the publication of Part 5, in which there appears a report furnished by Mr. J. B. Stevenson on behalf of the committee appointed to recommend as to steps to be taken to increase the interest and value of the Society's publications in which report a list appears of the known rhododendron species, other than those of New Guinea and Malaya, together with the forty series into which their subseries may be allotted. Other contributions to the same publication of special interest are a description of the rhododendrons of the Bonin and Liukiu Islands and an important note written by Mr. H. F. Tagg of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, in which he gives the numerical index and collectors' field numbers of the Burma–Chinese rhododendrons of the Grande Series, together with notes on *Rhododendron calophytum, bodinieri* and some of the Scabrifolium Series.

Here, too, is a tribute written by Mr. G. W. E. Loder to Antony Waterer, who had died that same year, that remarkable nurseryman whose garden at Knap Hill has left its indelible impression wherever garden azaleas are grown. Appropriately, the same number of the *Notes* gives an appreciation by P. D. Williams of the Knap Hill azaleas. It was the latter, inexhaustible hunter of all that is best in any genus in which he was interested and could grow, of whom it was said to be his discovery of Antony Waterer's innate love of livestock, both horses and cattle, that led to the introduction into the gardens at Lanarth of the best of the Knap Hill azaleas.

In 1926 the first meeting of the Society was held on January 12,

at which it was unanimously decided to approve the suggestion of DR. HILL that the Society should compile and publish a descriptive list of known rhododendron species. This year also witnessed the first rhododendron Show held at the R.H.S. Hall by the Rhododendron Society, and Part 2 of Volume 3 of the *Notes* reflects the measure of success which it met with.

The minutes of the last meeting of members for this year (November 3, 1926) open with an expression of the loss felt by all members at the death of SIR GEORGE HOLFORD, whose hospitality they had so often enjoyed at Dorchester House. Thereafter much of this meeting was devoted to a discussion as to whether the time had not arrived when the Rhododendron Society should be reconstituted to admit of a much wider membership which the ever-increasing length of the waiting-list of candidates for membership showed to be needed, or whether the present organization should be maintained and the need recognized for the formation of a much larger and more popular body outside it amongst the ever-increasing number of those interesting themselves in the rhododendron cult. The urgent need to meet and encourage this progress was stressed, and finally MESSRS. DE ROTHSCHILD and MCLAREN (LORD ABERCONWAY) were deputed to lay before the next meeting a considered resolution to meet the view of all present that some decision on this matter was urgently needed.

This year, 1926, brought the Society's *Notes* up to Part 2 of Volume 3, which contains a brief account of the Society's first Rhododendron Show and also the continuance of notes contributed by MR. H. F. TAGG covering a wide range of information regarding rhododendrons of recent introduction by FORREST, FARRER and ROCK, and in some cases species and varieties of longer standing but only now sorted into their right series or subseries. This invaluable contribution by TAGG runs throughout the five parts which comprise Volume 3 of the *Notes* (1925–1931) and forms a background against which the allotment of rhododendron specimens examined there into their respective series and subseries has been effected.

Part 5 of Volume 3 (1929–1931) contains an obituary of GEORGE FORREST written by his great friend, patron, and colleague, SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT SMITH, recording "a sense of the great loss which his death must mean to so many of us who had been associated either directly or indirectly with GEORGE FORREST and the monumental work he has accomplished in distant lands—accomplished because he died as he was completing the winding

up of what he himself considered the greatest of his collections and the last that he intended to undertake".

Mention must be made of the three other obituaries appearing in the same Part 5: those of Lt.-Comdr. J. G. Millais, who was one of the three originators of the Rhododendron Society, a man of many gifts—writer, artist, naturalist and traveller; Dr. E. H. Wilson (October 15, 1930); and Miss Clara Mangles (January 24, 1931)—one of the first of two honorary members elected by the Society (1917).

By the time that the first meeting of 1928 was held the Rhododendron Association had been formed by The Royal Horticultural Society on a far broader basis than that on which the Rhododendron Society stood, and in the following year, 1929, responsibility for the organizing and staging of the R.H.S. Rhododendron Show was handed over to the newly formed Association.

The minutes of the fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society (April 30, 1929) record a resolution of thanks to Mr. G. W. E. Loder (Lord Wakehurst) for his gift of a chairman's gavel carved from the stock of a *R. ponticum*. This, together with other property of the Society, was subsequently given to The Royal Horticultural Society.

The year 1930 saw the publication of *The Species of Rhododendron*, for which the Society accepted responsibility and which has already been referred to as the lasting monument to the Rhododendron Society, as also it will be to those who compiled it, Mr. H. F. Tagg for the lepidote rhododendrons, Mr. J. Hutchinson for the elipidote, and Dr. Rehder for the azalea series, for although this work cannot of course be expected to finalize the classification of rhododendrons, some of which were undiscovered at the date when the work was published and the identification of others undetermined, it provides a sound foundation on which other generations of the "Rhododendrophiloi" can safely build; and experience will quite likely show that the ground floor which has already been built upon these foundations requires little alteration. The book opens with an introduction by Mr. J. B. Stevenson, the Editor, who writes: "The aim of those responsible for the issue of the present handbook has been to provide a single-page description of each species and to attempt to group the species into series so as to facilitate understanding and recognition. The first half of this task, though extensive, has been accomplished with a degree of completeness, but the second part is admittedly tentative and will no doubt require adjustment."

At the sixteenth Annual General Meeting (May 20, 1930) it was decided that the Society's *Notes* for 1930 be not issued but in their stead members shall each receive a "de luxe" copy of the book, which edition shall number 38 copies only; being 25 for Members, 9 for the Honorary Members and in addition one each for MR. TAGG, MR. HUTCHINSON, DR. REHDER and CAPT. KINGDON WARD; and that a second and popular issue be made for sale to the public.

The seventeenth Annual General Meeting (April 28, 1931) was in fact the final Meeting of the Rhododendron Society, which thereafter became absorbed into the newly formed Rhododendron Association, and it was decided at this meeting that the publication of the Society's *Notes* in their present form should be terminated with Part 5 to complete Volume 3, after which the notes received from members should in future be submitted in the first instance to a publications committee and subsequently passed by it to the Rhododendron Association for publication. At the same meeting the resignation of MR. C. C. ELEY from the Honorary Secretaryship was accepted and MR. J. B. STEVENSON was elected to replace MR. ELEY who had carried out the duties of that office ever since the inception of the Society at Lanarth seventeen years before. In fact the institution of the Rhododendron Society probably resulted from MR. ELEY's foresight and power of organization rather than any other source, and although we may perhaps doubt whether the original intention which he and others who planned with him had in mind was fulfilled, certain it is that the Society attracted far wider support than its founders anticipated and through its publications has offered its benefits to a far wider public than was foreseen at its inception.

MR. J. B. STEVENSON took over from MR. ELEY the burdens of Honorary Secretary in 1931, and continued to act in this capacity until his death in 1950; but with the formation of the Rhododendron Association the use and purpose of the older organization was diminished, so that although the members continued to meet at regular intervals the business transacted became of less importance, other than that in connection with the publication and distribution of *The Species of Rhododendron*, and although the Society continued to hold their Annual General Meetings, after which the members would enjoy the hospitality of MR. LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD at dinner, sometimes to be followed by a talk given by CAPTAIN KINGDON WARD about the plants he had found and the country where he collected them, the writing was on the wall, and its functions having passed to the newly formed Rhododendron

Association, including responsibility for organizing and conducting the Annual Rhododendron Show for the R.H.S. together with the cups and medal dies which it had provided, the Society could continue only somewhat on the lines of a private club. The membership was nevertheless maintained, and ADMIRAL HENEAGE VIVIAN was elected in 1935 to fill a vacancy which occurred owing to resignation, while further vacancies occurring in 1936, 1937 and subsequently, were filled by election, while the number of honorary members was brought up to the ten provided for in the Rules of the Society by the election of DR. J. MACQUEEN COWAN in 1938.

The death of P. D. WILLIAMS in 1935 took from the Society another of its three founders and also one whose engaging personality, keen sense of humour, and profound knowledge of plants had endeared him to a wide circle of friends. His cousin survived him by only three years, as shown by the minutes of the Society's twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting which record the death of MR. J. C. WILLIAMS, who for many years had been the elected chairman of the Society and who had done so much for the promotion and welfare of it, as well as for the cultivation of the genus in which his name is so fittingly immortalized in the charming *Rhododendron williamsianum*, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful of all the species introduced.

At the same meeting (May 2, 1939) a further resolution was passed deploring the death of yet another member of the Society, MR. E. H. WILDING, who in his publication, *Rhododendrons, their names and addresses*, was the first to attempt a popular handbook of the genus; and while this useful contribution has long since been superseded, it remains the foundation on which subsequent publications of similar purpose were built.

Other business done at this meeting included the election of LORD ABERCONWAY to succeed MR. J. C. WILLIAMS as chairman of the Society, while in October of the same year members were informed that in a postal vote it had been decided to suspend subscriptions to the Society for the period of the war. Members, however, continued to be elected, and in 1941 MR. R. D. TROTTER and MR. M. P. WILLIAMS were the successful candidates, the latter thus carrying on the association of Lanarth with the Society where, as already stated, it was originated by MR. MICHAEL WILLIAMS' father and two of his friends. The last ordinary member of the Society was elected in June 1943, and at the twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting held the same year it was decided "to suspend the filling of vacancies in the membership for the present".

The next event towards the demolition of the Rhododendron Society was the death of our Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. B. Stevenson, in 1950. Shortly after which misfortune a meeting of members of the Society was convened by the President, Lord Aberconway, to decide on the continuance or otherwise of the Society, and at this meeting (May 1, 1951) it was determined that it should for the present be left in being but that its future should be subject to annual consideration, while in the absence of a treasurer the funds of the Society to the extent of some £720 should be placed on deposit. Only one more meeting was held, however, and that on December 4 of the same year, resulting from which a letter was sent by the President to all members, of which eighteen ordinary members remained, and six honorary members to suggest that a dinner should be arranged for April 29, 1952, at which the future of the Society should be discussed. At a meeting of the Society, however, held on the same day it was decided on the proposal of Mr. G. H. Johnstone, seconded by Lord Digby, that the affairs of the Society be wound up and the assets of it should pass to The Royal Horticultural Society.

So here ends the story of the birth, life and demise of the Rhododendron Society, and the writing of it takes the writer back to the memory of many valued friends, the recollection of many happy occasions spent with them, the remembrance of great gardens, generous plant cultivators, and much kindly hospitality, so that if one looks back with some feeling of pride to having been an original member of this Society it is to recognize the great privilege that it conferred on one who was then the youngest of the party.

THE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY:
A note on its formation

By CHARLES ELEY, V.M.H.

I HAVE no record of the start of the Rhododendron Society but quite a clear recollection of it. From 1909 onwards I was slowly increasing my garden in Suffolk and chiefly interested in trees and shrubs. During this period I became acquainted with P. D. Williams and was invited to Lanarth. The low rainfall and fierce sunshine of East Suffolk made difficult the establishment of rhododen-

drons but such visits as I was able to pay to private gardens increased my desire to succeed with this wonderful genus. I did not find it easy to acquire the information I needed and it seemed to me that there was singularly little interchange of information among the owners of such gardens as I was privileged to visit; it was apparent that valuable information was running to waste whilst great numbers of new plants were coming into this country amongst which were included a great variety of rhododendrons.

At one of my visits to Lanarth I aired this view to P. D. WILLIAMS and suggested a society ought to be formed for rhododendrons: the suggestion was greeted with a disapproving snort, he remarked that specialist societies either grew too large or sickened and died; anyhow they were of little use to good gardeners! In reply I urged that the society I had in mind would be quite small and limited to garden-owners who were willing and capable of contributing notes about rhododendrons and these were to be typed and circulated annually. I was astonished by P. D. WILLIAMS closing the subject abruptly and saying that if I would put my proposals on paper he would discuss them with his cousin, J. C. WILLIAMS of Caerhays.

I returned home wondering how best I could state my suggestions completely and concisely to withstand the criticism of P. D. and J. C. WILLIAMS. I decided to confine my efforts to drawing up sufficient rules to indicate the purpose I had in mind: (1) Limited membership, say 20, to such garden-owners who would agree to contribute annually a note upon rhododendrons. (2) All such notes to be typed and a complete set of them circulated to each of the contributors, but to contributors only. (3) Notes were free to be used but not free to be quoted, nor the source to be indicated. (4) Neither a president nor a committee would be necessary; any business could well be transacted at an Annual General Meeting.

In reply P. D. WILLIAMS asked me to go to Lanarth to meet J. G. MILLAIS: on my arrival he pointed at me with his stick and introduced me to MILLAIS as "The Promoter". He then led us into his personal room leading out of the hall and, armed with an immense pencil, got us seated among the mass of debris. MILLAIS was clearly aware of the plan I had outlined and without any discussion P. D. WILLIAMS announced, "Well, we are the Rhododendron Society and CHARLES ELEY is the Hon. Secretary". He then proceeded to produce a list of garden-owners deemed suitable for membership. This and the duty of issuing the invitations was, more or less, equally divided between the two of them; acceptances

were to be reported to me as and when obtained. This decision completed the proceedings.

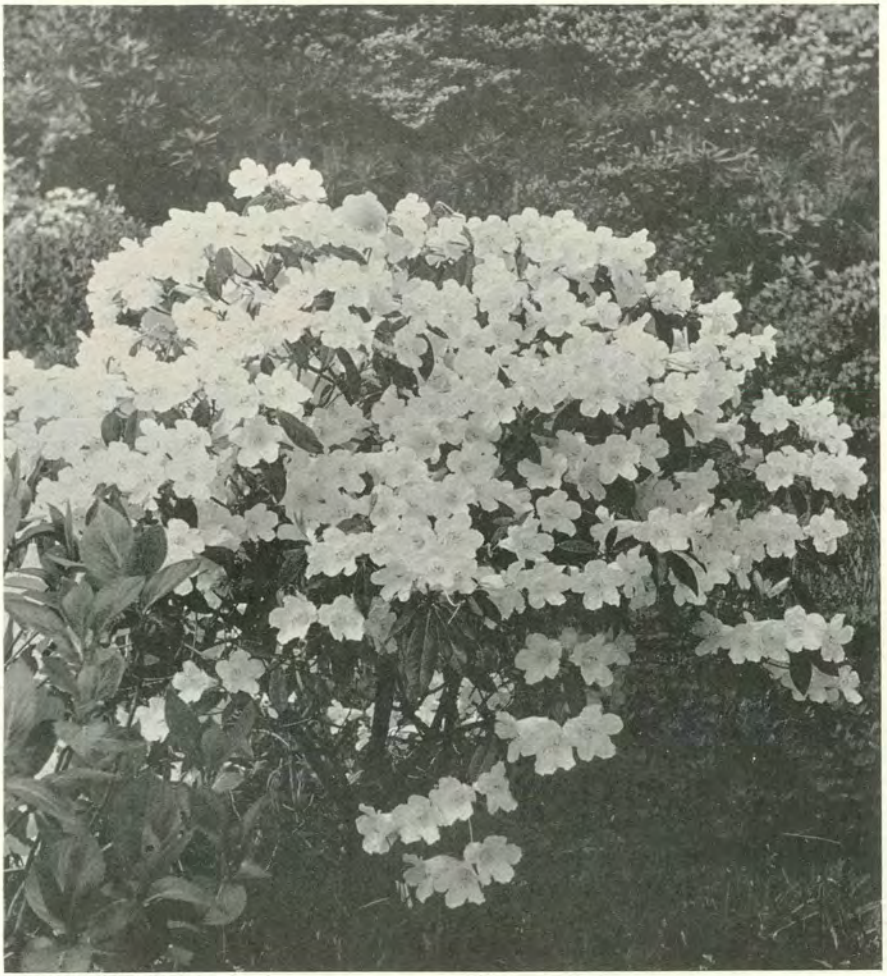
When in due course MSS. began to arrive I had to find a careful typist and enquired of the manager of Cowells, the printers at Ipswich. He proved friendly and helpful and recommended a young man, a recent recruit to the Cowell firm, who had won some sort of prize for book design. Subsequently, Messrs. Cowells sent me an attractive "dummy" with a nice cover and a sample page in type, together with the information that 100 copies could be printed for approximately the same price as 25 copies could be typewritten and so the Rhododendron Society's *Notes* were fated to make their first appearance in print.

Henceforth it was plain sailing. Number One of Volume One displayed well the ignorance of the Honorary Secretary but produced a characteristic kind note from J. C. WILLIAMS, and from G. W. E. LODER (later LORD WAKEHURST) a comment that "he never could have believed that it would have been so good". Number Two of Volume One displayed an all-round improvement, and so it continued . . .

Photo, Michael Cox

THE ISLE OF GIGHA

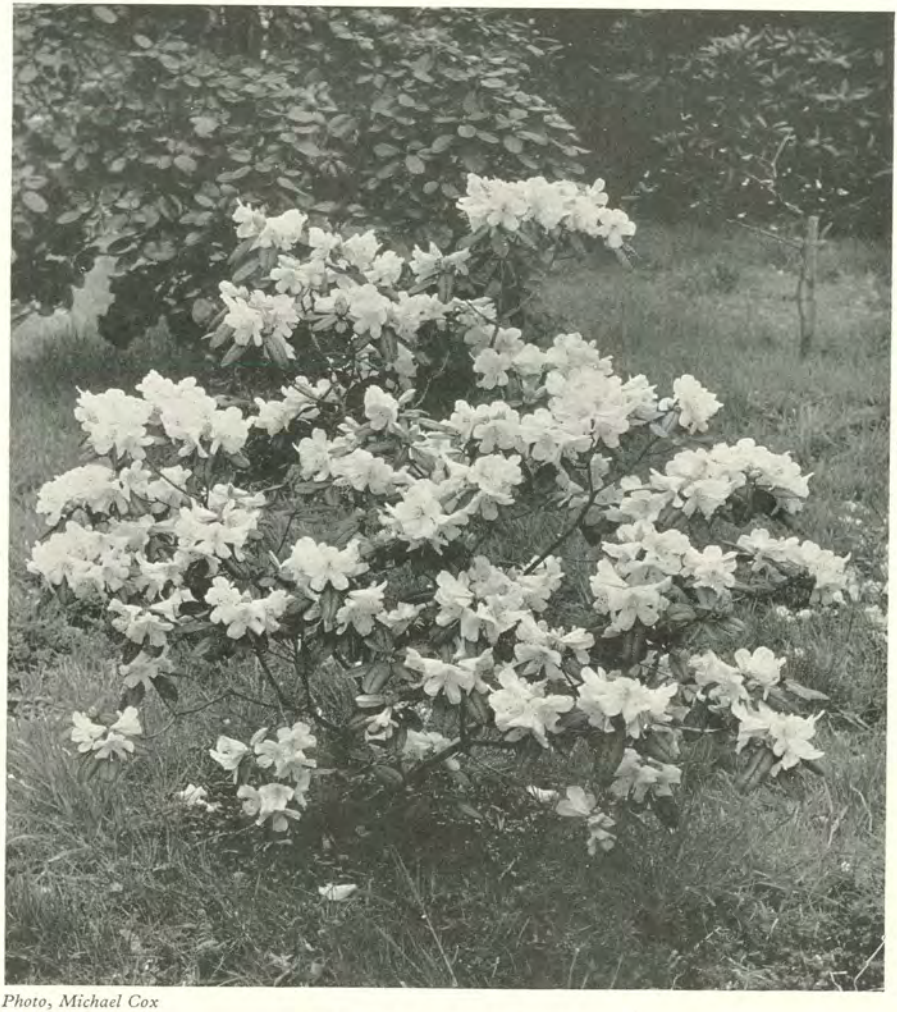
FIG. 4—A bank of pink Kurume Azalea 'Hinomayo' and bluebells in the spring (see p. 28)



Photo, Michael Cox

THE ISLE OF GIGHA

FIG. 5—A very fine plant of *Rhododendron lindleyi* (see p. 27)



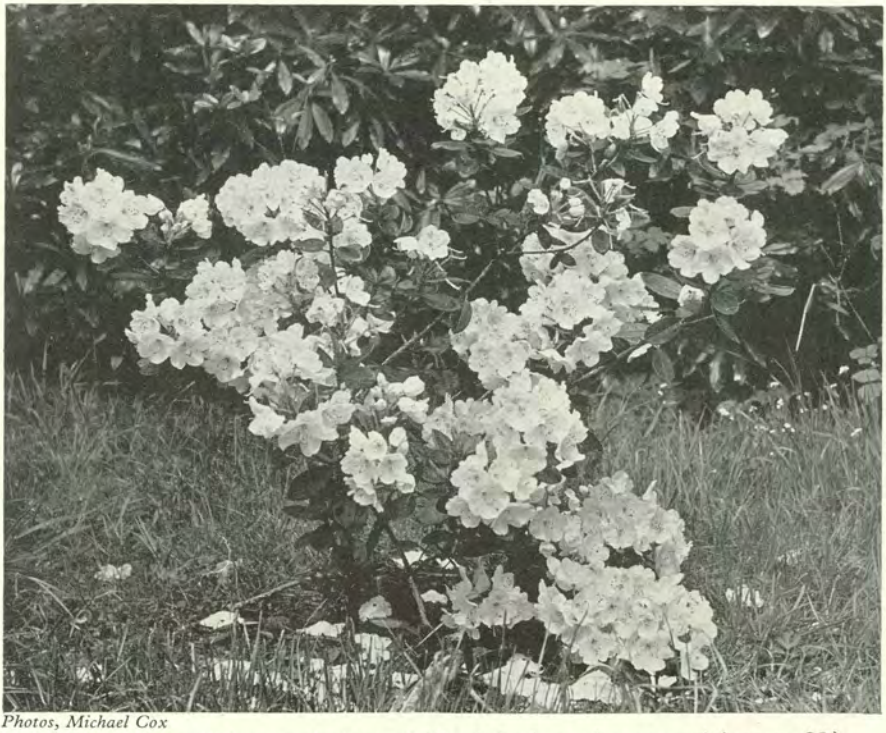
Photo, Michael Cox

THE ISLE OF GIGHA

FIG. 6—*Rhododendron johnstoneanum* (see p. 29)

THE ISLE OF GIGHA

FIG. 7—Rhododendron 'Elfin' (see p. 30)



Photos, Michael Cox

FIG. 8—A well-flowered plant of *Rhododendron aberconwayi* (see p. 29)

THE GARDENS ON THE ISLE OF GIGHA

By PATRICK M. SYNGE

GARDENING on one of the smaller islands off the west coast of Scotland carries with it special problems. Probably the greatest of these is shelter from wind and sea spray. This is the first essential there for growing all rhododendrons except the smaller leaved ones and the deciduous azaleas. The island of Gigha, about six miles in length and one and a half miles in width, lies off the west side of the Mull of Kintyre in Argyllshire and is partly sheltered from the north-west by Islay and Jura but on the west and south-west is open to the Atlantic.

When Col. J. N. Horlick came to Gigha in 1944 he found around his house, particularly to the east and south, a mixed woodland about sixty years old with oak, ash, beech, larch, horse-chestnut, sycamore, Corsican and Scots pine. None of these trees were very large and little or no thinning had been done. There were also great thickets of *Escallonia macrantha* some 20 yards or more across and 10 feet high, as well as thick banks of *Rhododendron ponticum*, probably over fifty years old, which lined the whole drive and surrounded the house. Many of these had of necessity to be cut back and pulled out with winches, while tree roots have been blown up. Probably two hundred or more trees have also been blown down in gales and had to be cleared. However, what remains helps very considerably in the shelter problem while in the spring the mixed woodlands give a delightful symphony of greens when seen from the house.

The main gales come from the south-west and north-west but they may be expected from any quarter and, in January 1957, a particularly severe one from the south-east blew down a number of trees and, carrying salt spray with it, browned and defoliated a great number of plants including many of the junipers and heathers on the rocks as well as the *ponticum* rhododendrons in exposed places.

In early May the island was particularly lovely with primroses and bluebells everywhere, pink thrift on the rocks by the sea and masses of golden gorse, some of an unusually fine form with large

heads of a deep orange colour. The woodland garden is a pleasing contrast to the more severe hills and rocks outside.

The rainfall is surprisingly low, averaging in the twelve years that COL. HORLICK has been on Gigha between 33 and 52 inches in the year, 1956 having been the driest year. This is little more than may be experienced in the home counties. For the west coast of Scotland there is also an unusually large number of fine sunny days. This has resulted in a close compact growth on many of the rhododendrons and some of them flower very freely.

COL. HORLICK has wisely planted a number of shelter belts, the outermost being Sitka spruce with *Pinus contorta* and *P. radiata*, which have so far proved most wind-resistant. It is important, however, to provide shelter from draughts low down as well as from top winds and for this hedges and thickets of escallonias, olearias, griselinias and other shrubs have been used. *Senecio rotundifolius*, originally derived from MR. ARNOLD FORSTER at Eagle's Nest in Cornwall and easily propagated by cuttings, has proved one of the toughest and with its thick, leathery, evergreen foliage is a decorative plant. Another good wind-resister is the silvery leaved *Elaeagnus ebbingei*, a hybrid between *E. glabra* and *E. pungens* and very fast growing. *Olearia albida* also stands wind well, better than the commoner *O. haastii* while *O. semi-dentata* has formed great bushes 5 feet high and as much through, flowering freely with great mauve daisies all the latter half of the summer. It is well described by the R.H.S. Dictionary as "perhaps the most beautiful Olearia in cultivation". *Cupressocyparis leylandii* the fast growing, bigeneric hybrid cypress is also much used and so far appears very successful. Throughout the woods these are used to make small protected glades in which the rhododendrons are planted. This gives a pleasant intimate appearance to much of the plantings. No great vistas are possible owing to the wind and everywhere a planter needs to be careful not to form a wind tunnel when opening out the wood for his plants.

As in many other gardens on the west coast of Scotland the rhododendrons are best planted slightly raised above the surrounding soil rather than in hollows. Much drainage has been done in the wood but even so there are still rather surprising differences in only a few yards of ground between a dry patch and a waterlogged patch due to old, pre-woodland "lazybeds" and broken stone drains from the time when the land was farmed. Sometimes a move of only a yard or two will resuscitate a sick plant. This kind of information can only be gained by experience of the

particular garden. Young plants need to be planted particularly firmly and COL. HORLICK has found it is well worth while to protect young plants of the large-leaved rhododendrons with cages of branches and bracken. Coir fibre netting on 6-foot screens or even fine-mesh rabbit netting or barricades of roots and branches are also used for wind protection in winter in very exposed places. It is interesting to note that neither larch nor holly will stand the gales in such places. The woodland is carpeted with mosses and ferns while in the damper places and around a small pond *Primula japonica* and *P. pulverulenta* make a lovely picture of naturalistic planting. *P. denticulata* also does well.

While by no means frost free, temperatures below 26° F. are not often recorded and only occasionally are there 12° F. of frost. This means that a number of the more tender rhododendrons of the Maddenii Series can be grown well while the wind and sun have combined to keep them as compact free-flowering plants in a way which I had not seen anywhere before. During my visit in early May plants of both *R. taggianum* and *R. lindleyi* were in full flower in the walled garden. About 4 to 5 feet in height, with short stems covered in flower, they were a very lovely sight (Figs. 2 and 3). These were not growing against a wall. These species are very close to each other, that labelled *taggianum* having large waxy-white trumpet flowers, while that labelled *lindleyi* had a slight pinkish flush on the outside of the flowers. These plants were, however, surpassed by two bushes (recently identified at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, as a variety of *R. lindleyi*) growing on a steep rocky bank facing east and without any tree shelter.

The largest of these was about 5 feet high and quite as much through and literally covered with flower, the most lovely spectacle that I have seen among rhododendrons for a long time (Fig. 5). The flowers were beautifully shaped, pure white with a slight pale yellow flush at the throat. When the light was seen through them they gave the appearance of being lit by a small light inside. The individual flowers were perhaps not quite as large as may be seen in some other forms of this species but their profusion and the compact habit of growth were most unusual and made it a wonderful garden plant. COL. HORLICK told us that it had flowered thus each year for the past four or five years. These plants had been brought up from COL. HORLICK's former garden near Ascot. Young plants of *R. maddenii* and others of this series were also growing near, while 'Blue Tit' and pale blush-pink Kurume azaleas higher up the bank complemented it very well. Above was

a small plant of the very tender *Furcraea longaeva*. Two plants of *Puya alpestris* facing south against a wall usually flower every year with metallic greenish-blue flowers on great spikes of sinister appearance some 5 feet or more in height.

In the walled garden were young plants of an interesting cross between *R. sinonuttallii* and *R. lindleyi* but these had not yet flowered though they had survived two bad winters in the open. In a sheltered border close plants of R. 'Countess of Haddington' with rather tubular waxy, pale-pink flowers were particularly fine and floriferous (Fig. 9). These had also retained a compact habit. A healthy *R. manipurense* in the same border had reached 5 feet as had also plants of *R. crassum* and *R. polyandrum*, while throughout the garden were large numbers of *R. bullatum*, both the pink and the white forms and many intermediates. R. 'Fragrantissimum', 'Princess Alice' and 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam' were flowering very freely. The *R. bullatum*, though small at present, all looked well and flowered as young plants. In a few years' time the small grove of them should be particularly lovely. They were seedlings said to have been derived from a cross between *R. bullatum* and *R. johnstoneanum*, but there was no evidence of the latter in the flowers or foliage. Another unusual hybrid of this series was the yellow R. 'Parisienne' (*burmanicum* × *valentinianum*) which has flowered freely against the shelter of a wall.

The sloping rocky bank, perhaps 20 feet or more in height, on which the fine *R. lindleyi* was growing was a particularly successful and naturalistic planting. In one bay near the base bluebells made a beautiful picture with a large group of the Kurume azalea 'Hinomayo' (Fig. 4), while further along the magenta-red 'Hatsugiri' and 'Hinodegiri' and various pink malvatica hybrids contrasted well with large groups of white Kurume azaleas. Large groups have also been planted of *R.* × 'Cilpinense' and *R. leucaspis* perhaps 20 feet or more across and must have been a lovely sight earlier in the year, the former looking particularly flourishing. Through them were growing healthy spikes of lilies, *L. regale* and *L. bulbiferum croceum* seeming to do well in the deep pockets of soil between the rocks and the good drainage of the slope. Blue mounds of *R. scintillans*, *R. impeditum* and 'Blue Tit' had also been used freely and were flowering abundantly as nice compact plants. As one climbed the bank and emerged at the top among the gorse one gained the most magnificent view over much of the island and over the sea towards Jura and Islay, Ireland and the Mull of Kintyre.

A new rhododendron garden had recently been constructed in a clearing in the upper part of the wood and grass paths had been made between the beds. Here were masses of pink and red Kurumes, particularly 'Hinomayo', the dwarf blood-red 'Carmen' (*R. didymum* × *forrestii* var. *repens*), *R. scintillans*, *R. impeditum* and *R. calostrotum*. The silvery-grey leaved *Sorbus cuspidata* at one corner made an interesting combination with the brilliant colourings of the rhododendrons. When these have increased in size and grown more together it should make a very colourful part of the garden. A dwarf species that was particularly good throughout the garden was *R. calostrotum* and Col. Horlick had forms as near pink as I have seen anywhere.

The Cinnabarinum Series and its hybrids seemed to flourish and had been planted widely. Among the varying forms of 'Lady Chamberlain', 'Lady Rosebery', and 'Lady Berry', the clone 'Salmon Trout' was particularly lovely, 8 feet high and nearly as much through and weighed down with flower. Its colour is well described by its name. The massed plants of 'Blue Tit' formed a pleasant contrast to plants of this group. The outstanding plant, however, was a form of *R. cinnabarinum* var. *roylei* which had come from the Crarae garden. A large plant, 5 feet high by 4 feet through, it was covered with bell-shaped flowers of an unusually deep plum-crimson with a slight blue-grey bloom on the outside. The inside of the bell, however, was a brilliant scarlet and this was the dominant colour when the flowers were seen with the sun behind them (Frontispiece). It was certainly a very fine plant and I had not seen a similar form before.

Species and hybrids have been mixed freely in the wood and among the former I particularly noted a very free-flowering *R. aberconwayi* not more than 3 feet high but as much across and covered with its beautiful white saucer-shaped flowers (Fig. 8). *R. johnstoneanum* was also flowering in the same way (Fig. 6). *R. lanatum* was doing well, the small leaves being covered below with a woolly rusty indumentum. *R. thomsonii* was still flowering in early May.

Among the hybrids probably the scarlet ones had been used most freely and 'May Day' was literally covered with flowers wherever it had been used. I particularly noted one plant of 5 feet across and about 4 feet high, so brilliant in its fiery vermilion red that no plant near could stand up to it (Fig. 10). 'Leo' also had grown very well and flowered freely each year, only slightly later. A number of rhododendrons have come to the gardens from such

famous rhododendron gardens as Exbury, Tower Court, Bodnant and the Great Park at Windsor.

Col. Horlick's own hybrids, many of them raised at his former house in Berkshire, Little Paddocks, were very fine. 'Glory of Athlone' raised from 'Earl of Athlone' × 'Glory of Leonardslee' had a truss of good, almost waxy, substance and was obviously a strong grower. The flowers were a bright crimson and this is a hybrid which is worth propagating more widely since it should be a good garden plant in all except the coldest gardens. 'Elfin' (Fig. 7) was another beautiful one of Col. Horlick's raising and a complete contrast to 'Glory of Athlone', having pale blush-pink and well-shaped bells in a loose truss and very decorative rounded leaves. It is derived from *R. orbiculare* × 'Dr. Stocker'. 'Sarita Loder' derived from *R. griersonianum* × 'Loderi' was freely used and the plants, raised from Col. Horlick's own cross, were rather variable but it is generally an effective garden plant. Another interesting and distinctive, but still unnamed, hybrid from Exbury seed was *R. campanulatum* × *R. floribundum*, which has delicate mauve flowers with deeper blotch and good foliage. 'Fringe' ('Ascot Brilliant' × *R. campylocarpum*), a 10-foot bush flowering freely, had loose trusses of creamy flowers frilled at the edge and tipped with pale pink, an unusual colour which was undoubtedly attractive when seen on its own. 'Betty King' and 'Betty Royal', both derived from 'Luscombei' × *R. thomsonii* were good red hybrids. 'Titness Triumph' (*R. basilicum* × *R. mollyanum* K.W. 6261) is also probably one of Col. Horlick's most interesting and successful hybrids and has magnificent foliage deep green above and silvery below. From Exbury had come 'Barbara', an unusually lovely cross not unlike 'Penjerrick', with creamy bell-shaped flowers but raised from *R. campylocarpum* var. *elatum* × 'Loderi'. *R. campylocarpum* var. *elatum* itself was also doing well. Undoubtedly it is among the most lovely of the species and one which should be planted much more widely.

The larger-leaved species have been planted extensively, particularly *R. macabeanum*, perhaps the hardiest and finest of them all. They are still mostly comparatively young plants but in the future this will undoubtedly be one of the most interesting and spectacular parts of the garden, both in foliage and in flower, provided they can be sheltered from the gales. Here were also *R. giganteum*, a young plant in good condition and with very large leaves, *R. sinogrande*, *R. falconeri*, *R. grande*, *R. hodgsonii*, *R. arizelum* and *R. coryphaeum*.

Other genera had not been neglected. In the walled garden a very large plant of *Clianthus puniceus*, perhaps 8 feet across, was flowering freely and *Azara microphylla* was also doing well. From the south side of the house a wide straight glade through the woods has been made and planted with embothriums, leptospermums and camellias. The embothriums were doing well and just beginning to flower. *Leptospermum pubescens* with its silvery-grey foliage and white flowers had been found the hardiest of the genus. Along the north drive deciduous azaleas have been planted with red-hot pokers for later colour and this combination promises to be successful. Of the camellias *C.* × *williamsii* in its various forms and also *C. saluenensis* seemed to be establishing themselves well but nearly all the plants of *C. japonica* were yellow in foliage and did not flower well. Col. Horlick thought that this was a reaction to the wind and I have heard from other Scottish gardeners that they were not successful with them either. To flower at all here *C. japonica* must be grown in full sun and that to a greater or lesser extent means exposure to wind. The latitude would also appear to be too northerly for them and the sun not of sufficient warmth.

In thirteen years, and in a place to which it is difficult to bring really large plants, Col. Horlick has created a rhododendron collection which should increase in interest and beauty from year to year so long as protection can be given from the spray and gales. He has asked me to acknowledge here the help received in the lay-out of the gardens and the woodland plantings from Miss Lloyd Jones and also from Mr. J. P. C. Russell.

During the summer the garden is open daily to visitors on behalf of the Gardens Scheme of the Queen's Institute and the National Trust.

GHENT AZALEAS

By DONALD WATERER

IT has been a galling experience for many a modern breeder of azaleas, while showing off his most recent seedlings, to have observed his visitor's ecstasy at the sight of an elderly Ghent azalea in the background. Galling it may have been, but it has also been a reminder that the azalea which bears flowers 4 or 5 inches in diameter may not necessarily outshine some of the azaleas our grandparents knew.

The comparatively small flowers of the Ghent azaleas are produced with astonishing freedom and elegance. The branch structure is usually pleasing to the eye even in the middle of winter and the arrival of flower and foliage may be regarded as an adornment of something which is already beautiful.

Of the single Ghent azaleas the following are particularly desirable:

'Bouquet de Flore'—pink, striped with white, yellow blotch, late
'Coccinea speciosa'—brilliant orange, mid-season
'Daviesii'—creamy-white, yellow blotch, richly scented, mid-season to late
'Fanny'—deep purplish-pink, mid-season
'Nancy Waterer'—rich yellow, mid-season to late
'Pallas'—bright red, orange blotch, early to mid-season
'Sang de Gentbrugge'—deep red, late
'Unique'—orange-yellow, late

The Double Ghents, so often confused with the larger-flowered forms known as 'rustica flore pleno', are strangely neglected. One of them 'Narcissiflora', with fragrant sulphur-yellow flowers has won the coveted F.C.C. It should be planted in droves. A miserable little specimen withering for lack of humus and moisture is what one usually sees. In the Crown Estates' exhibit at Chelsea in 1956 it was shown in its full beauty and magnificence. There must be good cultivation: without it the excitement of growing azaleas is lost.

The following Double Ghents also have merit:

'Bartholo Lazzari'—apricot-yellow, mid-season
'Corneille'—sugar-icing pink, mid-season
'Raphael de Smet'—pale pink, mid-season

THE GARDENS ON THE ISLE OF GIGHA

FIG. 9—Rhododendron 'Countess of Haddington' (see p. 28)

Photos, Michael Cox

FIG. 10—Rhododendron 'May Day' (see p. 29)

Photo, Michael Cox

THE ISLE OF GIGHA

FIG. 11—A young plant of *Rhododendron basilicum*, showing the contrast between the young and old foliage

WESTBOURN

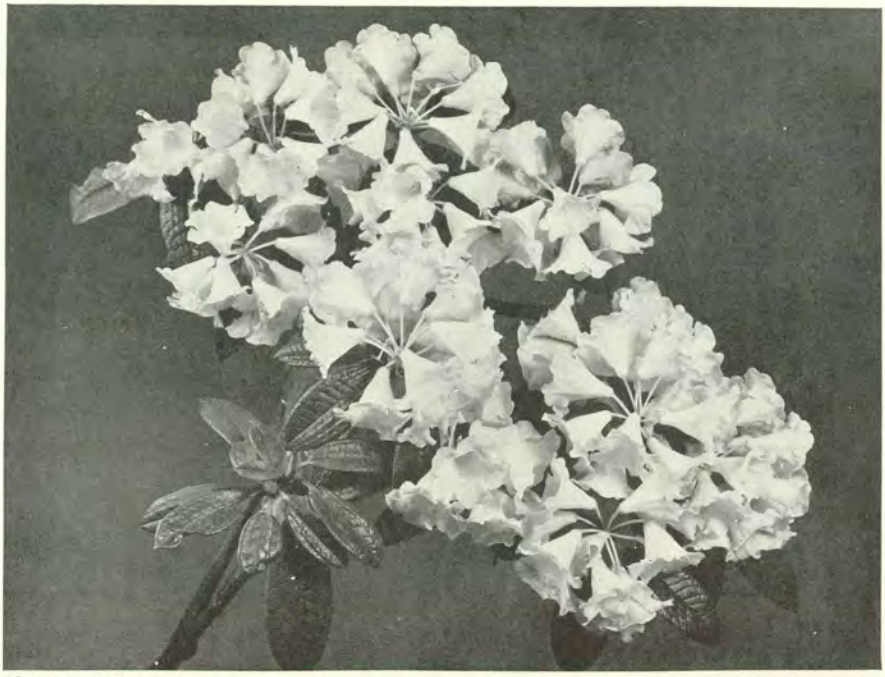
FIG. 12—Looking towards the house from the dell

Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 13—A general view of part of the gardens

WESTBOURN

FIG. 14—Rhododendron 'Clarice' × *griersonianum* (see p. 36)



Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 15—*Rhododendron argyrophyllum* var. *nankingense* A.M. April 30, 1957. Shown by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor (see p. 107)

The choice of a situation for azaleas in the garden is not a simple matter. In recent years the splendour of certain azaleas I have seen growing in open and even sunbaked positions has convinced me that the greatest intensity of colour in flower and foliage occurs only in full light. An open situation, not liable to spring frosts in late April or May and protected if possible from wind is likely to give the most satisfactory results.

Dryness at the root spells ruin to most azaleas. Deep digging and a great deal of humus in the form of peat, rotted bracken or spent hops will ensure an adequate supply of soil moisture even in sandy soils. Watering may be necessary in severe droughts until the plants are well established, but the more thoroughly the ground has been prepared the less watering will have to be done. The amount of humus-forming material to be forked into the top spit is usually underestimated. A layer of two or three inches spread across the surface after trenching and mixed with the topsoil while planting will not be too much. An annual mulch with one or other of these materials will be beneficial.

I am well aware that in advocating an open situation for azaleas I am going against opinions which I put to paper some years ago. I can only plead that one learns by experience.

There are many magnificent plantings of azaleas in woodland and partly shaded gardens. Their growth and vigour leave nothing to be desired. Full intensity of colour is all that is lacking.

Most trees and shrubs take many years to reach maturity and it is a sad reflection on modern ways of life that so many good things are uprooted before they have a chance to develop fully. I have often noticed that if an azalea has grown well for ten years or more, the hold which it has taken on the soil enables it to cope more and more successfully with drought. Its own canopy of branches gives shade to its root system and it acquires a toughness and solidity which surprise those who have only known azaleas in their early stages.

Old specimens of Ghent azaleas may be seen in the Sunningdale Nursery, where 'Unique' is particularly noteworthy. The Knap Hill Nursery has the original plant of 'Viscosepalum' and a very large example of 'Agathea' which carries thousands of sweetly-scented, apricot-pink flowers. In the garden of Mrs. A. Clark at Fulmer, Bucks, healthy plants of 'Daviesii' have reached great size in thirty years and I doubt if their owner would willingly exchange them for any more modern azalea of similar dimensions.

Where these plants are on their own roots there are plenty of young growths from the base, capable of replacing any of the old

stems which may show signs of weakness and have to be removed. Grafted plants usually have a single stem or trunk and any suckers which may develop from the soil level are likely to be from the stock. These must be pulled or wrenched off as soon as possible.

Grafted plants tend to grow strongly in their early stages and are useful for bedding purposes rather than for more permanent plantings. Unfortunately, Ghent azaleas are seldom available in nurseries on their own roots.

WESTBOURN

An Unusual Rhododendron Garden

By LANNING ROPER

MANY large rhododendron gardens have been described in the Year Book from time to time, but smaller ones of interest have been rather neglected. Westbourn, which belongs to F. W. DOBBS, ESQ., a retired Eton Master, at Wentworth near Virginia Water, is worthy of consideration. The property, which covers about three acres, takes its name from the River Bourn, a pretty, winding, tree-lined stream which flows down from the Virginia Water lake and forms the southern boundary. Into it flows a series of rivulets and ditches which drain the level areas of the garden and lend an amusing patchwork pattern to the ground plan. The house stands on a level plateau about 30 feet above the river, with a natural valley behind it on the west, and on the east a sunken garden made on the site of an old gravel pit. Here, as elsewhere, the rough ponticums have been replaced by better rhododendrons, and in one corner a single root of *Romneya coulteri* has now developed into a large patch, revelling in the sun and shelter of its position.

Fortunately, Scots pine and oak provide a high shade canopy, and the natural woodland on the other side of the Bourn makes an ideal setting for a garden which is, in reality, only 200 yards from the London–Southampton road. Originally in 1934, when the property was first bought, the low ground was a complete jungle of rough rhododendrons, birches, alders and brambles, and in many places waterlogged. Three good ditches prevented it from being a complete quagmire. Almost all the original ponticums have by now disappeared.

On the high ground, as in many parts of Wentworth, there is a stratum of hard iron-pan about an inch thick and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet below the surface. Its existence has two consequences. If a shrub is to be planted, a hole at least 3 feet in diameter must be dug to allow the use of a pickaxe to break up the hard pan—with manifest advantage to the roots of the shrub. Secondly, the presence of this pan means that rain-water after penetrating the surface has to find its way down the slope of the pan and so destroys the value of any terrace at the foot of the slope by making it waterlogged. The iron

in the soil and water does not seem to be injurious to rhododendrons, and, of course, it gives blueness to the hydrangeas.

The drive up to the house is bordered by heathers, including *Erica darleyensis*, *vagans* and 'Mrs. Maxwell', backed by rhododendrons, among which three bright red 'F. G. Millais' are conspicuous. The area south of the drive is dry and has a cover of pine and sweet chestnut. It is planted with rhododendrons, which include good plants of *R. wardii*, *cerasinum*, *sutchuenense* and the Lochan Valley form of *arboreum*.

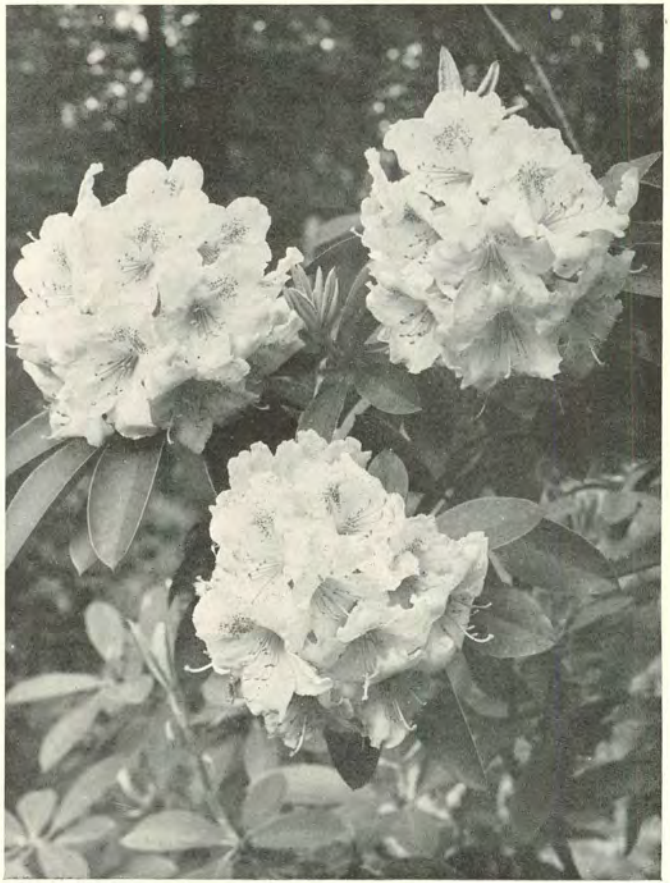
On the south side of the house there is a rectangular lawn, bounded by Japanese maples, flowering shrubs and beds of *Erica* 'King George' and 'Springwood'. From it a steep path leads to the garden below through heather-covered banks with a fine *Eucryphia* 'Nymansay', pyramidal in shape and already over 20 feet tall, *Magnolia stellata*, *Trochodendron aralioides*, *Rhododendron sutchuenense* and a variety of brooms, cistuses and flowering shrubs. The lower garden can also be approached via the gravel pit which lies to the east of the house. This has been landscaped and planted with *Pieris floribunda*, *Aralia spinosa* (the Devil's walking-stick), enkianthus and a varied assortment of rhododendrons and azaleas, including *R. croceum*, *scyphocalyx*, *concatenans*, 'Rouge', 'Clarice' × *griersonianum* (Fig. 14), several forms of *racemosum*, 'Purple Splendour', 'Naomi', 'Goldsworth Yellow', and the large-leaved species *fictolacteum* and *auriculatum* as well as two well-grown Camellia 'Gloire de Versailles'. Many of these are still small and it will be interesting to watch the progress of their growth in what would seem a very protected but dry spot. At the far end the path leads down the slope through massed rhododendrons and some very old cistuses. Both are growing well and this juxtaposition is amusing. There is a large plant of *R. ponticum* var. *cheiranthifolium* with its curiously twisted leaves and disappointing flowers.

The lower garden consists of large beds formed by a series of paths and narrow channels of water. These are planted with broad masses of astilbes, candelabra primulas, *Iris sibirica* 'Perry's Blue', *I. kaempferi*, and hostas; there are great sheets of each, with no attempt at grouping or interplanting. The effect is bold and pleasing in its simplicity. A few trees have been planted in the centre for shade and interest, including a catalpa, amelanchier, liquidambar, *Taxodium distichum* and a flourishing tulip tree which Mr. Dobbs planted out from a pot about twenty years ago.

In this section rhododendrons and other ericaceous shrubs have done extremely well. There are large specimens of *R. fortunei*,

Photo, H. W. Moulson

FIG. 16—Rhododendron 'Lochinch Spinbur' A.M. April 9, 1957. Shown at Glasgow by the RT. HON. THE EARL OF STAIR (see p. 112)



Photo, J. E. Downward

FIG. 17—Rhododendron 'Countess of Derby' at Westbourn

campylocarpum elatum, *thomsonii*, *discolor*, *campanulatum* and old hybrids such as 'Jacksonii', 'Dr. Stocker' × *thomsonii*, 'George Hardy', as well as some interesting crosses, all of which are named. *Kalmia latifolia* has grown well and seldom fails to provide a mass of crinkled pink and white cup-shaped flowers. This year, due to the bright sun, 'Britannia' was much paler than usual, as were some of the other hybrids. 'Fastuosum flore pleno' unfortunately is particularly subject to bud blast so that it produces all too few of its lovely pale mauve flowers.

A charming part of the garden is the path which follows the stream. Here a delightful balance has been struck between the evergreen rhododendrons and the paler, more delicate greens of deciduous trees and shrubs. In small gardens this is an important principle to keep in mind as too many rhododendrons can be dark and rather oppressive when planted without relief. This is one of the many lessons to be learned in the Savill Gardens of Windsor Great Park. Mr. Dobbs is a frequent visitor and is delighted to admit how much he has learnt there.

Along the river path he has grouped fragrant rugosa roses, azaleas with clumps of camassias which revel in the cool damp soil, drifts of *Rhododendron yunnanense*, *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, *Mahonia lomariifolia* with its huge bronzed pinnate leaves, *Cornus kousa*, and *C. florida rubra*, chaenomeles, forsythias and stranvaesias. In spring there is a carpet of daffodils and bluebells. One of the star turns is a fine plant of *Magnolia watsoni*, now over 25 feet tall and 20 feet across. There are other magnolias, including *liliflora*, 'Soulangiana Speciosa', 'Lennei', *stellata* and *sieboldii*.

White flowers look particularly well in the cool green shadows. *Rhododendron mucronatum* has been planted in quantity, and a huge plant of R. 'Loderi White Diamond', over 20 feet tall, covered itself with huge trusses of heavily scented flowers from the top right to the ground. *Viburnum tomentosum* 'Lanarth' is another very effective shrub. One was planted; the second came as a happy accident. A stout growth that had been removed was used as a stake to support a label. It grew, and today is a fine plant. Hydrangeas are also satisfactory and include the usual *H. paniculata*, *sargentiana*, and the blue *H. macrophylla* 'Mousseline'.

On the west side of the garden a new piece of land was purchased a few years ago. Cutting down the rough bushes, birches and alders gave pleasurable employment to various friends of sixth-form or university age. The whole area has since been thoroughly dug and drained by the gardener, who showed his enthusiasm in this and in

all his work—even to ridding the ground of the noxious boot-lace fungus where possible. Some of the land is almost too moist for some rhododendrons while others flower superbly. The result is a very varied collection. For example, one bed contains plants of *R. viscosum*, *keleticum*, *haematodes*, *cinnabarinum*, *neriiflorum*, *fictolacteum* and 'Betty Wormald'; another, *augustinii*, *mucronatum*, *campylocarpum*, *haematodes*, *chaetomallum*, *fulvum*, *fastigiatum*, 'May Day' and 'Blue Tit'. A third contains *campylocarpum elatum*, *schlippenbachii*, *racemosum*, *barbatum* and 'Fabia'.

In the glade of birch and oak to the west of the house the central path is flanked by much older plants of both rhododendrons and camellias. Here there are hardy hybrids, including 'Dr. Stocker', 'Gomer Waterer' and 'Betty Wormald' *R. fictolacteum* is already 10 feet tall and *hodgsonii* grows very well. In contrast there are the smaller-leaved *souliei*, *chaetomallum*, *glaucophyllum*, and the prostrate *forrestii* var. *repens*. *Camellia sasanqua and* C. 'J. C. Williams' grow happily under ideal conditions. *R. cinnabarinum* and its forms and hybrids deserve special mention. There are a large tree of *R. cinnabarinum* var. *roylei*, its blue leaves making it conspicuous throughout the year, a group of var. *blandfordiaeflorum* and the hybrids 'Lady Chamberlain', 'Chelsea', 'Lady Rosebery' and 'Etna'. Their tubular flowers have a wide range of beautiful subtle colours with a wonderful bloom or sheen.

Mr. Dobbs is very interested in ferns and there are many of them in different parts of the garden, as well as a collection along a shady stream where fine plants of *R. calophytum* and 'Kewense' cast their heavy shadows. Here the oak-fern, beech, parsley, maiden-hair, onoclea and other ferns luxuriate. Elsewhere various forms of *Osmunda*, the royal fern, are happily at home and send out seedlings in abundance. When Mr. Dobbs came here he saw only one royal fern in Wentworth, and that one was in a roadside ditch. *Cornus alba variegata* with its elegant white foliage is another useful foil, and of course the delicate cut foliage of tree paeonies such as *Paeonia delavayi*, *lutea* and its variety *ludlowii* are superb.

An amusing *tour de force* is a large bed of *Gentiana sino-ornata*, which are lined out by the hundreds in neat rows and make a carpet of vivid blue in the late summer. Meconopsis do quite well, and many lilies are being tried, though few have the success of *Lilium superbum*. *Rosa hillieri* and *cantabrigiensis* are perfectly happy in half shade.

Outstanding rhododendrons in the garden are some fine plants of

the lovely cross between *orbiculare* and *williamsianum*, known as 'Temple Belle' and *R. haematodes*, this year the superb 'Kewense' mentioned above, and various hybrids. The interest of the garden lies in its diversity, in the very damp conditions under which rhododendrons grow, in the excellent condition in which it is maintained and the high standard of cultivation.

Mr. Dobbs, when asked to comment on his favourite flowers, said: "It is hard to beat the winter beauty of the witch-hazel, *Hamamelis mollis*, and of *Mahonia bealii* with its yellow racemes of scented flowers. This spring the finest sight was an upright bush of *Rhododendron chaetomallum* with bronze-backed leaves and bright red waxy-looking flowers, its base surrounded by a carpet of *R. forrestii* var. *repens* with similar flowers, especially beautiful when lit by sunshine. Nearly all the plants of *R. haematodes*, usually magnificent, were spoiled by the bitter wind on May 5. Several bushes of a cross between *R. thomsonii* and 'Dr. Stocker' show the beauty of this hybrid. Of the trees I would single out the striking vivid green of *Gingko biloba* and the spangle-like leaves of a tall *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*.

"Gardening gives extra pleasure when so much can be done by layers; a blue hydrangea is the parent of twenty-nine healthy grown-up children, and cuttings of small-leaved rhododendrons are productive and interesting, though mice got into the frame and consumed this year's supply.

"I wish to thank all those friends who have given me so many beautiful rhododendrons and other plants. It has been a special delight to watch the growth of tiny seedlings like *R. pemakoense* and *campylogynum* var. *myrtilloides*. I must also thank my gardener, Mr. Reginald Rolls for the hard work, care and good taste lavished on the garden."

RHODODENDRONS AND CAMELLIAS AT PYLEWELL PARK

By PATRICK M. SYNGE

PYLEWELL PARK, the home of MR. W. WHITAKER, is situated on the coast of the Solent between Lymington and Beaulieu in Hampshire and is only a few miles from Exbury, a garden indeed well known to all rhododendron lovers. It seems to share the same favoured conditions and here some of the plants have reached a very large size. The main plantings probably pre-date the Exbury plantings and there are many plants of the older hybrids as well as a number of species.

As was the custom in those times the main plantings were kept well away from the house. An oak woodland has been opened up to make several wide glades, the main one of which leads down to a large ornamental lake separated from the Solent only by a narrow but wooded low ridge of land. Here many of the older hybrids were planted by MR. WHITAKER'S father with the late MR. W. F. HAMILTON, his gardener. On the other side of the lake the woodland slopes upward to a low ridge and among the trees of the northern side facing the lake rhododendrons have been planted freely, the wood being opened up as required. The Isle of Wight, which can be clearly seen only a few miles away, provides invaluable protection from the gales, as do also the trees on the top and southern side of the ridge. At high tide they extend down to the water in places. The lake however, contains fresh water and is fed from several springs.

It is a setting of great natural beauty and its mild climate can be judged from the fact that white arum lilies flower at the edge of the lake without any special protection, while at the edge of the shrub garden adjoining healthy eucalyptus have reached a height which can be little short of 50 feet. The thick natural covering of leafmould makes a fine medium for the rhododendrons and below it is a good sandy loam, though there are probably patches in which there is some mixture of clay as well. The atmospheric moisture deriving from the lake and from the Solent must also have had its effect. The growth of most of the plants here tends to be loose, but it is not over lanky and good mulching with leaves around the boles, and also assiduous attention to picking off the dead heads after flowering, have kept most of the plants in good health.

Photo, J. E. Downward

PYLEWELL PARK

FIG. 18—A very fine plant of Rhododendron 'Penjerrick' (see p. 41)

Photo, J. E. Downward

PYLEWELL PARK

FIG. 19—Rhododendron 'Luscombei' (*fortunei* × *thomsonii*) (see p. 41)

PYLEWELL PARK

FIG. 20—A very fine plant of Rhododendron labelled 'Aucklandii rosea superba' (see p. 41)

Photo, J. E. Downward

PYLEWELL PARK

FIG. 21—Rhododendron glade leading down to the lake

Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 22—Rhododendron 'W. F. H.' (see p. 41)

In the main glade leading down to the lake are plantings of an early scarlet hybrid made by MR. HAMILTON at Pylewell by crossing *R. haematodes* with 'Tally Ho' and named after him 'W.F.H.'. It is a very brilliant orange-scarlet in colour, which contrasts well with the deep green foliage (Fig. 22). It makes a rather low-growing and spreading plant, not often exceeding 4 feet in height. The grex is variable, but the best seedlings seem very good plants.

There are a number of large plants both of 'Loderi' and 'Kewense' and these flower very freely. Particularly fine were 'Loderi Snowdrop' and 'Loderi King George'. An even greater beauty was a 15-foot specimen of the cream form of 'Penjerrick' in full flower near the lake (Fig. 18). This lovely hybrid can hardly be surpassed for grace of form in the flower and this was an unusually large plant. Another interesting plant rarely seen was labelled 'Aucklandii rosea superba', a very old tree 18 feet high and as much across. As the photograph (Fig. 20) shows, the scented pink flowers are borne in a tighter truss than is usual in *R. griffithianum* and it is probable that this is an old hybrid. J. G. MILLAIS describes a plant known as 'Pink Aucklandii' which he thought was a hybrid raised by MR. G. WILLIAMS of Scorrier House, near Truro, and grown by MR. J. C. WILLIAMS of Caerhays from the parentage *griffithianum* × 'Broughtonii', the latter parent being an old *arboreum* hybrid, and it is quite possible that this plant may be of the same cross. It is certainly one which is worthy of more frequent planting.

Another very fine *griffithianum* hybrid which we saw in the wood on the other side of the lake was 'Isabella Mangles' (Figs. 23, 24). It is a good pale pink in colour with a very fine tall and upright truss, the corollas being slightly ruffled at the edge. It was described by MILLAIS as "one of the best hybrids I have seen", and I hardly think that many seeing this plant would quarrel with his words today. To say that it is a much improved 'Pink Pearl' is faint praise yet gives some idea of its character. It is sad that so few of these Mangles hybrids are now commonly available in nurserymen's catalogues, for many of them were first-rate plants and of reasonable hardiness. We do have, however, one of the best of them in nearly every list and that is 'Loder's White'.

Hybrids of the 'Luscombei' grex between *R. fortunei* and *R. thomsonii* were raised in several gardens and there are some very fine old specimens here (Fig. 19), flowering very freely in varying deep shades of pink with large trusses of flower. Two hybrids which have also been planted freely here are 'Decsoul' from *decorum* × *souliei* and a cross between 'Decsoul' and *thomsonii* raised by

Mr. Hamilton. They both make good flowering plants, 'Decsoul' having loose trusses of white flowers. One specimen of this was 12 feet high and 15 feet across. 'Beauty of Tremough' (*arboreum* × *griffithianum*) was also very fine, although on our first visit in the spring of 1956 it showed some signs of winter damage. Later large plants of the Angelo grex (*discolor* × *griffithianum*) came into flower and made a fine spectacle. 'Margaret Bean' with pale yellow flowers edged with pink was another decorative plant and one rarely seen. Another unusual hybrid was *smirnowii* × *griffithianum*. It had good foliage and trusses of white flowers liberally speckled. There were also good plants of 'Tally Ho' and 'Fusilier' which provide brilliant scarlet colour near the lake late in the season.

Among the species a white *moupinense* growing out of the base of a tree had reached 4 feet by 4 feet, while *R. calophytum* and *R. arizelum* had both made good trees; there were also several examples of *R. fictolacteum* and *R. rex*. *R. oreodoxa* had reached 15 feet and was 20 feet across and must have been a very fine sight in flower, while *R. fulvum* had made a very shapely rounded tree, perhaps 12 feet by 12 feet, most decorative in its foliage as the wind turned up the deep rust-coloured indumentum on the under sides of the leaves. The white flowers had a slight pink flush.

In this wood, however, perhaps the finest plants were the forms of *R. cinnabarinum* and *R. cinnabarinum roylei*. We measured one across and it was 20 feet and must have been nearly as high, the branches literally weighed down with the dark plum-red flowers glowing where the sun shone through them like a glass of wine held up to the light. There was also an unusual form with blush-pink flowers grown from seed collected on one of the Mt. Everest expeditions. A fine *R. concatenans* was nearly 10 feet in height and at this size the aromatic character of the leaves was quite apparent. It was a deep coral-coloured form better for colour than those usually seen. *R. augustinii* and *R. vaseyi* had also grown well, the latter a rather pale pink form. The young growth of *R. phaeochrysum* (K.W. 4843) was like a lovely pale grey, almost white, suède but becomes tawny as the leaves age. It is rare that one sees a large specimen of this member of the Lacteum Series. *R. mallotum* was also growing well and there is probably no rhododendron with more richly coloured indumentum on the under sides of the leaves. *R. barbatum* had reached 15 feet high by 20 feet through and must have been a wonderful sight in flower. The tender blood-red form of *R. arboreum* was nearly 25 feet, while two magnificent plants of 'Sir Charles Lemon', that lovely form of *R. arboreum* with white

flowers and deep rust-coloured indumentum, towered 15 feet high by 20 feet through behind big bushes of *R. indicum amoenum* and the white *R. mucronatum.*

The late MR. WHITAKER was more interested in rhododendrons than in azaleas, but in early June one of the most lovely sights was a row of the late-flowering *occidentale* and Ghent hybrids leaning over a little stream which ran alongside one part of the lake at the foot of the big wood. These varied in colour widely, always ranging among the softer colours, and had grown big and were covered with flower. They included 'Daviesii', with white flowers with a pale yellow blotch, and the pretty 'Prince Henri des Pays Bas', a very light crimson with an orange-red blotch at the base of the flower. It is a pity these are not now more widely grown for they follow the *molle-japonicum* class of azaleas and have great delicacy of flower. MR. WHITAKER told us that these had originally been bought as pot plants by his mother to decorate the house for a ball and then planted outside by this little stream, so fulfilling her desire to have azaleas in the gardens.

The camellias were also large in size and a small grove of them had been planted near the edge of the wood by the lake. Many were thought to be over sixty years old. The oaks, however, had by now overshadowed them and it is doubtful whether they flower as freely as before. We noted 'Maiden's Blush', a pretty pale pink, and 'Madame de Strekaloff', a double pale pink, as well as a number of unnamed plants. Against the outside of a wall of the old kitchen garden was also a good planting of camellias, mostly 12 feet or so in height and covered with flower. Here a large *C. reticulata semi-plena* was growing well, as were also such good plants as 'Lady McCulloch', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Devonia' and 'Jupiter'. Young plants of a number of camellias had also been planted nearer the house sheltered by old ilex and other trees and were just reaching flowering size.

The garden is open to the public at intervals on behalf of various charities and under the Gardens Scheme of the Queen's Institute, and will well repay a visit by anyone interested in rhododendron species and the older hybrids, while there are also a number of rather unusual shrubs planted in the grass en route for the woodland.

I am indebted to MR. WHITAKER for help over the compilation of this article as well as for his generous hospitality, and also to MRS. R. M. STEVENSON who helped to identify some of the species rhododendrons, and to my colleague, MR. N. K. GOULD, who accompanied me on my first visit.

THE PHENOMENAL YEAR 1955 AND ITS EFFECTS ON RHODODENDRONS

By HARRY R. MADISON

Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

TWO years ago in November, 1955, a calamitous and unique freeze hit the Pacific Coast of North America, west of the Cascade Mountains and extending from Southern British Columbia to the extreme northern part of California. A frigid blast poured into the state of Washington from the Canadian Arctic on the heels of a sixty-mile-an-hour northerly wind. It entered the State in the early morning of November 11 and by the next day it had extended south to California. In its wake it left destruction to agriculture, horticulture and forest growth. The impact of the sudden freeze can only now be estimated with a fair degree of accuracy. The damage to crops and commercial nursery products, including ornamentals alone, has run well over fifteen million dollars, and is exclusive of home landscaping and reduced forest increment. The minimum temperatures were not the coldest experienced in the area, but the previous lows were under normal conditions. The factors contributing to the unique and disastrous 1955 freeze were of a multiple and phenomenal nature.

To understand more readily why some seemingly tender plants survived, while other plants classed as hardy in this area were killed, it is necessary to examine the meteorological data from the beginning of the year preceding the freeze. The following climatic data are from the official U.S. Weather Bureau reports. Comments on the effect to plant behaviour have been added:

JANUARY: The third driest January in Washington's climatical sixty-six-year history. Average temperatures west of the Cascade Mountains on the Pacific Slope were above normal, with a mildness, along with sufficient moisture in the ground, to favour plant growth. Rhododendrons were stimulated into action, and bud development and root growth were in evidence.

FEBRUARY: Both precipitation and temperatures were slightly

below normal, but growth conditions were fairly favourable for plant development.

MARCH: Continuous subnormal temperature produced the coldest March average on record by over 10° F. over the lowest previous March minimum temperature record. Precipitation averaged 10 to 20 per cent above normal. The effect on rhododendrons was to suppress both root and leaf-bud development that takes place at this time of year under normal weather conditions.

APRIL: This month also broke the record for the coldest April, and at the same time it was the wettest April since 1937. Temperatures averaged from 4° to 6° F. below normal. Plant growth was further retarded and rhododendrons were now from two to three weeks retarded in development.

MAY: Average temperature was equal to the coldest May previously on record, which occurred in 1933. It was the fourth consecutive month of subnormal temperature. Precipitation averaged below normal, and was within 10 per cent of reaching the normal average. Plant growth continued to be suppressed and rhododendron blooms were late.

JUNE: The weather showed considerable variation with dry and wet periods, but precipitation for the month averaged below normal. Temperature average was below normal also. On June 9, however, the maximum rose rapidly to 95–105° F. at most weather stations in western Washington. On June 10 it was almost as high again and then dropped back to the normal maximum of 75° F. Leaf and stem growth of trees and ornamentals, including rhododendrons, were in an immature condition due to the abnormally late season, when the sudden hot, dry weather came. Usually by June 1 this new growth has developed sufficiently to withstand the heat of summer. Not so in the year 1955. A full sun and the high temperature, wilted and scorched the tender foliage. The shock was great enough, coupled with dry atmospheric and ground conditions, to put rhododendrons and most other woody plants into a state of temporary dormancy.

JULY: This was the second wettest July in Washington's climatic history, averaging just three-hundredths of an inch less than the record July, 1916. July had over three times the average rainfall for that month: it was also one of the coolest on record, with more than 3° F. below normal. The combined effect was very favourable to plant growth and rhododendrons started to put forth a burst of growth after the previous suppression and summer dormancy.

AUGUST: Was the driest August on record. The average total rainfall was a hundredth of an inch less than the previous driest August, which occurred in 1914. Temperatures averaged below normal, producing the unusual summertime combination of below normal temperatures and lack of rainfall. Again the flow of sap in woody plants was slowed down.

SEPTEMBER: For the State as a whole, both temperature and precipitation averaged very near the September normals, although it was slightly below for both elements. Under this condition, rhododendrons, trees and shrubs, started once more to catch up for lost growing time.

OCTOBER: The average and extremes for the month were well within the all-time range at this time of year. It was by no means however, an average October, having double the normal precipitation average. Temperatures were below normal by only a little over a degree. This was the ninth consecutive below-normal month, but conditions continued favourable for growth, and rhododendrons were again growing vigorously.

NOVEMBER: The coldest in the sixty-six years of recorded averages. It was also one of the wetter ones. The unseasonable and prolonged cold spell produced a temperature average of about 6° F. below the normal for Western Washington. The unusual features of the month were the heavy rains in the beginning of the month (5 to 12 inches in three days) over the Olympic Peninsula and on the Western Slope of the Cascade Mountains on November 3, 4 and 5. Up until November 11, growth and sap flow in most woody plants was under a stimulated condition. On November 11 the mild moist weather suddenly changed. A howling northern wind ushered in record-breaking cold weather that lasted through the seventeenth. New minimum temperature records were established for so early in the season all over the entire State. The all-time minimum temperatures for November were exceeded in most localities. This was the longest duration of extreme low temperature ever recorded in this month. Minimum temperatures decreased between 35 and 45° F. from November 10 to 15. The maximum temperatures remained below freezing for approximately six days or longer in some places. This was as many days with a maximum temperature below freezing as is usually recorded during the entire winter. Following are the day-by-day temperatures for November recorded by the U.S. Weather Bureau for the Seattle-Tacoma Airport Station, which are quite typical for much of western Washington.

Temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport for November 1955

DATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
MAXIMUM	48	55	58	56	50	48	55	54	60	54	38	21	23	23	24
MINIMUM	36	39	53	39	34	43	40	49	51	36	15	13	14	9	6

DATE	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
MAXIMUM	31	31	48	48	45	43	44	44	48	47	45	49	48	46	47
MINIMUM	21	23	29	37	35	35	33	37	43	43	35	36	35	42	40

It will be noted from the above table that the temperatures were favourable for autumn growth up to the beginning of the cold wave on November 11, also it should be added, there was no protective blanket of snow covering before, during or directly after the storm.

DECEMBER: Was the eleventh consecutive month with below-normal temperatures, and the third with above-normal precipitation. Temperatures averaged 3° F. below normal and the precipitation was over 130 per cent for western Washington. The minimum temperature recorded in December was 24° F. at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport weather station, which indicates that no further extremely low temperatures occurred during this month in most of the area. The damage to plants at first was not entirely apparent, but as time went on, more and more plants died. Some rhododendrons showed signs of recovery the following growing season, only to succumb finally in the second year.

In contrast, the minimum temperature recorded in 1950, at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport Station, of one of our coldest winters, was 0° F. on January 31 and 1° F. on February 1. There were some resultant losses of the more tender species and varieties of rhododendrons, but nothing to compare with the losses experienced in November 1955. Nor were the losses analogous. For one thing most of the rhododendrons in the Triflorum Series came through without difficulty in 1950, whereas in 1955 the Triflorums were among the heaviest losers. An explanation may lie in the cell size inherent to the series. The large cellular structure offers greater capabilities of developing ice crystals, especially larger crystals that would be more damaging than those found in some of the other series with smaller cell size.

In light of the preceding, the month-by-month factors leading to the final freeze makes it evident that: (1) The normal spring

growth was delayed by the all-time record average cold lasting well into June. (2) The young foliage and tender growth that finally developed, before it reached maturity, suddenly encountered above 100° F. temperature in June that wilted or burned foliage and sent the plants into a state of temporary dormancy. (3) This dormancy was broken by an abnormally moist and cool July, but the continued development was set back by the driest August on record. (4) September, October, and the early part of November were favourable for growth. Plants put out a final burst of speed to complete their annual growth cycle. (5) Sap was flowing freely when the frigid air mass moved in and temperatures dropped as much as 45° F. in a matter of a few hours to below freezing. (6) The duration of the freeze lasted eight days with maximum temperatures below freezing for six days.

The injury to plants from freezing due to the phenomenal weather was threefold: (1) Damage to the plant cell where the ice crystals formed between the cellular structure, drawing the water away from the protoplast and causing a precipitation of the proteins, with the resultant separation of the cell walls and protoplast. In some cases the separated water within the protoplast itself formed ice crystals and completely disrupted its activity. Both forms of cell injury are common with a rapid drop in the temperature and are not necessarily associated with bark splitting. (2) Bark splitting or mechanical injury occurred when the temperature differed materially between the outer portion of the woody stem and the inner portion. The rapid temperature drop caused the frozen cambium and outer layers to shrink away from warmer inner layers, setting up an uneven internal stress. Bark splitting was common among many rhododendrons. In Madrona trees the injury was very evident, the entire trunk splitting asunder in extreme cases. (3) Desiccation or lack of moisture resulted from the quick freezing by the rapid-moving dry air; it withdrew whatever available moisture there was in the plant after the soil froze and before the plant itself became frozen. Transpiration was mostly through the leaves and stems. The process of desiccation was reversed when the weather finally moderated. In this case the stem and leaves above ground were warmer than the frozen soil, making it difficult for the plant to replenish the moisture that was being withdrawn by the sun, water becoming more viscous at lower temperatures.

Since all plants have a minimum temperature and length of duration of freeze at which point they will suffer injury, this differs somewhat in the various species of rhododendrons, and it is

Photo, J. E. Downward

PYLEWELL PARK

FIG. 23—Rhododendron 'Isabella Mangles' (see p. 41)

Photo, J. E. Downward

PYLEWELL PARK

FIG. 24—Rhododendron 'Isabella Mangles' (see p. 41)

Photo, P. M. Synge

FIG. 25—A well-flowered plant of *Rhododendron yunnanense* at Rowallane in May 1957. This garden, made by the late MR. H. ARMYTAGE-MOORE, V.M.H., was recently given to the National Trust for Northern Ireland and is open to the public

RECOVERY AFTER DAMAGE CAUSED IN 1955, U.S.A.

FIG. 26—A 5 ft. 6 in. *Rhododendron arboreum*, severely frozen in 1955, showing growth at base two years

FIG. 27—The recovery of *Rhododendron thomsonii*. Note terminal growths but no basal shoots; Seattle,

well to point out that both temperature and duration were of sufficient intensity to affect a large group of this family. Had the plants had the benefit of a hardening-off period prior to the freeze, the results would have been entirely different. The state of moisture and mineral content as well as cell development was such that it favoured injury, i.e. the protoplasm had a high viscosity, but, on the other hand, the permeability of the cell wall membrane to allow free water to enter the protoplast was reduced. It is essential that the movement is kept unrestricted at all times. A plant properly hardened off would be high in carbohydrates and soluble proteins and it should be low in water content. Obviously this was not the case in November 1955.

In the mountains of western Washington below the elevation of about 2,000 feet above sea level, within the Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) forests, the early spring of 1956 saw an extensive 'needle drop', denuding the trees of their needles. The interesting fact was that the shedding stopped above 2,000 feet elevation. Also the same species of trees farther north in Canada, but near sea level, were unharmed. On Vancouver Island, in Canada, early light frosts arrested sap flow, and, similarly, above 2,000 feet in Washington, with the result that no heavy losses occurred there. Most rhododendrons were unharmed on Vancouver Island.

Following is a digest of the frost injury to rhododendrons in the Seattle area, mostly at the University of Washington Arboretum where a large number of many species and varieties of rhododendrons were growing under nearly identical conditions of climate and care. Many species rated 'A' in hardiness, in some series, were killed, while other species in other series, rated 'C', survived.

As would be expected, the iron-clad group, the Ponticum Series, suffered very little indeed. None of these species in this series were harmed beyond bud injury in a few instances, including our native *R. macrophyllum* (*californicum*). On the other hand, the Lapponicum Series was badly hit. Species *hippophaeoides*, *impeditum*, *lepidotum*, *litangense*, *paludosum*, *setosum* and *stictophyllum*, all rated 'A' were frozen out in most locations, *impeditum* faring better than most of the others. The condition of the individual plant at the time the frost hit was most important to its survival, which accounts for the fact that some specific species survived in one garden, but succumbed in another within the same climate zone.

Perhaps the hardest hit of all the series, while not very common,

but nevertheless of importance, was the large leaved class. Rhododendrons belonging to the Falconeri and Grande Series were all but completely wiped out. This included *arizelum, basilicum, eximium, falconeri, fictolacteum* and *rex* in the Falconeri Series and *coryphaeum, grande, giganteum, macabeanum, peregrinum* and *sinogrande* in the Grande Series. *R. galactinum* in the Falconeri Series was the only one to survive in most instances.

In the Triflorum Series the losses were also extremely heavy, although many plants thought to be dead last year have since made a recovery from the base or below ground, provided that they were not grafted plants and were on their own roots. The species most adversely effected were *augustinii, bauhiniiflorum, caesium, chartophyllum, concinnoides, davidsonianum, exquisitum, hanceanum nanum, lutescens, oreotrephes, pseudoyanthinum, trichophorum, villosum* and *vilmorinianum.* Of this popular series, *ambiguum* and *polylepis,* both rated 'A' in hardiness, and *yunnanense,* rated 'B', showed a limited degree of resistance.

A run down of the more important rhododendron species grown in the Pacific North-west shows the following results: Anthopogon Series—species *ledoides* suffered badly and in most cases was killed. Arboreum Series—species *arboreum, arboreum album, coryanum, hypoglaucum, insigne* and *kingianum* were mostly killed outright. Some have staged a recovery. It is noteworthy that the recovery growth on *arboreum album* was from the base or in the lower part of the plant (Fig. 26). Auriculatum Series—*R. auriculatum* was killed in some gardens, and only slightly harmed in others. *R. griersonianum* was about 100 per cent frozen out, which is not surprising. Barbatum Series—species *crinigerum, glischrum, barbatum, smithii,* all suffered heavy losses. Campanulatum Series—the two species of this series most commonly grown in the Puget Sound area are *fulgens* and *wallichii.* These were pretty well wiped out. Campylogynum Series—the species *campylogynum* although rated 'A', were mostly killed. Cinnabarinum Series—one of the heaviest and saddest losses was the loss of our lovely *cinnabarinum,* nearly all of which succumbed, as did *concatenans* and *keysii.* Fortunei Series—this is one of our popular series and, as a whole, it did not suffer so badly as did some of the others. Species *calophytum, decorum, diaprepes, discolor, fortunei, griffithianum, hemsleyanumm praevernum, serotinum, vernicosum* forma *sheltonae, sutchuenense* and *vernicosum* suffered some losses. Hardest hit were *diaprepes, decorum, griffithianum* and *vernicosum.* Species *cardiobasis, orbiculare, fargesii* and *oreodoxa* were for the

most part unharmed. Ferrugineum Series—represented by the prototype *ferrugineum* came through without harm. Heliolepis Series—was badly depleted in the following species: *brevistylum*, *heliolepis*, *pholidotum* and *rubiginosum*. Irroratum Series—species *aberconwayi*, *elliottii*, *irroratum*, *lukiangense* and *venator* were mostly killed. Lacteum Series—of the three species *beesianum*, *lacteum*, and *wightii*, only *wightii* survived without serious injury. Maddenii Series—only *ciliatum* and *polyandrum* survived in the series. *R. ciliatum* was cut to the ground, but made a basal recovery. Species *crassum*, *formosum*, and *johnstoneanum* were completely lost. Moupinense Series—was represented by the species *moupinense*, which were all frozen too badly to recover. Neriiflorum Series—species *beanianum*, *didymum*, *euchaites*, *forrestii* var. *repens*, *neriiflorum* and *sperabile* suffered heavily. Perhaps *forrestii* suffered the least; species *dichroanthum*, *haematodes*, *scyphocalyx* and *sanguineum* had mostly bud damage. Scabrifolium Series—of the three (*hemitrichotum*, *pubescens* and *spinuliferum*) in this series, *pubescens* suffered the least damage, and the other two were for the most part killed. Taliense Series—species represented in this series were *alutaceum*, *bureavii*, *inopinum*, *prattii* and *pronum*. Some plants of these species were killed, but as a whole, they survived fairly well. Thomsonii Series—in this important series many fine species were lost. Numerous plants of *callimorphum*, *caloxanthum*, *campylocarpum*, *jucundum*, *meddianum*, *puralbum*, *souliei*, *thomsonii* and *wardii* were killed. Some of them were seriously damaged, but have since recovered. The recovery growth on the species *thomsonii* of those plants badly injured, has been at the branch terminals entirely. There were no basal breaks (Fig. 27). *R. williamsianum* was unharmed at nearly all locations, and oddly enough it also applies to most of its hybrids. Uniflorum Series—represented mostly by *pemakoense* and *sperabile*, although *pemakoense* is rated 'A' in hardiness, many plants were lost nevertheless. Virgatum Series—the popular *racemosum* is also rated 'A', but the losses were very severe. However, both *pemakoense* and *racemosum* have shown considerable recovery this year from the base. Azalea Series—the subseries Canadense, Luteum and Schlippenbachii as a whole, did not suffer many casualties. Some losses occurred among the less hardy species in the Obtusum Subseries. Losses were fairly heavy among some of the deciduous hybrids and very heavy in the evergreen hybrid class.

The November 1955 freeze was equally damaging to the rhododendron hybrids. Such old hardy standbys as 'Britannia', 'Pink

Pearl', 'Unknown Warrior' and 'Cynthia' were heavily damaged in many gardens, or even killed in some. Those that were not killed have by now made good recovery. 'Loderi King George', was lost in most gardens. 'Loderi Pink Diamond' was not quite so generally killed, however, some of the Loderi crosses came through without injury. 'Azor' hybrids were damaged extensively, but not generally killed.

A recapitulation of facts discloses that: (1) Climatic conditions prior to November 11, 1955, were the principal factors that led to the heavy frost injury. Meteorological high lights of the year 1955 were the phenomenal departures from normal. It was the coldest year, of records starting in 1890, with eleven consecutive months below normal temperatures. Three all-time monthly lows for specified months were broken, and one was equalled. One all-time monthly driest record for a specific month was exceeded, while the two months of April and July were the second wettest April and July on record. The combination of climatic factors had an extremely detrimental effect on all woody plants, making this the most damaging year in history of the Pacific North-west. (2) This phenomenal condition is of such rare occurrence that it may not occur again in several generations. (3) Many plants were given up for lost and removed too soon. (4) Some rhododendrons apparently survived the first year after the freeze only to die the second year. (5) The conventional hardiness rating given rhododendrons applied only to a limited extent when plants were subjected to these unusual conditions. (6) The ability to withstand the unique freeze varied more between the rhododendron series than it did between the individual species within a given series, regardless of the hardiness rating assigned to the species.

Having weathered the crisis, the thought uppermost in the minds of gardeners and rhododendron growers now is when will the rock bottom hardy varieties be available? Perhaps the answer lies in the hands of our present hybridizers; when the genes of hardiness have been isolated from the iron-clad Ponticum Series and combined with the beauty of *griffithianum* or the gorgeous exotic leaves of *falconeri*, to produce a new race of super rhododendrons, we will have then reached our goal.

Photo, J. E. Downward

FIG. 28—The Rhododendron Show, April 30, 1957

THE RHODODENDRON SHOW

April 30, May 1, 1957

By PATRICK M. SYNGE

IN most areas the rhododendron season in 1957 was an unusually good one, but it was also earlier than usual and this brought in some changes to the usual range of plants shown. The whole of the New Hall was filled thus giving a larger display than we have enjoyed for several years. It was also a show full of bright colour as the plate opposite shows.

The nurserymen's exhibits which filled the main body of the hall deserve a special word of praise, being larger and more numerous than in recent years and containing a large number of plants of high quality.

A gold medal was awarded to Messrs. W. C. Slocock Ltd. for a large group of rhododendrons and azaleas staged under the clock at the end of the hall. In the centre was a large plant of 'Loderi King George' flanked at the back by six large standards of the old hybrid 'Purple Splendour'. Among the many plants in this group specially notable were 'Goldfort', with pale creamy yellow flowers, raised at this nursery from *R. fortunei* × 'Goldsworth Yellow'; also the fine clone of 'Naomi' which received the A.M. and 'Bow Bells', a most charming smaller flowered hybrid from 'Corona' × *R. williamsianum*, the flowers of which were a good pink while the buds were deeper in colour and the form of the flower was bell-like. This hybrid raised at Exbury was seen on several stands but was for me at any rate, one of the outstanding plants of the show.

Messrs. Hilliers were given a Silver Gilt Banksian Medal for a very fine group to be seen immediately on entering the hall. In the centre was an unusually large plant of 'Lady Rosebery' about 7 feet in height and dripping all over with pink bells—a lovely sight. Also notable were two fine plants of 'Loderi Helen' and 'Loderi Sir Edmund', *R. tosaense* pink form, and a large-flowered hybrid from *R. diaprepes* × 'Tally Ho'. It was unusual to see such a cross flowering so early in the season. Messrs. Waterers had a large group chiefly of hardy hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas and evergreen azaleas. 'Mary Swaythling', a pale lemon-yellow *campylocarpum-fortunei* hybrid, with attractive bell-shaped flowers,

was a notable plant. In the centre of the group were two large plants of 'King George' with bright red flowers and 'St. George', a less well-known hybrid, which opens pink with darker buds and then fades to blush white. There was also a fine plant of *R. augustinii*, a species which seems to have flowered particularly well this year. 'Phidias' was a rather pretty and unusual deciduous azalea of the type known as 'rustica flore pleno' and had creamy, slightly double flowers with a pale pink tinge.

The Sunningdale Nurseries had an interesting group dominated by an enormous plant of the lovely old white tender hybrid 'Fragrantissimum'. It was about 9 feet high and 6 feet through and covered with flower. Probably there was no finer plant in the show. Particularly noticeable in this group was the fine young foliage on young plants of the large-leaved series, that of *R. giganteum* K.W. 21602 having broad bullate leaves, deep maroon on the upper surface, while those of *R. macabeanum* looked as if they were covered with a very fine silvery grey suède which contrasted well with the light pink leaf-bud scales. Few plants in the show also were more lovely than the fine one on this stand of *R. kaempferi* with large apricot-pink flowers. It is good that this beautiful species has been restored to specific rank in the new edition of the *Rhododendron Handbook*. The Knap Hill Nursery had a fine, colourful, group of deciduous azaleas and of rhododendrons among which 'Goldfort', 'Marinus Koster', with large pink flowers, were notable. Mr. Frederick Street showed a group of well flowered and compact plants of the hardy hybrid rhododendrons including the pink 'Starfish', the white 'George Hardy' and the deep red 'Jean Mary Montague'. A Silver Banksian Medal was awarded for this group.

Messrs. Charlton were awarded a Banksian Medal for a group of hardy hybrid rhododendrons including that fine white 'Mrs. Lindsay Smith', while Messrs. Reuthe were awarded a Flora Medal for an interesting group to which some tall plants gave height and lightness. There was a fine pale lilac *R. oreotrephes* and a large pink-flowered *R. argyrophyllum*. A plant of the yellow-flowered 'Marcia' was also distinctive.

The number of entries in the competitive classes was well up to the average, if not rather above it and the quality was generally high. The Schedule followed the same lines as in previous years but a new class, No. 77, was added for a hybrid of any of the Thomsonii Subseries other than *R. thomsonii*.

Class 1 for one truss of each of eight species was won by Lord

Aberconway and the National Trust who showed from Bodnant the following: *lacteum*, a tight truss of a good deep yellow; *orbiculare*, an attractive form with rather pinker flowers than usual; *roxieanum* var. *oreonastes*, which had a tight truss of pale pink flowers, the inside of the flower and the lower half of the outside being prominently speckled with deeper crimson; *vernicosum* R. 03788, *falconeri*, *argyrophyllum*, *habrotrichum* and *arboreum*. The second prize was awarded to the Crown Commissioners for an exhibit from Windsor Great Park containing: *niveum*, a very deep mauve form; *aberconwayi*, a good truss with flowers opening nearly flat and with prominent speckling on the outside of the upper petals; *rex*, a nice truss with a pale mauvish-pink tinge; *thomsonii*, *orbiculare* McL. 25, *argyrophyllum* var. *nankingense*, *bureavii* and *wardii*. Third was Mr. E. de Rothschild from Exbury with *wiltonii*, a species rarely seen and having a small truss of white flowers with a pink flush on the outside; *campanulatum*, a rather unusual almost white form with small flowers; *rex*, *litiense*, *niveum*, *lanatum*, *aberconwayi* and *glischrum*. A fourth prize was awarded to the Dowager Lady Londonderry and the Northern Ireland National Trust for an exhibit from Mount Stewart with *rhabdotum*, a very pale form without the usual prominent crimson streak down the outside of each petal; *hodgsonii*, a magnificent tall truss of rosy-lilac flowers; *fictolacteum*, *falconeri*, *macabeanum*, *arizelum*, *arboreum* and *bullatum*.

In Class 2 for one truss of three species there were six entries and the first prize went to the Earl of Stair for *basilicum*, an unusual form with pink bands on the outside of the corollas; *habrotrichum*, a form with good pink flowers, and *fictolacteum*. Sir Henry Price, of Wakehurst, was second and showed *decorum*, an unusually fine truss of pure white flowers, well spaced on the rachis, *fictolacteum* and *campylocarpum*. Third prize was awarded to Mr. E. M. King, of Embley Park, for *fictolacteum*, *falconeri* and *orbiculare*, while the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, were fourth with *fictolacteum* R. 59250, *vernicosum* McL. T. 71, and *campylocarpum*. Class 3 for three species was open only to exhibitors who had not won a prize in Classes 1 or 2 in the preceeding five years and was won by Mr. E. G. Kleinwort, of Haywards Heath, with an unusual form of *vernicosum* with pale blush pink flowers, *orbiculare* and *wardii*. Mrs. C. M. Gosney, of Kingswood, Surrey, was second with *fortunei*, *campylocarpum* and *exquisitum*.

In Class 4 for one truss of one species the McLaren Challenge Cup is awarded as first prize. This class attracted fifteen entries

and was won by Mr. E. M. King with a very pale but large-flowered truss of *fictolacteum*; the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, were second with a good truss of *aberconwayi*, Lord Stair was third with a beautiful truss of *maddenii* and Lord Aberconway was fourth with a good yellow *lacteum*. Wing-Commander Ingall was highly commended for a medium-sized truss of *sphaeroblastum* from the Taliense Series, whose white flowers were speckled with crimson on the inside of the corolla.

Class 5 for a spray of any one species had some very fine exhibits and was won by Lady Londonderry with a magnificent spray of *R. bullatum*, a good pink form and very free flowering. Lord Aberconway was second with a very fine spray of a deep mauve *augustinii* with a purplish eye. Mr. de Rothschild was third with *wiltonii* and Lord Aberconway fourth with *falconeri*, a spray having four good flower trusses. Classes 6–34 required either one truss or spray of a particular species or from a particular series. Class 6 for *arboreum* or its subspecies was won by the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, with a rather loose truss of the deep crimson subspecies *kingianum*. Lord Aberconway was second with a pink form of *arboreum* and Lady Londonderry third with the blood red form. Class 7 called for any species of the Arboreum Series other than *arboreum* or its subspecies and was won by Sir Giles Loder with a dainty shell-pink *argyrophyllum*. Second were the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, with the slightly deeper pink *argyrophyllum* var. *nankingense* and third was Lord Aberconway with *argyrophyllum*. In Class 8 for the Barbatum Series all three prizes were awarded for *habrotrichum*, first being Lord Stair, second, Sir Henry Price and third Lord Aberconway. In Class 9 for the Boothii Series either a single truss or a spray was admissible and first, third and fourth prizes were awarded for *tephropeplum* to Mr. de Rothschild, Mr. E. M. King and Lord Aberconway respectively. For second place the yellow *megeratum* was shown by Lord Aberconway. It was noticeable that on this occasion the judges preferred the deep pink forms of *tephropeplum* to the pale ones, a beautiful pale pink form shown by Mr. J. W. Howlett failing to win a prize.

Class 10 for the Campanulatum Series was won by Lord Aberconway with a pale creamy yellow truss of the rather unusual *lanatum*. He also won second prize with a very pale form of *campanulatum*.

In Class 11 for a spray of Cinnabarinum Series there were twelve entries as opposed to a single entry last year. The first prize went

to Lord Aberconway for a deep ochreish yellow *concatenans* and the second to Mrs. R. M. Stevenson for a well flowered spray of a pale yellow form. The Crown Commissioners, Windsor, were third with a rather pale flowered *xanthocodon*. For *falconeri* all the trusses shown seemed rather small and probably this season most of the best trusses of this species were over. Mr. de Rothschild, Mr. E. M. King and Lord Aberconway were the prizewinners in that order. On the other hand Class 13 for *fictolacteum* was well represented and there were some very fine trusses. Mr. E. M. King won first prize, Mr. de Rothschild second and Lord Aberconway, who showed a white form, third. The next class was for any other member of the Falconeri Series than in the preceding two classes and was won by Lady Londonderry with her very fine form of *hodgsonii*. Mr. R. Strauss was second with a pale lilac coloured *rex* and Mr. de Rothschild third with *basilicum*. No first prize was awarded in Class 15 for *griffithianum* but Lord Aberconway won a second prize for a white form with a pinkish calyx and Mr. M. Haworth-Booth third prize for a rather unusual pink form.

Class 16 for any rhododendron of the Fortunei Series other than *griffithianum* was very popular and attracted twenty-two entries. Mr. E. G. Kleinwort won the first prize with an unusually fine truss of a deep pink *orbiculare*. Sir Henry Price was both second and third with a white *decorum* and a good pink *fortunei* respectively. For the Series Fulvum in Class 17 it was probably not the best time and a third prize only was awarded to Mr. E. de Rothschild for the type species. In Class 18 for the Series Grande Sir Henry Price was awarded a first prize for a pale creamy truss of *R. sidereum*. The next class, however, for Series Irroratum was more popular with nine entries. The Crown Commissioners, Windsor, were first with *aberconwayi*, Mr. de Rothschild second with a white *laxiflorum*, rather saucer-shaped in the corolla and with some slight speckling. For third prize Lord Aberconway showed an unnamed species with a tight truss of good coloured red flowers with prominent black nectaries at the bases of the corollas. In Class 20 for *lacteum* all the blooms were on the small side. Lord Aberconway won both first and second prizes.

In Class 21 for members of the Megacalyx Subseries some lovely blooms are generally shown and Lord Aberconway's fine truss of six flowers of *dalhousiae* was no exception. On the outside of the flowers at the base was a green flush. The Crown Commissioners

won second prize with a three-flowered truss of that superb species *lindleyi* with its large white, waxy, lily-like trumpets.

The next class required any other member of the Maddenii Series and the first prize went to the Crown Commissioners for a lovely truss of *polyandrum*, strongly scented. Lord Stair was second with *maddenii* and Lady Londonderry third with an interesting pale lemon yellow form of *burmanicum*. *Haematodes* was the winning flower in all three places in Class 23 for a member of that subseries and the prizes went to Sir Giles Loder, Mr. H. F. Thoburn and Mr. E. de Rothschild respectively. In the Class for the Neriiflorum Subseries there were 13 entries. Mr. de Rothschild was first with *euchaites*, Lady Londonderry second with *neriiflorum* and Lord Aberconway third with *floccigerum*, a pale ochreish yellow flower with a deep pink margin to the corolla. There were no entries for *aperantum* in Class 25. In the following class for any other member of the Sanguineum Subseries Lord Aberconway was first with a very pleasing terracotta form of *dichroanthum*, the Crown Commissioners second with *herpesticum*. There was also a very deep maroon *haemaleum* from Wing-Commander Ingall. Class 27 for a member of the Taliense Series attracted thirteen entries; as the plants reach flowering maturity this Series seems to be becoming more popular. First was Mr. de Rothschild with *wiltonii*, second and third Lord Aberconway with *wasonii* and *roxieanum* var. *oreonastes*. Wing-Commander Ingall was awarded a fourth prize for a large compact truss of *sphaeroblastum* with white flowers speckled with crimson.

In Class 28 for a spray of *R. campylocarpum* there was considerable variation in the size of the corollas in the specimens shown. First prize went to Sir Henry Price for a form with very fine large bells, second to Lord Aberconway and third to the Misses Godman. In the next class for a spray of any other member of the same Subseries Lord Aberconway showed a very fine flowered spray of *caloxanthum* for first prize, while the Crown Commissioners obtained second prize for a beautiful form of *callimorphum* and Lord Aberconway third prize for the same species. Class 30 required a truss or spray of the Martinianum or Selense Subseries and was won by Lord Aberconway with a pink flowered *rhaibocarpum*. Mr. de Rothschild was awarded a third prize for *dasycladum* which had small white flowers with a pinkish flush. As usual there were some lovely flowers shown in Class 31 for members of the Souliei Subseries and the first prize was given to Lord Aberconway for a very fine large-flowered form of *williamsianum*.

The second and third prizes were awarded to Mrs. R. M. Stevenson and Lord Aberconway respectively for *wardii*. In the next class for the Thomsonii Subseries the three prizes were awarded to Mr. de Rothschild, the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, and Wing-Commander Ingall respectively for the type species. Owing to the early season *R. schlippenbachii* was over in many gardens and in Class 34 for this species, usually one of the best represented classes in the show, only a second prize was awarded to Mr. de Rothschild this year. On the other hand for Class 34 for a spray of any other member of the Azalea Series there were fifteen entries. Mrs. R. M. Stevenson won first prize with a good pink form of *vaseyi*. Mr. E. M. King also showed a deep pink spray of this for third place while the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, were second with a large spray of *roseum*. The next class called for three deciduous species of the Azalea Series and the first prize was awarded to Lord Aberconway for *vaseyi*, *schlippenbachii* and *albrechtii*. It was interesting to see in this class vases of *japonicum*, *luteum* and *occidentale*, and very lovely they were although they apparently did not find favour with the judges.

It was a considerable contrast to go direct from the large-flowered azaleas to the small-flowered Anthopogons or Cephalanthums in Class 36, but they are attractive also. Mr. T. H. Thoburn won first prize with a very floriferous spray of the creamy *sargentianum*. Mr. de Rothschild was second with a good pink form of *trichostomum* var. *radinum* and Lord Aberconway third with the white *trichostomum* var. *ledoides*. The aromatic scent was very noticeable in this class. In the next class for the Campylogynum Series there was only one entry—that of Lord Aberconway with the type species and he was awarded a first prize for a rather light coloured form.

For the next class of the Edgeworthii Series there was considerable variation in the species shown. Mr. J. H. Howlett won first prize with *edgeworthii*, Lord Aberconway second with a good pink *bullatum* and the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, third with *pendulum*, an epiphytic species with pale cream flowers and very woolly small leaves. The Glaucophyllum Series in the next class had twelve entries this year as opposed to only one last year. Wing-Commander Ingall was first with a fine deep pink form of the type species, Sir Henry Price second and Lord Aberconway third with a paler form, both showing the same species. In this class there was an interesting flower of the rather rare *genesterianum* with small dark maroon flowers with a greyish plum bloom on the

outsides of the corollas and with unusually long peduncles for the size of the flower. There was also a *pruniflorum* with small bluish-mauve flowers, another species rarely seen. In Class 40 for the Heliolepis Series LORD ABERCONWAY showed an unusually good pink form of *rubiginosum* for first place while WING-COMMANDER INGALL was second with a paler form of the same species, prominently marked with crimson.

The Class for the Lapponicums nearly always has a varied collection. This year the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, were first with a pale creamy yellow *chryseum*, Messrs. Waterer's second with a very dark blue but rather small-flowered *fastigiatum* and MR. THOBURN third with *hippophaeoides*. For the Lepidotum Series a second prize went to SIR HENRY PRICE for *baileyi* and a third to the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, for a creamy yellow *lepidotum*. There were no entries for the next class of the Forrestii Subseries and in the next few classes also the entries were rather sparse. In the Saluenense Series LORD ABERCONWAY won a second prize for a well flowered truss of *prostratum* and the Crown Commissioners a third place for a bright purple form of *calostrotum*, Farrer 1045. MR. DE ROTHSCHILD showed a bright orange-scarlet *spinuliferum* for a second place in Class 45, while Class 47 for the Trichocladum Series was won by SIR HENRY PRICE with the type species, the Crown Commissioners and LORD DIGBY showing *chloranthum* for second and third places respectively.

R. augustinii in Class 48 gave us one of the most beautiful displays in the Show. This year has brought out particularly well the wide variation in colour of this species. The Crown Commissioners, Windsor, won first prize for a deep mauve and very large-flowered spray, MRS. R. M. STEVENSON was second with a distinctive pale mauve form with a green eye and MR. DE ROTHSCHILD third with a very beautiful pale mauve form with a green eye and some white at the base.

R. chasmanthum was shown for the first three places of other members of the Augustinii Subseries and won first, second and third places for LORD ABERCONWAY, MR. E. M. KING and MAJOR A. E. HARDY respectively. For members of the Oreotrephes Subseries there was a good field of thirteen entries, the type species won first and second places for MAJOR HARDY and MRS. STEVENSON respectively, that placed first being a very fine form. MRS. STEVENSON was also third with *timeteum* F. 30910, very closely allied to *oreotrephes*, but with flowers of a deeper pinkish lilac. In Class 51 for the Polylepis Subseries the Crown Commissioners

were first with a very attractive reddish plum-coloured form of *pseudoyanthinum*. It was quite different in colour from any others shown in the class. LORD ABERCONWAY was second and MRS. R. M. STEVENSON third with *concinnum*. The Triflorums are generally better in the garden than on the Show bench, but LORD ABERCONWAY won a first prize with quite an attractive creamy yellow form of *bauhiniiflorum* which was also shown for third place by the Crown Commissioners. MR. THOBURN was second with *ambiguum*. On the other hand the Yunnanense Subseries always looks well when cut as a spray as well as providing some first-rate garden plants. In Class 53 there were fourteen entries and MRS. STEVENSON was first with a very rich-coloured form with prominent crimson markings, the Crown Commissioners second with a paler form with contrasting markings of the same species and SIR HENRY PRICE third with *searsiae*. So varied is the schedule that for Class 54 of any species not included in the above classes, there is not a very wide range open, particularly of showy plants. The Crown Commissioners were first with a small-flowered *carolinianum* var. *album* and LORD ABERCONWAY second with a pink form with larger flowers of the same species. Class 55 admits any species shown by an exhibitor who has not won a prize at the Rhododendron Show since 1952 and this was won by MR. E. G. KLEINWORT with a good pinkish truss of *orbiculare*. MR. G. A. JUDSON was second with *glaucophyllum*.

Section II of the Show contained classes for hybrids beginning at No. 61 for eight hybrids and these presented a very colourful display all along one side of the hall but it is not possible to mention all the prize-winning entries by name in the space available. This first class was won by MR. M. HAWORTH-BOOTH with a set which included some of the older hardy hybrids. These last well on the Show bench and the selection of this group for first prize showed that in the opinion of the judges many of them have not yet been surpassed for garden value by the newer hybrids, which often have much looser trusses. MR. HAWORTH-BOOTH showed *griffithianum* × 'Corona', 'Simoane', 'Luscombei', 'David', 'Souvenir of W. C. Slocock', 'Susan', (Dido g.) 'Farall', 'Orion', a very fine pink truss, and 'Wery's Scarlet'. MR. DE ROTHSCHILD was second with (Yvonne g.) 'Dawn', 'Kiev', a very fine dark blood red, 'Daydream', 'Rosemary', a good pink flower, 'Crest', belonging to the Hawk grex, 'Gypsy King', 'Carita' and 'Naomi'. LORD ABERCONWAY was third with 'Laura Aberconway', 'Rosa Bonheur', a good pink with a loose truss, 'Cornish Cross', 'Camilla', 'Cardinal', 'Adlo', 'Luscombei' and 'Ruddigore'.

In Class 62 for three hybrids, Mr. E. M. King was first with 'Mrs. G. W. Leak', 'Loderi' and 'Touchstone', a fine deep pink variety, the trusses of each being in excellent condition. The Misses Godman were second and their group included 'Coronation Day', with very large light-pink flowers. The Crown Commissioners were third with 'Cornish Cross', *griersonianum* × 'Manglesii', 'Hawk' × 'Marcia'. In Class 63 for three hybrids shown by an exhibitor who had not won a prize in the two previous classes for the previous five years, Lord Stair was first with a very fine set including a rather unusual deep pink-flowered hybrid labelled 'Barclayi' and 'Lord Stair', his own lovely hybrid of *R. lindleyi* × *taggianum*. Mr. E. G. Kleinwort was second and Mrs. G. M. Gosney third. Class 64 for three sprays of hybrids was won by Sir Giles Loder.

Class 65 for one hybrid for which the Loder Challenge Cup is the first prize was very well filled with twenty-one entries. Lord Stair was first with the hybrid named after himself, the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, second with an interesting hybrid of *yakusimanum* × 'Loderi Sir Joseph Hooker' and Lord Aberconway third with the deep crimson 'Coreta' raised at Bodnant from 'Loderi' × *zeylanicum*. The Crosfield Challenge Cup for the next class of six hybrids raised by, or in the gardens of, the exhibitor was won by Lord Aberconway who also won third prize for a different set. In his first group he showed 'Gretia', 'Ruddigore', 'Hecla', 'Thais', 'Bella' and 'Greeting'. Mr. de Rothschild was second with a fine group containing 'Gibraltar', 'Querida', 'Idealist', 'Crest', 'Naomi' and 'Rosemary'. A rather unusual coloured flower shown in this class by Lord Digby was 'Winston' ('Cerisette' × 'Toreador') and it had a prominent reflexed calyx. Class 67 for three hybrids raised by, or in the garden of, the exhibitor was well represented. Lord Aberconway won with 'Royalty', 'Houlstonii' × 'Penjerrick' and 'Fair Maiden'. He was also second and Mr. de Rothschild, third.

There were thirteen entries for the class of six hardy hybrids classified A and B, and it was noticeable that the exhibits in this class were mostly standing as well on the afternoon of the second day of the Show as on the first, which could not be said of many of the other hybrids. The Misses Godman were first with a group containing 'Susan', 'Mrs. G. W. Leak', 'Alice', 'Goldsworth Crimson', 'Mother of Pearl' and 'Goldsworth Yellow'. In Mr. de Rothschild's group, which won second prize, 'Snow Queen' with white corollas of very good substance and 'Bulstrode Park'

with deep crimson flowers were very fine. In the Class for a hybrid of the Arboreum Series LORD ABERCONWAY's 'Red Coreta' was a striking flower and won first prize. The second-prize flower in this class was shown by MRS. L. O. DAVID and was 'Singleton', a blue truss of rather an unusual colour and derived from *eximium* × *niveum*, but with much larger flowers than in *niveum*.

Among other distinctive flowers in the hybrid classes were 'Hiraethlyn', a very nice truss of deep pinkish crimson which won first prize for LORD ABERCONWAY in Class 71 for a *griffithianum* hybrid, SIR HENRY PRICE's unnamed *thomsonii* hybrid with large open corollas which won first prize in Class 76, MR. DE ROTHSCHILD's very dark reddish-maroon 'Queen of Hearts', the prize-winner of the new Class 77, and as a contrast the lovely creamy yellow 'Arthur Smith' from LORD DIGBY, which won second place in the same class.

Class 80 for a spray of the Cinnabarinum Series attracted some outstanding entries and the first prize went to MRS. STEVENSON for an unusually well coloured 'Lady Chamberlain'. Also noticeable was 'Perseverance', shown for second place by CAPTAIN MURRAY ADAMS-ACTON. This was a cross between *cinnabarinum* var. *roylei* and 'Lady Chamberlain'. LORD ABERCONWAY's truss of 'Tyermannii' with five enormous lily-like flowers was undoubtedly one of the outstanding blooms in the Show and well deserved the first place in Class 81, while LADY LONDONDERRY's 'Countess of Haddington' with five flowers in the truss was very fine in the same class. Another very interesting specimen was the first-prize winner in Class 86, a large-leaved rhododendron with pale creamy flowers in a rather loose truss and thought by MR. DAVIDIAN to have been derived from *falconeri* × *sinogrande*. It was also sent from Mount Stewart by LADY LONDONDERRY. Also noticeable in this class was a hybrid of *souliei* × *yakusimanum* from LORD DIGBY with attractive open, almost saucer-shaped white flowers in a loose truss. Another hybrid of this same parentage was shown on the dais but was given no award. MRS. STEVENSON's 'Rozamarie', a pale cream hybrid with open bells shaped like 'Penjerrick' was a beautiful first-prize winner in Class 87, while in the same class MAJOR-GENERAL HARRISON's hybrid of *augustinii* × 'Blue Tit' showed a notable addition to the small-flowered blue hybrids. 'Countess Mountbatten of Burma' was a magnificent evergreen azalea covered in deep salmon-pink flowers and won first prize for MR. DE ROTHSCHILD in Class 101. The Lionel de Rothschild Challenge Cup, the first prize for Class 100, a group of plants on

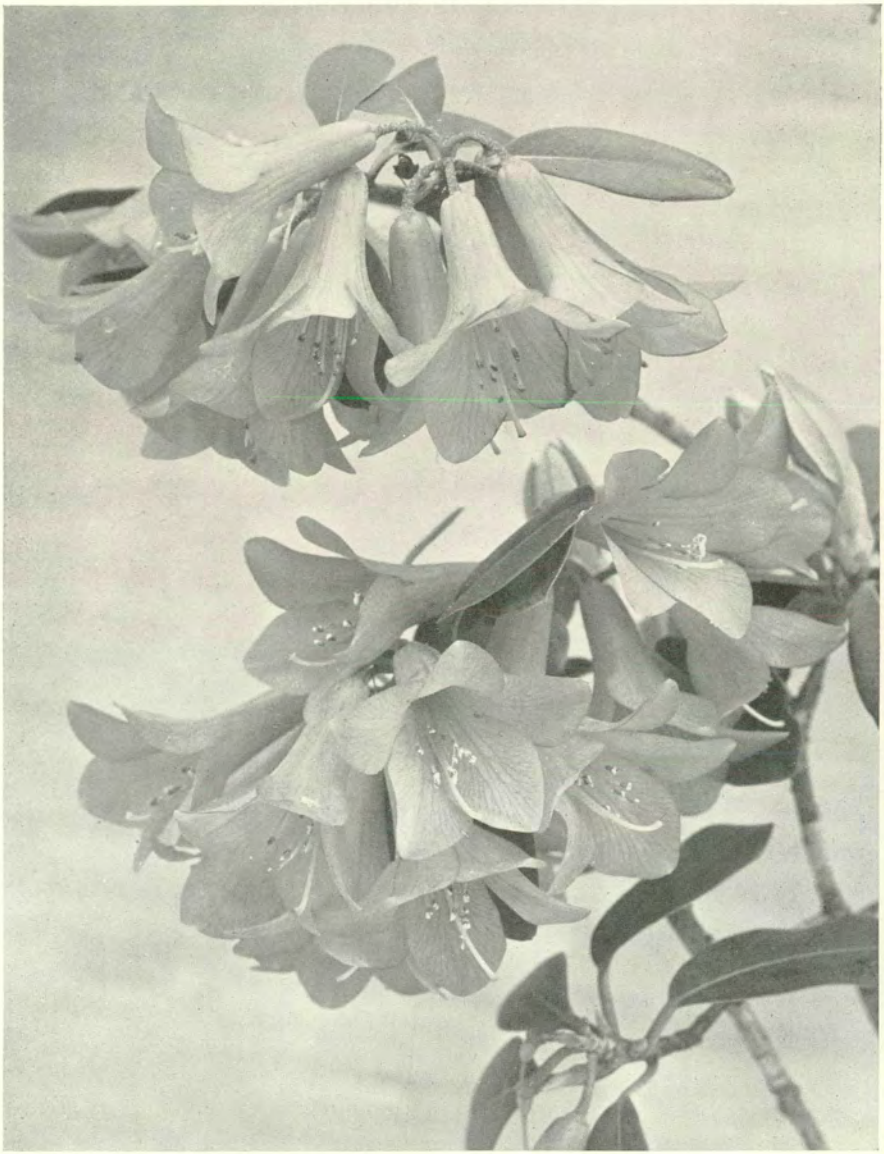
a table 10 feet by 4½ feet was won by MR. E. DE ROTHSCHILD who showed a fine selection of plants.

Among the specimen plants for Class 105, which must not exceed 4 feet in height, 'Goldfort' which won first prize for Messrs. Slocock, and *litiense* from Windsor, were both unusually good and well flowered plants.

Among the award plants *R. parryae* from the Edinburgh Botanic Garden was a very beautiful specimen, though unfortunately of a rather tender and rarely seen species and deserves special mention. The librarian staged a small exhibit of books with plates or text concerning rhododendrons and this added to the interest of the Show which was altogether one of the finest Rhododendron Shows we have had for some years.

Photo, J. E. Downward

FIG. 29—*Rhododendron irroratum* 'Polka Dot' A.M. March 19, 1957. Shown by E. DE ROTHSCHILD, ESQ. (see p. 109)



Photo, J. E. Downward

FIG. 30—Rhododendron (Perseverance g.) 'Revlon' A.M. Chelsea Show when exhibited by E. DE ROTHSCHILD, ESQ. (see p. 111)

THE SCOTTISH RHODODENDRON SHOW, 1957

By Dr. J. MACQUEEN COWAN, C.B.E., V.M.H.

THE Scottish Rhododendron Show which is organized by the Gardens Committee of the National Trust for Scotland was held in the McLellan Galleries, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 9 and 10, 1957.

The Sir John Stirling Maxwell Rhododendron Trophy, which is awarded to the exhibitor with the highest aggregate of points in all classes, was won by the EARL OF STAIR. The runners-up were the GIBSON FAMILY, Glenarn, and MR. F. L. INGALL, Corsock House, Castle Douglas.

The National Trust for Scotland Rhododendron Trophy, which this year was awarded for the best exhibit of dwarfer Rhododendrons, was shared by the GIBSON FAMILY and SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL of Succoth, who were equal first, and MR. A. G. KENNETH, Stronachullin, Ardrishaig, was second.

The show, which is held in conjunction with the Scottish Rock Garden Club, on the same day as they hold their show in Edinburgh or Glasgow, in spite of being early this year, was favoured by the season and there was a large number of entries—over 300 and 25 more than previously. The mild season enabled gardens in the east of Scotland to be more fully represented than had previously been possible. Among the outstanding exhibits was a truss of *Rhododendron macabeanum* shown by the EARL OF STAIR. The GIBSON FAMILY showed an interesting spray of a fine form of SHERRIFF'S *R. cinnabarinum* var. *purpurellum*. Good trusses of *R. lacteum* were shown both by the EARL OF STAIR and by MR. F. L. INGALL; and MR. MICHAEL NOBLE of Ardkinglas showed an interesting truss of *R. parmulatum*. There was also a number of fine trusses of *R. mollyanum*. The best (not for competition) came from Benmore Gardens. The judges were: COL. THE LORD DIGBY, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., SIR ERIC SAVILL, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., M.A., V.M.H. and C. E. PUDDLE, Esq.

AWARDS

CLASS I. *6* species, 1 truss each.

First: Trustees of the late Mary, Duchess of Montrose, with *R.*

calophytum, *R. grande*, *R. arizelum*, *R. neriiflorum*, *R. barbatum*, *R. macabeanum*. Second: The Earl of Stair, with fine specimens of *R. lacteum*, *R. mollyanum*, *R. delavayi*, the others in his group being *R. sinogrande*, *R. macabeanum*, *R. basilicum*. Major Iain Campbell, of Arduaine, and Mr. F. L. Ingall were equal, third.

Class II. 3 species, 1 truss each.

First: Mr. F. L. Ingall, for fine grown trusses of *R. fargesii*, *R. lacteum*, and a purplish form of *R. sutchuenense*. Second: The Earl of Stair. Major Iain Campbell and Mr. Michael Noble, Ardkinglas, were equal, third.

Class III. 1 species, 1 truss.

First: The Earl of Stair, with *R. macabeanum*. Second: Major Iain Campbell, with *R. grande*. Third: Sir George Campbell of Succoth, with *R. niveum*.

Class IV. 1 species (*lepidote*) not more than 12 inches high.

First: An exceptionally fine spray of Sherriff's form of *R. cinnabarinum*, to which the name var. *purpurellum* has been given, was shown by the Gibson Family, Glenarn, Rhu, and this was outstanding in this class. Second: Messrs. E. H. M. and P. A. Cox, Glendoick, with *R. pubescens*. They were also third with *R. cuneatum*, tying with Sir George Campbell who showed *R. racemosum*.

Class V. Arboreum Series, 1 truss.

First: The Trustees of the late Mary, Duchess of Montrose, with a pink *R. arboreum*. Second: *R. delavayi*, shown by The Earl of Stair. Third: A rich red *R. arboreum*, shown by Sir George Campbell.

Class VI. Barbatum Series, 1 truss.

First: The first place was awarded to a fine truss of *R. strigillosum*, shown by the Gibson family. Second: *R. smithii*, shown by Major Iain Campbell.

Class VII. Boothii Series, 1 spray not more than 12 inches high.

First: The Earl of Stair, with a spray of a good yellow *R. sulfureum*. Second: The Gibson family, with *R. leucaspis*. Third: Sir George Campbell, with *R. auritum*.

CLASS VIII. Campanulatum Series, 1 truss.

First: In this class the Gibson family showed *R. fulgens*, which was awarded first place. Second: The Earl of Stair, for *R. campanulatum*. Third: Mr. A. G. Kenneth, for *R. fulgens*.

CLASS IX. Falconeri Series, 1 truss.

First: *R. arizelum*, shown by Miss Balfour, Balbirnie. Second: *R. fictolacteum* shown by Mr. F. L. Ingall. Third equal: Messrs. E. H. M. and P. A. Cox, with *R. rex*, and The Earl of Stair, with the red form of *R. arizelum* (Rock 59151).

CLASS X. Grande Series, 1 truss, not *R. sinogrande*.

First: *R. macabeanum*, shown by The Earl of Stair. Second: *R. mollyanum*, shown by Captain Mackie-Campbell, Stonefield, Tarbert. Third: *R. macabeanum*, shown by Major Iain Campbell.

CLASS XI. *R. sinogrande*, 1 truss.

There was only one entry and for this a first prize went to The Earl of Stair.

CLASS XII. Heliolepis or Trichocladum Series, 1 spray not more than 18 inches high.

First: Sir George Campbell with a fine form of *R. rubiginosum*, with very large pink flowers. Second: Messrs. E. H. M. and P. A. Cox, with another spray of the same species. Third: The Gibson Family, with *R. trichocladum*.

CLASS XIII. Neriiflorum Series, except Sanguineum and Forrestii Subseries, 1 truss.

First: Mrs. Kenneth, Tigh-an-Rudha, Ardrishaig, with *R. mallotum*. Second: Mr. Ingall, with *R. floccigerum*. Third equal: Mrs. Kenneth and Mr. Michael Noble.

CLASS XIV. Neriiflorum Series, Sanguineum and Forrestii Subseries, 1 truss.

First: *R. chrysanthum*, from Mrs. Kenneth. Second: *R. chamaethomsonii*, shown by Mr. A. G. Kenneth. Third: *R. parmulatum*, shown by Mr. Michael Noble.

CLASS XV. Thomsonii Series, 1 truss.

First: Miss Balfour, with *R. thomsonii*. Second: Mr. Ingall, with *R. thomsonii*. Third: Mr. A. G. Kenneth, with *R. caloxanthum*.

CLASS XVI. Fortunei Series, 1 truss.

First: Miss Balfour, showing *R. calophytum*. Second: Mr. Ingall, showing *R. sutchuenense*. Third: Messrs. E. H. M. and P. A. Cox, with *R. vernicosum*.

CLASS XVII. Irroratum Series, 1 truss.

First: Messrs. E. H. M. Cox and P. A. Cox, with *R. irroratum*. Second: Major Iain Campbell, with *R. irroratum*. Third: The Gibson Family, with *R. shepherdii*.

CLASS XVIII. Lacteum Series, 1 truss.

First: The Earl of Stair. Second: Mr. Ingall, with *R. lacteum*. Third: Mr. Ingall, with *R. traillianum*.

CLASS XIX. Uniflorum or Anthopogon Series, 1 spray not more than 12 inches high.

First: The Gibson Family, with *R. pemakoense*. Second: Colonel J. Horlick, Gigha, with *R. pemakoense*. Third: Sir George Campbell, showing *R. anthopogon*.

CLASS XX. Taliense or Fulvum Series, 1 truss.

First: *R. adenophorum*, shown by Mr. Michael Noble. Second: *R. fulvum*, shown by Colonel J. Horlick. Third: *R. sphaeroblastum*, shown by Mr. Ingall.

CLASS XXI. Any other Elepidote Series not falling into above Classes V–XX, 1 truss.

First: The Gibson Family, with *R. degronianum*. No other awards were made.

CLASS XXII. 6 hybrids, 1 truss of each.

First: The Earl of Stair with 'Red Admiral', 'Lady Linlithgow', 'Little Bert', 'Elsae', R. × *lacteum* and R. × *niveum*. Second: The exhibits of the Gibson Family, which included a fine truss of the old hybrid, R. 'Edmondii'. Third: Colonel J. Horlick.

CLASS XXIII. 3 hybrids, 1 truss of each.

First: Mr. Michael Noble, who showed *R. thomsonii* × ('Kewense' × *thomsonii*), an *R. arboreum* hybrid and 'Queen Wilhelmina'. Second: Colonel J. Horlick. Third: Sir George Campbell.

CLASS XXIV. 1 hybrid between Lepidote Rhododendrons, 1 spray not more than 18 inches high.

First: First place was awarded to R. 'Parisienne' (*R. valen-*

tinianum × *burmanicum*), shown by Colonel J. Horlick. Second: R. 'Bulbul' (*R. bullatum* × *moupinense*), shown by the Earl of Stair. Third: R. 'Racil' (*R. racemosum* × *ciliatum*), shown by Sir George Campbell.

CLASS XXV. 1 hybrid between Elepidote Rhododendrons, 1 truss.

First: R. 'Avalanche' (R. 'Loderi' × *calophytum*), shown by Colonel J. Horlick. Second: R. 'Ibex' (*R. griersonianum* × *pocophorum*), shown by Sir George Campbell. Third: *R. thomsonii* cross, shown by Mr. Michael Noble.

CLASS XXVI. 1 hybrid raised by the exhibitor, not more than 18 inches high.

First and Second: Awarded to the Earl of Stair for his hybrids *R. johnstoneanum* × *chrysodorum* and *R. spinuliferum* × *burmanicum* ('Spinbur'). Third: Colonel J. Horlick.

CLASS XXVII. 1 named hybrid of which *R. thomsonii* was one parent.

First: Major Iain Campbell. Second: Sir George Campbell. Third: Mr. F. L. Ingall. All showed R. 'Shilsonii'.

CLASS XXVIII. 1 named hybrid of which *R. arboreum* was one parent.

First: The Gibson Family, showing R. 'Edmondii'. Second: An un-named *R. arboreum* hybrid, shown by Major Iain Campbell. Third: R. 'Fulgarb' (*R. fulgens* × *arboreum*), shown by Mr. Ingall.

CLASS XXIX. 1 vase of Rhododendrons for decorative purposes.

The judges expressed the opinion that there was room for improvement in this class in which the awards went to Major Iain Campbell, Mr. Michael Noble and Mr. F. L. Ingall.

THE SEATTLE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY SHOW 1957

By HARRY R. MADISON

Bellevue, Washington, U.S.A., May 16th–19th

SLOWLY, but with increasing momentum, the Pacific North-west is recovering from the disastrous freeze of November 1955. So severe was the frost damage that the usual display of rhododendron plant material for the 1956 Show was unavailable, and only a small showing, mostly of cut trusses of the most hardy species and varieties was held.

This year, however, the recovery was sufficient to produce enough bloom to hold the usual fine show, except that it was on a somewhat reduced scale. Bellevue, on the east shores of Lake Washington and within the environment of Greater Seattle, was the place of the 1957 and eighth Annual Rhododendron Show. An exceptionally good growing winter produced some unusually fine specimen plants, considering the tremendous setback of the two previous years.

The show was co-sponsored by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and was brought to Bellevue as an added incentive to the creation and continuance of beautiful gardening, and it was in complete keeping with the community theme of "Land of Gracious Living", as was explained by MR. ARTHUR P. DOME, the show chairman. The location of the show at the pavilion in the Bellevue Shopping Square was ideal in many respects and showed off the exhibits to good advantage. Space, however, was limited to thirteen landscape displays. These were staged for the most part by commercial growers and were non-competitive, although specimen plants within the displays were open to the selection of the "Best Plant in the Show" award. Another section included competitive specimen plants in twelve classes. The third section was the cut trusses, consisting of nineteen competitive classes. It has been estimated that between 20,000 and 25,000 people visited the exhibition during the four days. The show was free to the public and no actual count of the attendance was kept.

One of the outstanding commercial landscape exhibits was

staged by Prentice Nursery and Decorating Company. In the foreground were the miniature pernettyas and *Rhododendron keleticum* with their 1½-inch diameter pinkish-mauve flowers, none of the plants being more than 6 inches in height. Artistically spaced in a natural setting were low plants about 10 inches high of *R. mucronatum album*. Among the rocks and green moss the other associate plants were cutleaf weeping maple, *Tsuga merteńsiana*, sprawling and low growing *Juniperus pfitzeriana compacta*, the large leaf plant *Hosta glauca*, and specimen plants of rhododendrons, such as 'Mrs. H. S. Holford', and a magnificent 36-inch high plant of the 'Hon. Jean Marie de Montague' with every stem a terminal truss of bright red inflorescence. Twenty-four flower trusses in all were counted on this plant. Over to one side was a group of creamy yellow azaleodendron 'Broughtonii aureum' and some fine salmon-pinks with yellow blotch Knap Hill azalea 'Cecile'. Nestled among these yellow flowers was a contrasting 6-foot 'Blue Peter'. The focal point terminated with sweeping 12-foot-long branches of a "Morgan" hybrid rhododendron.

In a semi-circular landscape display staged by the Robertson Nursery was a naturalistic display of the following interesting plants: R. 'Purple Splendour' associated with the creamy yellow azaleodendron 'Broughtonii aureum', R. 'Mother of Pearl', and a fine specimen of 'Betty Wormald', several good 6-foot high 'Mrs. E. C. Sterling', *R. decorum*, 'Amy' and 'Pink Pearl'. These rhododendrons were associated with *Pileostegia viburnoides*, *Acer circinatum* (our native vine maple). The low *Pieris japonica pygmaea* was in the foreground and the Alpine fir, *Abies lasiocarpa* in the background. To one side was a still pool of water surrounded with *Iris sibirica*, *Galax aphylla*, the funkia, *Hosta lancifolia*, *Skimmia foremanii* and *R. intricatum*. Closer in were a couple of fine specimen plants of the bright red 'Mars'. A touch of completeness was furnished by some miniature azalea 'Guy Yerkes'. These with the dwarf yew, *Taxus cuspidata nana* were in the foreground.

Some very interesting plants were exhibited in the woodland scene set up by the University of Washington Arboretum and staged by the Director of the Arboretum, Mr. Brian Mulligan. Canada blueberry, *Vaccinium canadense*, from eastern North America was conspicuous in the foreground, while a fine group of azaleas occupied an area to one side. In this grouping was a good form of the fragrant *R. alabamense* with flowers of white with a yellow blotch, these flowers native to south-eastern United States. Also from the same region was *R. canescens* in a pinkish white form.

The bright yellow *R. luteum*, and the Ghent hybrid 'Daviesii' with its white and pale yellow blotch, were nestled among the other azaleas along with the sweet-scented white with yellow throat 'Viscosepalum'. Several good *R. fortunei* hybrid seedlings, 7 feet tall, were in the background, along with R. 'Souldis', a blush pink specimen with 3-inch flowers in a lax truss. Also in the setting were some orange-pink low *R. obtusum* × *kaempferi* hybrids from Japan, and, finally, the native azalea species *R. occidentale* from the Oregon coast.

In the competitive section of the specimen plants, the winning plant was a beautiful pink 3-foot-high R. 'Corona'. Every stem terminated with a flower truss with flowers measuring 2 inches in diameter. The effort this plant had put forth in its florescence was really tremendous. The owner was Mr. Edwin Arutsen.

A 5-foot 'Mars' presented a stunning spectacle in its glowing red colour with fifty perfect flower trusses to capture a first prize for Mrs. Charles Sully. Also winning a first place was a first-class specimen of 'Mrs. Furnivall' 4-feet in height. The owner of this plant was Homestead Nursery and Floral Company.

The display of cut trusses was very good, but was not too well represented. Some winning varieties were 'Britannia', by Mrs. Jacobson, 'Albatross', by Mrs. Henry Isacsson, 'Mrs. Philip Martineau, by Mrs. Nat Roger, 'A. Bedford', by Clarence Bledsoe and the species *wardii* by Mrs. Kerry Trimble.

In the seedling class the winner was the cross between 'King of Shrubs' and a pink *R. discolor* hybrid seedling. The 4½–inch diameter flowers of this cross were of a luscious clear light pink, trumpet shaped, with graceful wavy petals. Twelve blooms, held somewhat lax but well spaced, filled out the truss. The foliage was a good, bright, dark green with leaves averaging 2 inches in width and 8 inches in length. This plant won the Seattle Rhododendron Society's Achievement Award Cup for the hybridizer, Mr. Endre Ostbo of the King of Shrubs Nursery. Another fine rhododendron seedling exhibited by Mr. Endre Ostbo was a 3½–foot plant of a complex cross between the seedling 'Alice' × *auriculatum* with the variety 'Mrs. Donald Graham'. The clear medium pink blooms with darker throat were 4 inches in diameter and fragrant. About ten of the wavy petalled blooms made up the truss.

In first place in the azaleodendron seedling class was a very good 6-foot occidentale hybrid, a cross between *R. occidentale* and rhododendron 'Mrs. Donald Graham'. The highly fragrant

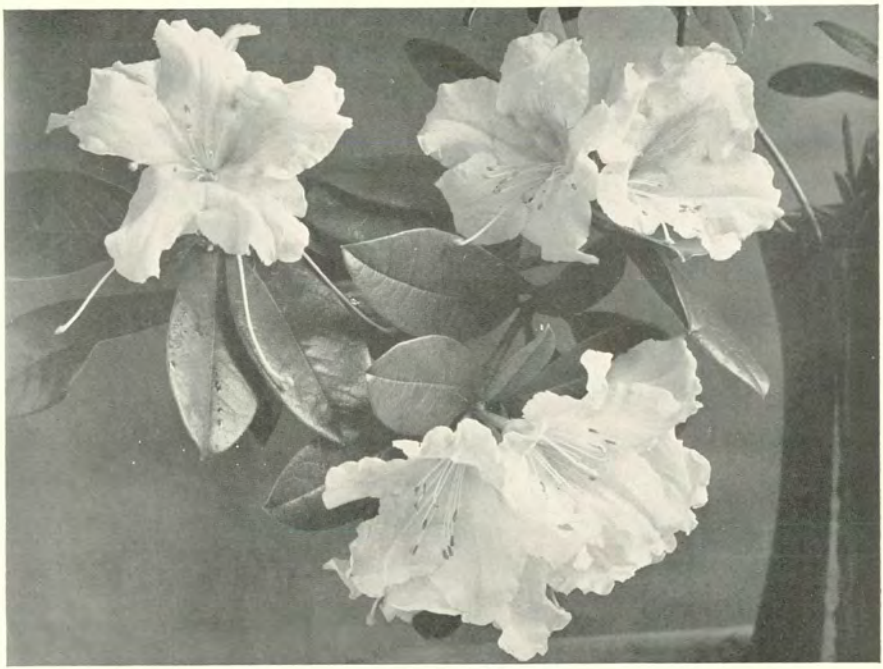


FIG. 31—*Rhododendron parryae* A.M. April 30, 1957. Shown by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh (see p. 111)

Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 32—*Rhododendron lochae* A.M. July 30, 1957. Shown by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor (see p. 110)

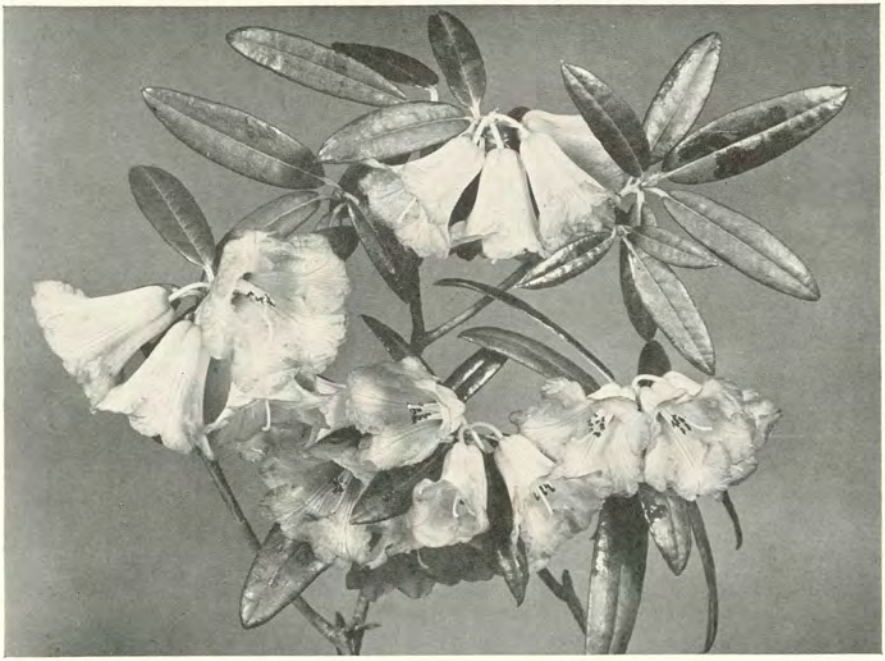


FIG. 33—*Rhododendron floccigerum* var. *appropinquans* A.M. March 19, 1957. Shown by COL. THE LORD DIGBY (see p. 108)

Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 34—*Rhododendron irroratum* A.M. March 19, 1957. Shown by COL. THE LORD DIGBY (see p. 109)

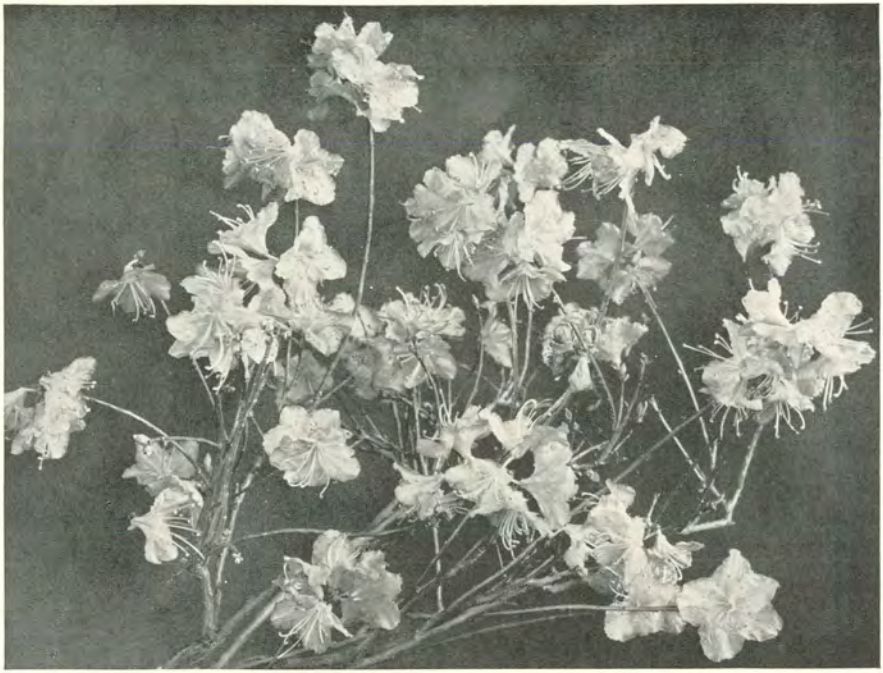
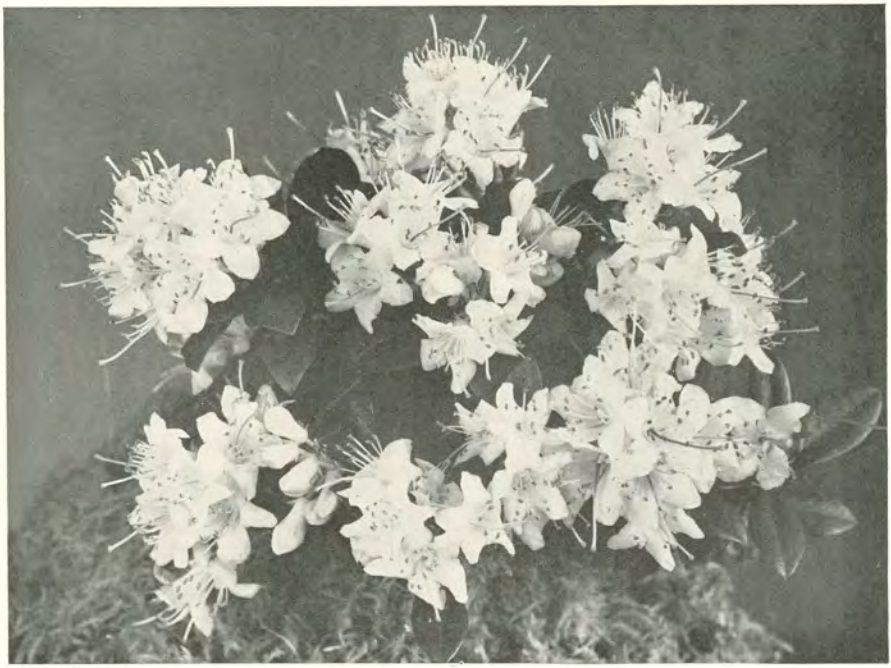


FIG. 35—*Rhododendron mucronulatum* F.C.C. January 22, 1957. Shown by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor (see p. 110)



Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 36—*Rhododendron hanceanum* var. *nanum* A.M. April 16, 1957. Shown by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor (see p. 109)

FIG. 37—A section of the Seattle Rhododendron Show, 1957

Photo, Richard Studios, Tacoma

FIG. 38—The Ninth Annual Tacoma Rhododendron Show, staged by the Washington Rhododendron Society on May 12, 13, 1957

funnel-shaped blossoms were white with creamy throat, and 2½ feet in diameter. The evergreen foliage was 2 inches wide, 4 inches long and quite hairy when young. The hybridizer and exhibitor was MR. OSTBO.

At the conclusion of the show, four new hybrid rhododendrons, developed and selected by ENDRE OSTBO, were officially named as follows:

'White Lily': 'Alice' × (*auriculatum* × 'Mrs. Donald Graham'). A large 4-inch diameter, white, trumpet-shaped bloom with a yellow throat, lily-like and fragrant. It is hardy and blooms rather late in the season. It was a previous recipient of an American Rhododendron Society Preliminary Award in 1952.

'Edward Dunn': (*neriiflorum* × *dichroanthum*) × *discolor*. A rich apricot colour, hardy and of low growing habit, blooms late in the season, about early June.

'Phyllis Ballard': A hybrid of the identical parentage as R. 'Edward Dunn', but the colour is of a coral to orange-red. It is of medium height and also flowers late. It had received the American Rhododendron Society Preliminary Award in 1956.

'Jane Rogers': 'Mrs. Donald Graham' × 'Mrs. R. S. Holford'. Colour carmine pink with a chocolate blotch. It is hardy and late flowering and had received the Seattle Rhododendron Society Achievement Award in 1954.

Note: The variety 'Mrs. Donald Graham' was named in the U.S.A. and received the American Rhododendron Society Preliminary Award in 1954. The parentage is ('Corona' × *griersonianum*) × 'Loderi'. It was raised by ENDRE OSTBO, Bellevue, Washington, from English seed.

NINTH ANNUAL TACOMA RHODODENDRON SHOW

Oakland Recreation Centre, Tacoma, Washington

May 12–13th, 1957

By LEONARD F. FRISBIE

President, Washington Rhododendron Society Inc.

THE North-coast country of the United States was favoured in 1957 with grand spring weather, lots of warm sunny days and no damaging frosts, perfect rhododendron weather, and the plants responded naturally to stage impressive outdoor shows in gardens everywhere. Public interest and enthusiasm developed to a high pitch. All of this went together to make up a gratifying situation for those responsible for the annual shows in Tacoma, Seattle and Portland, quite a contrast to the dreary prospect of the year before following the heavy freeze damage of 1955.

DR. CHARLES S. BERRY, of Tacoma, was chairman of the ninth Annual Tacoma Rhododendron Show staged by the Washington Rhododendron Society Inc. This is a plant show almost exclusively, and actual garden conditions are simulated to provide the public with the maximum in educational value. Some freeze limitation is still with us, but by diligent effort the show chairman was able to assemble plants of nearly all types of rhododendrons. The pink, nodding bells of 'Jock' pleased everyone and fine display plants stimulated sales at area nurseries. A low, spreading, evergreen azalea with pink and cream flowers was an immediate favourite. This is a Japanese seedling of unknown origin that is being introduced into Oregon. 'Dante', seen in Tacoma for the first time, won many friends. Pleasing orange trumpets and large calyces proved attractive. 'Mars' is an old favourite with those who like red flowers, and plants at the show were in top condition. Clones of the Exbury azalea 'Knighthood' and Knap Hill 'Gold-finch' displayed the special quality of these highly selected deciduous hybrids. Red is a man's colour here in America, and the male influence in the show saw to it that many red-flowered hybrids were on parade. 'Britannia' was represented by some very fine specimens.

'Pygmalion', 'The Hon. Jean Marie de Montague', 'Madame de Bruin' and 'Vulcan' added brilliance to the show landscape. Huge plants of 'J. H. Van Nes' and 'Madame Fr. J. Chauvin' impressed all visitors, and 'White Swan' showed its special charm and enhanced its place as a leading favourite among the white-flowered hybrids.

Several plants of hybrid origin were brought to the show by I. S. Broxson, of Tacoma. Plants with 'Mars' as one parent show real promise as new red sorts. The colour of these is bright and clear, and the truss arrangement is attractive. A cross which involved 'Mrs. Furnivall' as a parent is believed to be an improvement over that very fine hybrid. The clear pink colour is pleasing, and the blotch has a softer shade. There is excellent compatibility between the colours of the blotch and the flower.

One objective of the Washington Rhododendron Society Inc. has been a steady drive toward interesting the gardening public in this State in the growing of rhododendron species, which have been sadly neglected here due to an overwhelming obsession with the obviously spectacular hybrids. The species is more reserved and subtle in showing its attractiveness and quality, and the American public has had small chance to see and know the immense range of the fascinating characteristics in the genus *Rhododendron* as evidenced in the many and varied species. Appreciation of these ecological jewels from many climates comes only with a measure of the maturing of discrimination. An opportunity to see and to become acquainted with more and more types of species is a deliberate aim of our annual shows, and it is gratifying to see a genuine response from the public. Our Society has pioneered a move to bring to the area top forms of American native deciduous azaleas, and these plants have aroused an enthusiasm that has influenced commercial growers to propagate them for general distribution. The brilliant colours of *Rhododendron bakeri* with large, bright reddish-orange flowers, and blends of yellow, orange and red in more definite shades than those to be found in other deciduous azalea species, win immediate acceptance in this area. Many of these species are dwarf and compact in growth habit. *R. vaseyi* in the deep rose shades, and the chaste, all-white *R. vaseyi album*, need only to be seen to be treasured. The many colour forms, the free-flowering habits, and the high shrub growth of *R. calendulaceum*, among the flowers of good size, all contribute to the impressiveness of this species in its better forms. Three very good garden species in this group, *R. canescens*, *R. atlanticum* and *R. nudiflorum* show variable blends of pink and white. The lacy,

small, pink flowers of *R. roseum* give a spicy fragrance which causes visitors to follow their noses and pay salute to this charming nosegay.

During his lifetime the late CHAUNCEY BEADLE, of Biltmore Gardens, Asheville, North Carolina, sent west to our Society many fine plants of native deciduous azaleas, for which Biltmore is famous. Among these were some interesting plants of high quality, but with characteristics which made it impossible to place them in the nomenclature covering this group of plants. Our people began a microscopic investigation of several of these plants. Biltmore No. 1339 came to us as a tall, white-flowered form of *R. atlanticum*, but comparative studies revealed the glandular hairs of *R. canescens* along with the flower form and truss arrangement of this species, and the tall growth habit. The foliage and a few morphological traits showed the *R. atlanticum* influence clearly, so it seems there is no doubt but that the plant is a natural hybrid between these two species. Biltmore Gardens gave permission and the plant has been called 'Snowbird'. Growth is tall and eccentric in a whorled fashion, and flowers are fragrant. This is a highly popular plant here, and it has stimulated a keen interest in hybridizing among the American native deciduous azaleas exclusively. Biltmore No. 677 came to us as a natural hybrid between *R. calendulaceum* × *R. arborescens* var. *richardsonii*. This hybrid has attractive pink flowers with a yellow blotch. The plant has a low, twiggy, compact habit, 30 inches high and flat-topped. There is a good chance that *R. bakeri* instead of *R. calendulaceum* is involved in the hybrid and this matter is being closely investigated. Biltmore collected the plant on the summit of Wayah Bald in western North Carolina at about 5,000 feet altitude. This is a known habitat of *R. bakeri*. Chromosome counts will be made of the hybrid and crosses are being made using both of these reddish-orange species. It is a known fact that in some plants of *R. arborescens* var. *richardsonii* the low-growing habit has become stabilized, is genetically controlled and is, therefore inheritable. The late EDGAR STEAD of New Zealand found that crosses immediately involving *R. calendulaceum* with other members of the Subseries Luteum produced seedlings that were self-sterile (*The Rhododendron Yearbook*, 1947, p. 48). American hybridizers have had like experiences and it is probable the difference in chromosome counts gives rise to a degree of incompatibility in the F_1 seedlings. With the co-operation of Biltmore Gardens this very fine natural hybrid has been named 'Chauncey Beadle' in honour of the man who created this beautiful estate

for the late GEORGE VANDERBILT. Biltmore No. 1039 came west as a pink form of *R. arborescens*. This one is tall in habit and has clear pink flowers with a slight yellow blotch. Investigation showed clear intermediacy with *R. calendulaceum* and the hybrid has been named 'Calendarb'.

R. carolinianum has a considerable following among enthusiasts in our Society. Selected colour forms of this eastern American evergreen native will hold their own in almost any rhododendron society. The popular plants are those with a low, compact growth habit. This species is free flowering and very hardy. The delicate, clear self-pink flowered forms are excellent garden plants. Such a form turned up in the Tacoma Show along with a top var. *album* which was a repeater that has won first place in the Species Class on more than one occasion. Knowledgeable rhododendron people were very much surprised to see a form with definite yellow flowers with no admixture of pink. This plant has a low, compact growth habit, and the flower colour is non-fading; it definitely is not the same form mentioned by BOWERS (*Rhododendron and Azaleas*, p. 252, illus. plate opposite p. 42), var. *foliatum*. Here is a form that has not before been published and it truly deserves to be separated.

A large plant of *R. fortunei* with fragrant flowers charmed visitors and it set up an immediate demand for plants. *R. orbiculare* won the hearts of everyone, and *R. haematodes* had an almost constant group of admirers.

The top commercial awards at the show went to the I. S. Broxson-Tacoma Seed Co. display which won ten first places and captured the Banksian Medal awarded by The Washington Rhododendron Society Inc., by permission of the council of The Royal Horticultural Society.

DR. CHARLES S. BERRY and LEONARD F. FRISBIE had a combined display that won the Silver Affiliated Societies Medal and took first, second and third places in the Species Class. Woodland Park Floral Co., of Sumner, Washington, won the Bronze Affiliated Societies Medal for a display of rhododendrons and evergreen azaleas.

CAMELLIAS IN CALIFORNIA

By SIR GILES LODER, Bt.

IN the spring of this year I was fortunate enough to stay with MR. RALPH PEER, of Los Angeles. As most English camellia enthusiasts are aware, he is the president of the American Camellia Society, an honour bestowed on him this year, and he has devoted much time to furthering the camellia cause throughout the world, sending out numerous new species and hybrids and creating interest wherever he goes.

At MR. PEER'S home, Park Hill, beautifully situated on a hillside overlooking the city of Los Angeles, he has some 2,500 varieties of camellia, nearly all planted out in terraces on the steep hillside. As his collection expands, more terraces are formed and they now cover a considerable area. There are also rows of containers, the one- and three-gallon cans that are universally used in the States, containing stocks ready for grafting with scions, which arrive frequently from all over the world. We were shown the technique that provides nearly 100 per cent success. A bottom-heated, shaded frame is used, in which the grafted scions are placed, covered individually by an upturned glass jar, and this ensures a union in a short time. With suitable understocks one can count on getting a good-sized flowering plant in three years, though sometimes it can be done in half that time.

A collection of the Yunnan Reticulatas was very interesting to inspect, all planted out in a group together. There appeared little difference between the variegated forms of 'Chang's Temple', 'Lion's Head' and 'Cornelian', and, among the double type, 'Pagoda' and 'Robert Fortune', whilst among the pinks 'Professor Tsai' and 'Confucius' are very similar. Among the strong growers both here and elsewhere 'Buddha', a lovely pink, and 'Crimson Robe', a bright red, seem about the best.

The Japonica collection occupies a large area and many hours may be spent noting the subtle differences in flower and habit of the many varieties, too numerous to enlarge upon here, as nearly all the plants listed in the American nomenclature book are available!

Besides the Reticulata and Japonica collections there are compre-

hensive collections of both Species camellias and also of the many garden varieties of *sasanqua*. Unfortunately, except for a few odd blooms these were not in flower at the time of our visit but must provide much further interest during the autumn months. However we were extremely lucky to see in flower the much-searched-for yellow camellia.

In our limited time we were fortunate in visiting a few other gardens. In the Los Angeles area, that of MR. EDWARD H. METCALF, president of the Southern Californian Camellia Society, reminded us of an English garden, having lawns with flowering prunus and evergreen azaleas. In the borders were many shapely bushes of both *Camellia japonica* and *C. reticulata*, whilst the large collection was grown in containers in spacious lath houses. These lath houses, which are a frequent feature in California, are made of narrow strips of timber, giving shade from the strong burning sunlight and at the same time allowing plenty of ventilation.

I feel, particularly in this area, one of the reasons for the great popularity of camellias is their long flowering period; many plants produce good blooms for three to four months on end, and in view of the good flowering return they give and the rich green of the foliage, it is no wonder that one sees camellias planted beside almost every house on the outskirts of the city. The plants look very healthy, which demonstrates the care that must be given to watering; also in many cases, due to the alkalinity of the soil much peat and other acid-producing factors have to be imported.

REG. RAGLAND is a familiar name to most camellia enthusiasts and a visit to him and his collection was a most enjoyable experience. The well-grown plants were chiefly planted in large wooden "tubs" and were in excellent condition in his two large lath houses (Fig. 43). Besides his namesake, the variegated form of it stood out among the many large semi-double flowered varieties and in such conditions, part sheltered from rain and sun, these reach a peak of size and perfection. 'Red Wonder' and 'Magnolia Queen' were two more examples amongst many others of this form of flower. In contrast MR. FEATHER'S garden further north, near San Francisco, showed how his collection thrived under the shade of some oak trees. Especially noted were plants of 'Gosko-Guruma', a deep red with prominent yellow stamens, 'Emperor of Russia', a lovely scarlet which makes a shapely bush. But MR. FEATHER'S special interest is in his hybrids, some of which we saw just flowering. He had made intensive use of 'Sylvia May', a hybrid of *cuspidata* × *saluenensis* and of LAMMERT'S hybrid of *cuspidata* × *japonica*, which looks very similar to 'Cornish

Snow', well known over here. There were many promising seedlings from these as well as a possible yellow of peony form with tubular petals whose protruding yellow stamens impart that hue to the petals.

The Huntington Gardens of San Marino, on the outskirts of Los Angeles, should be visited by every garden lover, whatever his preferences. Over two hundred acres in area, they include a unique cactus collection, covering about five acres and another magnificent planting of many varieties of palms, but for a camellia enthusiast the collection of many hundred varieties, planted out under evergreen oaks and all carefully labelled, provide many hours of interest. We were fortunate in meeting MR. WILLIAM HERTRICH, the curator, who took us round and showed us, with rightful pride, some of his many treasures. Many of the camellias are of considerable size and all in good health; walking through the paths of the camellia section, one could easily inspect and compare the numerous varieties, and see how many of the smaller flowering ones are really lovely on the bush, though rather disappointing on the show bench. Though no large-scale propagating is carried on, a large white formal double, raised in the garden, and named 'Margarete Hertrich', after the wife of the curator, was particularly noted for its beauty. A small section close by the Japanese garden has been devoted entirely to the Reticulatas, and many of the Yunnan varieties show these plants have a straggling habit compared to the more dense bushes of Japonicas.

We were able to attend the large Camellia show held at the Descanso gardens (of which more later) under the auspices of the Southern Californian Camellia Society. The statistics might interest readers who are familiar with our shows: 102 exhibitors showed 3,062 blooms. Of these, 2,129 blooms were in the classes for one bloom of named Japonica varieties. There were 436 such classes, arranged alphabetically, from 'Adolphe Audusson' to 'Zoraide Wanzi'. To be critical, in a few cases, there were only subtle differences between them; but nevertheless it was extremely interesting. Due to the different climatic conditions, there were a large proportion of variegated blooms shown, and in some instances, classes were divided into self-coloured and variegated forms. The large semi-double type of bloom is easily the most popular, whilst in contrast, we noted very few of the formal double type, again probably due to the hot climate. Indeed in the large 'Mathotiana' class, none of the blooms shown would correspond in form to the corresponding class in England, as they almost all showed stamens.

The large white blooms in well-filled classes of 'Lotus' (syn. 'Sode-Gakushi'), 'Frosty Morn', and 'Southern Charm' made a particularly striking display, as did the variegated 'Adolphe Audusson' and 'Reg. Ragland' with their equally large flowers.

First, second and third prize tickets were awarded; whilst a tear-off card below the entry card itself enabled such prizewinners to have their total points in all classes added up rapidly for the total sweepstake winner. Blue ribbons were also awarded for the best bloom and similar major awards. The blooms themselves were shown on long trestle tables, with their stems in water in tiny paper cups (similar to small ice-cream tubs). Tapes dividing the classes were easily moved along the green hessian-covered tables to allow for any unexpectedly large class. The individual bloom Japonica classes alone fully occupied a large tent and provided an impressive sight.

The Reticulata section had 85 one-bloom entries in 18 varieties, and thus demonstrated the popularity that the Yunnan Reticulatas have already reached. The quality of both these blooms and the Japonicas was noteworthy but it must be remembered that many of the blooms came from lath houses where they had protection from extremes of sun and rain. There were also classes for three and six blooms of different varieties, which were well filled, and also classes for three and six blooms of one variety, which, strangely, attracted almost a 100 entries, and with their several hundred flowers, made a good splash of colour. There were no floral decoration classes, due to the fact that any kind of foliage was allowed and so they had so far departed from featuring camellias that they were relegated to another separate show on a different date!

The Descanso gardens, of La Canada, California, were fortunate in having a large wood of live oaks, beneath which they have carefully planted out big blocks of camellias, and these massed together provide a fine spectacle. 'Pink Perfection' *en masse* made a fine sight and other large plantings of 'Lallarook' and 'Berenice Boddy', to mention only a few names, show the enthusiasm of Mr. Threlkell, the curator, for this work. In such large collections petal blight was a possible menace, so all fallen flowers were carefully picked up and burnt to prevent any possible infection spreading. The comparatively long flowering season enables large numbers of the public to enjoy them and increases the popularity of the camellia.

A visit to Nuccio Nurseries, of Altadena, California, provided a most interesting experience from the camellia point of view. They raise several thousand seedlings annually. These, planted in their

universal one-gallon containers, flower within three to four years. From these, any noteworthy plants are selected out for further growing on. The remainder provide stocks for scions of other varieties to be grafted on, thus making a worth-while sized plant of any popular or new variety in the minimum of time. Here again, gigantic lath houses were much used, and it was of great interest to see the varying habits of growth between different varieties, as demonstrated by large numbers of young plants of each, growing in their separate containers. One oddity was a dwarf camellia, very many years old and still under one foot in height. Though subsequently grafted on strong understock, it again refused to exceed that height, though in itself it was a perfect miniature bush in shape with miniature camellia-type leaves. Though still to flower, it well might be very useful to "bonzai" enthusiasts in making their tiny gardens. Cuttings are used to a small extent to propagate some of the old favourites, but with the accent on the newer varieties, and the desire to turn out a well-grown and budded plant in the minimum time, grafting is the chief means to this end. Again all the well-known camellias are sent out with a coloured tag, showing the flower, name, and some cultural hints. Due to Inter-State regulations, plants have often to be sent out bare-rooted, and all nurseries are well versed in treating plants in this way. Camellias in general seem to stand up to this treatment quite well.

The way the camellia enthusiasts have triumphed over the difficulties of soil and heat in growing their favourite plants was impressive, though in general, most of the hybridizing was not done on such methodical lines as has been done on rhododendrons in this country, which seemed a pity, as seed sets so readily on most camellia plants. However, the enthusiasm is there, and with the flood of seedlings produced, many outstanding blooms are sure to arise, to continue the wave of interest that the camellia has already aroused in California.

CAMELLIAS IN VIRGINIA, U.S.A.

By FREDERIC HEUTTE

I AM most honoured to have been requested to write this article for the *Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book 1958*. First, because I value so much my overseas fellowship with the R.H.S. and, secondly, because the growing of camellias has become a domineering urge in my horticultural pursuit. To grow anything well is to compare methods and ideas with other sections, and this is the reason why my *R.H.S. Journal* is so valuable to me.

Perhaps in an article of this type it might be well to do a bit of comparison, especially as it deals with climatic and topographical data, so that the reader who may not be familiar with Virginian conditions may at least be able to make some analysis. This writer, who has never had the pleasure of visiting England (but hopes to do so in 1958), happens to have a few corresponding friends with whom the exchange of scions has been a common occurrence, and, through this and other mediums (including the *Journal*), has kept abreast of many of the similarities and conditions that would affect the growing of camellias in these two historically related global areas. As you might be aware this year (1957) there is being celebrated the landing of the first permanent English settlers in the New World; this happened 350 years ago within the general area about which this article is written.

Virginia has a total area of 42,627 square miles as compared to England's 50,851 square miles; topographically Virginia is divided into three major provinces which are the coastal plain, the Piedmont plateau and the Appalachian mountains. These more or less run north and south over 200 miles, whereas from east to west it is about 440 miles. England's topography has some similarity, stretched over a large triangle some 315 miles on the south and approximately 350 and 400 miles long respectively on the east and west coast. Our soils run the gamut of very light sandy loams on our coastal plains to heavy clay soils in the interior, they are mostly below neutral in a pH range of 5·5 to 7·0 according to exposures but we have very little if any limestone deposits, but of course in this factor we differ quite a bit, as well as climatically. With us the temperature averages 53° F. in the mountain areas

and 57° F. along the coast; England I understand varies in average from 48° F. at the mouth of the Tweed to over 52° F. in the Scilly Isles. I am not familiar with the extremes, except that I know that those in Virginia are much higher during the summer, sometimes reaching 100° F. even in the mountains, while our minimum temperature range will go from 12° below zero in altitudes of over 4,000 feet to an occasional 12° above zero along the coastal area. With these extremes we can report camellia growth where lows have been recorded down to 4° below zero in our state.

I have scrutinized very closely the growing of camellias on the North American continent and have found that nowhere do they grow any better than here in our Tidewater Virginia section. Historically this is rather peculiar, because for over a century after their introduction into America as an out-of-door plant in Charleston, South Carolina, it was thought that this climate was too rigorous. In the same vein, I am wondering whether or not this may have been true in England, the birthplace of the camellia to the West, where also its out-of-door cultivation was neglected for at least that same lapse of time. It was not until after the turn of this century that camellias started their inroad this far north, and I am pleased to present reports from the Washington (D.C.) area, our nation's capital, where enthusiasm over the last ten years, with actual accomplishments has been remarkable. Also one from our mountain area where I saw them several years ago in JUDGE KUYK's garden at an altitude of 1,200 feet and where average temperature ranges, from 5° above zero to 100° F. In this astonishing planting, started 18 years ago, the JUDGE told me that the important thing about growing camellias in sub-zero conditions is to place them where they are fairly well protected from the cold winds of winter, in this particular case they are planted south of the house, and protection is given by a small mountain to the south and west and partially to the east, breaking of course most of that frigid air from the north. This garden now has 41 plants in 38 varieties.

I have never hesitated to travel wherever camellias grow on this North American continent and saw the collection grown by DR. ZIMMERMAN, Director of the Boyce Thompson Institute, in Yonkers, N.Y., where camellias have survived 12° below zero; these were reported in the American Camellia Society Year Book of recent date. I mention this as an emphasis of camellia hardiness as I do not wish to deviate from the confines of this article which only includes Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Camellia growing has also spread northward from Virginia. A friend of mine in the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., which is 200 miles north of Norfolk, helped start the camellia ball rolling in that area by putting out a 'Blood of China' in his garden in 1942. It grew and increased his interest in this field and he now has 103 different varieties of *japonica*, 30 varieties of *sasanqua*, two *vernalis*, two *reticulata* and one *rusticana*—all growing outdoors except the *reticulata*.

The National Arboretum, which is also in Washington, started growing camellias outdoors in 1950. It now has 150 *japonica* varieties, totalling more than 2,000 plants; 90 varieties of *sasanqua*, totalling more than 200 plants, and smaller numbers of *reticulata*, *rusticana*, *oleifera* and *saluenensis*—all growing outdoors in the Arboretum, except the *reticulata*. There are now several thousand camellias in the Washington area where it was thought only a few years ago that it was too cold for these plants. People in this newly opened camellia frontier are learning rapidly through experience and from demonstrations by the National Arboretum and the Potomac Valley Camellia Society, their new organization, that by proper selection they can find plenty of varieties hardy enough to withstand the Washington winters.

The temperature in Washington dropped to zero once last winter and this ruined some buds, but there were enough left for a fine bloom in the spring and for the third Annual Camellia Show in mid-April. Winter temperature changes in the Washington area are sharp, sometimes as much as 40° in 12 hours, and often accompanied by snow or freezing rain, but these appear to do little harm to well established camellia bushes, provided the strong northwest winds do not come up to break the leaves and small branches while they are in a frozen stage. The winter lows in this area usually run from 12 to 15° in the early morning, but by afternoon the temperature may be in the middle thirties. The plants seem to be able to tolerate these fluctuations very well if they are not unduly disturbed by turbulent winds.

Camellia japonica begins to bloom outdoors in the Washington area around March 1 and usually finishes by the middle of May. Varieties like 'Arejishi' and 'Daikagura' usually produce some of their flowers in the autumn, stop flowering completely when it gets cold and finish their bloom in the spring. A well established 'Dawn' will sometimes begin to bloom in October and continue to bloom during warm spells throughout the winter. 'Shishi-Gashira' is another plant that continues to bloom in the Washington

area after cold weather begins. It is not unusual for it to be blooming at Thanksgiving, or even Christmas in mild winters.

Beginners in the Washington area are usually advised to start with *japonica* varieties, like 'Blood of China', that bloom late in the spring after danger of late frosts has passed, and with *sasanqua* varieties, like 'Cleopatra', that bloom early in the autumn ahead of the heavy frosts.

Altitude in the Washington area fluctuates from sea level to several hundred feet, which brings in the problem of air drainage, and this sometimes enables a gardener in a well-protected "warm pocket" community to grow some varieties with flowers that would be discoloured by cool, still air in a "cold pocket" community. But I am told that as a result of experience and careful study, gardeners are now able to recommend a number of varieties that, when properly set and handled, should do well in almost any part of the greater Washington area. A partial list* follows.

Pink	*White*
Lady Clare	White Empress
Bessie McArthur	Purity
Kumasaka	Siebold White
Berenice Boddy	
Red	*Variegated*
Blood of China	Ville De Nantes
Pope Pius IX	Variegated Empress
Covina	Donckelarii
Flame	Cleopatra (Anthony)
C. M. Hovey	Kumasaka Variegated
Mathotiana	Glen 40
Jarvis Red	

Now that the extremes of the camellia belt in the state of Virginia have been partially covered, I wish to tell you about the lush growth that occurs in our Tidewater section where the elevation only varies about 25 feet from sea level. First, I would like to report that camellias, in spite of requiring highly drained terrain for optimum results, will stand occasional salt tide invasions as evident in my own garden which borders a salt marsh and where

* This list, and in fact the entire data and pictures supplied from the Washington (D.C.) area was furnished to me by MR. FRANK L. TEUTON, information officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

several of my plants on the lower end receive from one to as many as three floodings a year without apparent harm. Our climate is quite humid the year round and has an annual rainfall of nearly 45 inches, fairly well distributed over the four seasons. Our light sandy loam silt is in the acid range and will average pH 6·0.

This coastal area is in most part timbered with Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) and when it is possible to grow camellias under their shelter you have in my opinion given them optimum protection. Loblolly pines are trees which afford filtered sunlight through their sparse yet evenly distributed branches and which have a root structure, whose tap-root never stops growing downward until it reaches water. My advice to new camellia enthusiasts is; always plant this type of pine in conjunction with camellias.

The Norfolk Municipal Garden camellia collection, which now numbers 725 varieties in twelve species, remains as an example of careful adaptation of plants to their select surroundings. From the novice who first witnesses these, the size of the plants and their lush growth invariably comes the question: "What kind of fertilizer do you use?" When told that no chemicals are used whatsoever and that the pine trees are the great provider, by yearly dropping tons of mulch on the plantings and that the overflow is carefully salvaged from the walks and trails and added on to the nearby plants, this does not seem to satisfy the average visitor, who almost always believes that we are hiding some deep secret of cultivation. We do of course tell them that each plant receives individual attention upon planting and that at least one bushel of peat-moss has been incorporated according to the existing condition of the soil encountered, that they are planted never deeper than previously grown, or if anything slightly elevated above the existing terrain, that we have found that an initial covering of well-rotted stable (cow) manure placed at and beyond the perimeter of the plant, will help them in their recuperating period along with plenty of water the first year. Thereafter, the tens of thousands of plants which are part of this collection are left on their own, to share nature's food and elements. Protection is provided of course from the inroad of insects, which in most cases consist of one spraying in mid-April after the flowering period is completed and before the new growth begins. A miscible oil spray controls whatever Scale (Oyster and Camellia) may have accumulated, also the Red Spider Mites which have over-wintered. It is sometimes necessary to spray again in early summer, certain varieties such as 'Daikagura' and 'Arejishi', which are particularly susceptible to Red

Spider. We do pick up as many as we can of the spent blossoms, in and around our main collection area to prevent camellia petal blight (*Sclerotinia camelliae*) which has become a serious threat in America. The use of fungicides such as Fermate, Captan and Ferbam sprayed on the ground has only been used on an experimental scale, because of the great expense involved in the removal of the old mulch and the replacing with new, which is now the accepted standard of prevention. So far, however, we have suffered little from the inroad of this scourge but are keeping on the alert and our fingers crossed.

We like to speak of our Norfolk Municipal Garden camellia collection as one of international good-will, because many of our finest plants have originated from that source. We have received many scions from MR. GERALD PINCKNEY, of Waterer and Sons, also from MR. E. DE ROTHSCHILD, of Exbury. From these gentlemen came our *williamsii* hybrids, and we are most proud of this wonderful selection, which have created a sensation in America. Recently we received from the Royal Botanic Gardens of Hong Kong, *Camellia granthamiana*, through the courtesy of MR. RALPH DEAN, the superintendent, at the request of our own MR. RALPH PEER. These and other sources make our gardens somewhat unique.

We have in our collection the complete Yunnan province *reticulata* selection and these are doing well along with the older form 'Captain Rawes'. We have found it advisable, however, to have these moved to a pit greenhouse (with no artificial heat) using polyethelyne cloth as a covering from December until their flowering period is over. Until this was done we had an excessive amount of "bud drop". I am not satisfied, however, that this is caused by low temperatures ever since I read an article in your R.H.S. *Journal*, by MR. C. E. PUDDLE, in July 1956, entitled "Rare Camellia Species and Hybrids at Bodnant Gardens". This article stated that several *C. reticulata* 'Captain Rawes' succeeded where planted against a wall and each year the fifty-year-old plants are covered with blossoms. At this famous estate the article further stated that frost prevails and every third winter temperatures drop to zero.

This proves to my satisfaction that camellia hardiness is not entirely a matter of temperatures, rather the results of combining "selection, location and environments" with proper medium for root development. Climatic conditions are of course important such as they happen to be here in Tidewater Virginia, yet in the

Photo, McIntosh Studio, Virginia

CAMELLIAS IN VIRGINIA

FIG. 39—*Camellia japonica* 'Derbiana' at Norfolk, U.S.A.

FIG. 40—DR. HENRY SKINNER with a tall bush of *Camellia sasanqua* at the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

CAMELLIAS IN VIRGINIA

FIG. 41—*Camellia japonica* 'Elegans' at the home of MR. JACQUES LEGENDRE

FIG. 42—Camellia 'Apple Blossom', awarded First Prize in Class 7 at the Camellia Competition when shown by MRS. PRESTON (see p. 103)

CAMELLIAS IN CALIFORNIA

FIG. 43—MR. RALPH PEER and MR. REG. RAGLAND among MR. RAGLAND'S plants in a lath house (see p. 79)

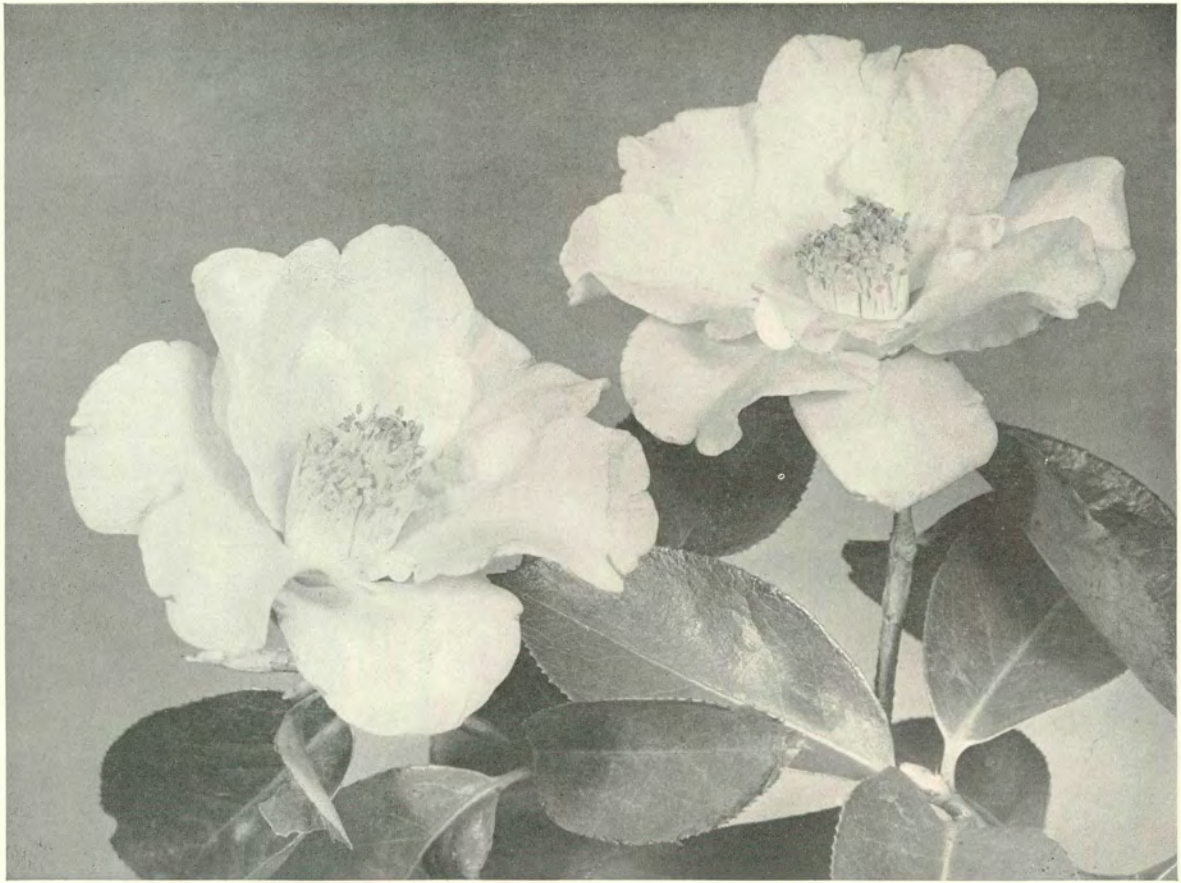


FIG. 44—Camellia 'Elizabeth Johnstone' A.M. March 19, 1957. Shown by G. H. JOHNSTONE, ESQ. (see p. 107)

Photo, J. E. Downward

case of our *reticulata* we need to find "that something" which keeps the buds at Bodnant where temperature drops are greater than ours.

Over the years many of us who have pioneered and grown camellias on so-called "forbidden territory" have changed our minds about the species and even varieties that we thought were the most hardy. MR. JACQUES LEGENDRE, who is a famous plant collector and horticulturist as well as a member of the R.H.S. and frequent visitor to your shores, shares my opinion in this vacillation, which in great part was concluded this past winter when in the early portion of January the thermometer suddenly dropped to 4° below zero in his garden and nursery at Watchaprague on the eastern shore of Virginia, less than 100 miles from our gardens. It was a record and freakish cold snap which settled within a pocket of a few square miles. It killed outright such plants as pyracantha and even hybrid Tea roses. It defoliated *Camellia sasanqua* and *vernalis*; both of these species we previously thought were the hardiest. Even the Snow Camellia *C. rusticana,* of recent introduction from the high altitudes and northern tip of Japan, lost all of its buds and was partially defoliated. Which ones went through unscathed?—practically all of the *japonica* species, including my favourites 'Elegans' and 'Mathotiana'. This type with heavy buds we thought for many years was not to be recommended for colder regions, because we theorized that black centres as a result of cold weather were caused by the inability of the many-petalled varieties to expand in tight bud form during frigid periods; now at least we know that this is not true, because the picture taken in MR. LEGENDRE'S garden of 'Elegans' was taken less than three months after a record drop of 4° below zero. Of course as noted, it is protected by a wall, and I am seriously thinking that the wall camellias at Bodnant are a key to raising this genus wherever it may not be thought feasible to do so otherwise.

Camellias are a wonderful shrub, I like to think of them in terms of their tenacity and productiveness. What better example have we than ALFRED CHANDLER'S 'Elegans' which since 1831 has endured and still commands a place of honour in most of our shows' classification under a special class, besides such progenies as 'C. M. Wilson', 'Shiro Chan' and 'R. L. Wheeler'.

We in America are turning our attention to your hybridists, who are bringing out such wonderful new crosses as 'Donation', 'Elizabeth Rothschild' and others as originated by MR. J. C. WILLIAMS. We realize that a horticultural nation which produced a PETIVER, a CUNNINGHAM and a LORD PETRE at the beginning of

the camellia era to the West, will soon recapture the leadership in the cultivation of a plant which is so adaptable to cultivation—or perhaps I am wrong, you have never lost its perspective.

The picture of the 'Mathotiana' and data relative to Roanoke, Va., is printed through the courtesy of JUDGE DIRK A. KUYK. His listing of hardy varieties was practically identical to MR. TEUTON'S, but also included 'Pink Perfection', 'Elegans' and 'Magnoliaeflora'.

CONFUSION IN CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

By CHARLES E. PUDDLE

CAMELLIAS had been cultivated in China and Japan for several centuries before they were widely introduced into this country about one hundred and sixty years ago. In Temple gardens and those of rich merchants, numerous forms were grown, and as early as the seventeenth century lists and descriptions of camellia varieties were published. Upon their introduction into Europe and subsequently to America, camellias at once enjoyed great popularity as glasshouse plants. The demand for new varieties was readily met by the ease in which they could be raised from seed and the varietal variation which took place under cultivation. On the Continent, especially in Italy where conditions for growth were most favourable, seedling production took place on a vast scale and numerous varieties were named in all camellia-growing countries. In a very short time collections of over a thousand varieties were being reported. Despite the realization that camellias were hardy shrubs, the latter half of the century saw a decline in their initial popularity, although the leading nurserymen still maintained long lists of varieties in their catalogues. New names, however, still appeared in a regular trickle and towards the end of the century fresh importations were made from Japan. In both America and Britain the present revival of interest began about thirty years ago, and in this country at least it was undoubtedly assisted by the introduction of new camellia species. The production of new seedling forms of *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua* has now largely switched from Europe to America, where the search for worthwhile varieties is proceeding on an unprecedented scale and each year brings its quota of new names. This renewed activity has naturally led to further importations from Japan and China, where camellia popularity has been maintained throughout the centuries.

The continual production of new varieties over so many years had led to one of the most complex and involved nomenclature problems of all garden plants. There are at least twelve thousand recorded varieties of *C. japonica* and those of *C. sasanqua* also run into the thousands. These huge totals are being constantly increased and although some of the older inferior varieties have died out, a

great number are still in cultivation. A few are correctly named, others bear erroneous new titles, whilst the majority remain unidentified. To say that there is utter confusion in camellia names in this country is to put it mildly, and whilst the same problem exists throughout the world, societies in America, Australia and Japan have endeavoured to ease the situation by publishing check-lists. It is regrettable that Britain, the first western home of camellias, has as yet made little effort towards the clarification of camellia nomenclature.

There are several factors which contribute to the present involved position. Not the least of these is the amazing seedling variation which is possible within the species of camellia. Whilst all camellias exhibit this quality, due to its extensive cultivation, *C. japonica* is the best example, for seedlings have appeared showing a great range of combination of colour and flower form. Habit and foliage also show vast differences although in each batch of seedlings a certain number are similar to the original wild single red. *C. japonica* is also very prone to sporting and it is not uncommon to see flowers displaying two or three shades or floral forms upon the same plant. These mutants have been given separate names, but, although propagated vegetatively, they have often proved unstable and in the course of time or under changed conditions have reverted to the original with the resulting use of two or more names for the same variety. Several varieties have arisen with fringed petals, but again this is an unreliable character. How often 'Fred Sander' reverts to the red form of 'Tricolor', or 'Fimbriata' to 'Alba plena', and recently there has been the example in America of the much-publicized 'Cinderella' being unable to maintain its form.

The influence of climatic and cultural conditions upon camellias is a point which is not sufficiently stressed when dealing with nomenclature problems. Under different conditions a camellia variety can vary so much as to make its identification most difficult. The size, shape, and intensity of colour of both flower and foliage are very dependent upon the plant's environment. Single varieties may become semi-double, semi-doubles become doubles, and those regarded as complete doubles in one area can in a warmer climate show many stamens. The difficulty of giving a concise accurate description of any particular variety is thus realized. Similarly, the classification of blooms by the number of petals or statements that complete double flowers never show anthers can be most misleading.

Variegation is another inconsistent factor which has led to confusion. Variegation of self-coloured varieties can be induced by

cultivation or by virus infection from the stock. Names bearing no relation to the parent plant have been given to these variegated forms and, later, when reversion takes place they are still retained. A typical example is the variegated form of 'Kumasaka', called 'Hanatachibana', which so far has been self-coloured in Britain. Usually only the variegation of the flower is prized, but in Japan several variegated leaved forms showing intricate patterns have been named.

Having considered some of the factors within the plant's structure which make correct nomenclature difficult, it might be advisable to mention some of the human failings which have contributed to an even greater extent to the problem.

On many occasions the same name has been used for distinct varieties. This becomes very confusing when forms of different species bear the same cultivar name. The classical example of this is 'Appleblossom', which has been applied to two distinct forms of *C. japonica*, a *sasanqua*, a *saluenensis* and also to a hybrid of unknown origin.

The use of more than one name for the same variety is exceptionally common and the known synonyms often run into double figures. In the early days there was great rivalry between raisers and nurserymen to produce new varieties and with the lack of communications it was comparatively easy for two firms to distribute the same novelty under different names. This especially applied to varieties imported from the Continent where the practice was perhaps even more common than in Britain. Translations were often made of continental names and there was much confusion over foreign titles especially when members of the same family were honoured.

Varieties sent from one country to another have often in the first place been untrue to name. These have been propagated in their new home and distributed as the correct variety for many years before the error has been discovered. Labels have been lost in transit and new designations coined for varieties which already have valid names.

For the greater part of the last century varieties introduced from China and Japan were renamed, but from about 1890 onwards transliterations of Japanese names in Roman characters came into use. This resulted in several kinds which had been cultivated for many years being introduced as new under their original Japanese name. The spelling and deciphering of transliterations often leads to difficulties and two examples taken from current catalogues are

'Bikashi-Bia' for 'Nagasaki' and 'Asinuyovense' for 'Usu-Myorenji'. In America commercial interests have in recent years demanded names with sales appeal and because of this valid Japanese and the older European names have often been replaced.

It is difficult for the trade to obtain true stock of a particular variety and it is not uncommon to find in catalogues two or three distinct varieties being offered under the same name. Many camellias are still imported from the Continent and due to war conditions and other causes it appears that several varieties are likewise incorrectly named. These difficulties would be ameliorated if there was a reliable British camellia list to guide both trade interests and the general public.

The present nomenclature chaos is thus due to a combination of many years of uncontrolled naming and, to a lesser extent, the inconsistency of camellia cultivars. It is a problem which affects all camellia-growing countries and one which must be dealt with at an international level. It is fortunate that we have as a framework to the solution the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*. Under this Code it is recommended that an International Registration Authority should be set up for each extensive genus and I have little doubt that such a body for camellias will be established in the very near future. If this Authority is going to be a success, we in Britain must play our part and prepare our own check-list in order to preserve the valid names of camellia varieties grown in Britain.

Under the rules of the Code, the correct name is the earliest which has been published with a description. This follows closely to the ruling adopted by botanists, but there are provisions which prevent the substitution of an almost unknown name just because it is the oldest, an occurrence which appears to happen so often in botanical naming to the exasperation of gardeners. I would suggest, however, that due to the immense disorder it will be necessary to adhere as rigidly as possible to the principle of the oldest being the valid name if world agreement is ever going to be attained. For instance, in Europe and Japan the older varieties have usually retained their valid names, but when they have been exported, especially to America, for one reason or another they have been renamed and the erroneous synonyms used so frequently that they have now become popular. Any solution to camellia nomenclature must be free from all commercial, national and society interests.

The necessity of linking names of sports is amply covered by the Code, but the question of variegation, which is of special interest in

camellia nomenclature, is not mentioned. The recent proposal of the American Camellia Society to add the word "variegated" to the parent variety seems to be most satisfactory and should put an end to future problems from this cause.

Japanese and Chinese names play a big part in camellia nomenclature, but only those which have appeared in Roman characters accompanied by a description are valid. It may be difficult for us to use transliterations and it could be said that they make varieties commercially unpopular, but the use of Japanese names does not seem to have affected the sale of flowering cherries and in any case they soon become familiar. For world agreement the names of all nations must be honoured providing they are in accordance with the Code.

The need for a British check-list is agreed by everyone who associates with camellias. The chaos which at present reigns is perhaps the chief deterrent, for on the face of it there seems little hope of preparing a reliable list. We must remember, however, that the disorder of camellia names is world-wide, yet three countries have already tackled the problem and surely we can follow their lead in this country.

The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature, published by the Southern Californian Society, is now recognized in the United States and is well known by most enthusiasts in this country. The production of such a fine work is the result of untiring efforts on the part of a small band of camellia lovers and with constant revision it has developed into the finest guide to camellia names that has yet appeared. For use outside America it has, however, certain disadvantages, chiefly caused by the Society abandoning the use of the oldest name if another name has been in long use in the United States. This accounts for the differences in descriptions when compared with the same varieties in Britain and the absence of many of our well-known names.

Camellia Varieties in Japan, published for the first time last year by the Japanese Camellia Society, deals with the more popular varieties of *japonica*, *rusticana* and Higo groups. I understand that a list of *sasanqua* varieties is due in the near future.

The energetic Australian and New Zealand Camellia Research Society in their 1956 Annual Report commenced on the task of listing camellia varieties in their area. They have not only religiously followed the Code, but after each name they have given as their authority the earliest valid reference they have so far located in the same way as the author's name is given in botanical listing. The

oldest name occurs in every case and this list when enlarged could be used without confusion in all camellia countries. The giving of the oldest reference is most commendable, for anyone can then help with revision if an earlier valid listing is found, and where the same name has been given to more than one variety, the precise variety listed can be immediately located.

Although few *japonica* and *sasanqua* seedlings are now raised in Britain we have the special problem of the inter-specific hybrids and forms of newer species which have appeared in our gardens in recent years. The introduction of *C. saluenensis* and the wild form of *C. reticulata* has brought us many wonderful garden plants and many new nomenclature problems. The confusion in the *williamsii* hybrids is already very great and is being constantly added to by the ease with which *C. saluenensis* seeds and produces such variable offspring under cultivation. Seedlings found in gardens are being selected and given names under the *williamsii* group although they are often not hybrids at all. Hybrids between *C. reticulata* and *C. saluenensis* or *C. japonica* are claimed and officially published without any thought as to whether they are correctly described. This confusion is being allowed to develop unabated and in a few years will have become a most difficult problem. Surely, the nomenclature of this group of camellias which have primarily been developed in Britain during the lifetime of our generation is not going to be allowed to add to the chaos?

The Camellia International Registration Authority will, when established, eventually make available a world record of valid camellia names. It will be of considerable assistance to this body and to our advantage, if a British camellia check-list based on the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* can be prepared as soon as possible. It is my earnest hope that the enthusiasm and backing required will be forthcoming.

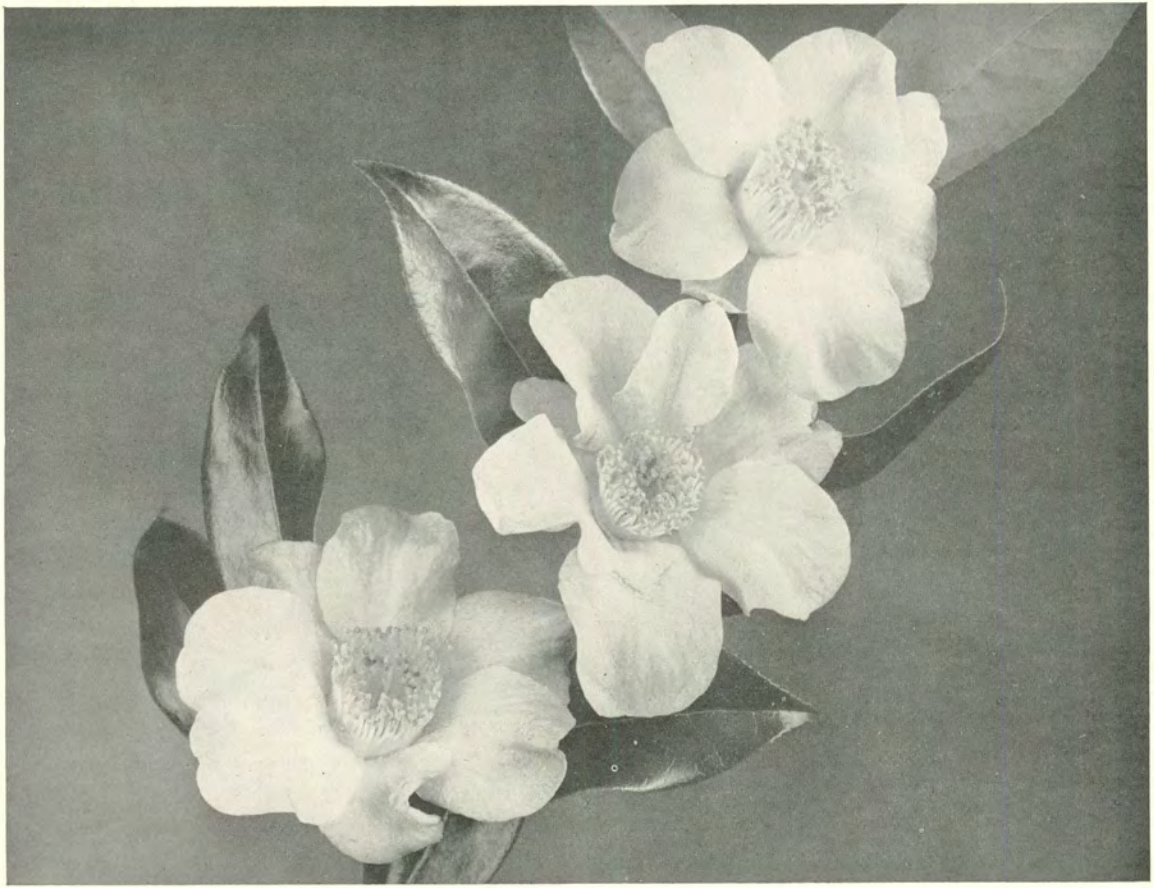
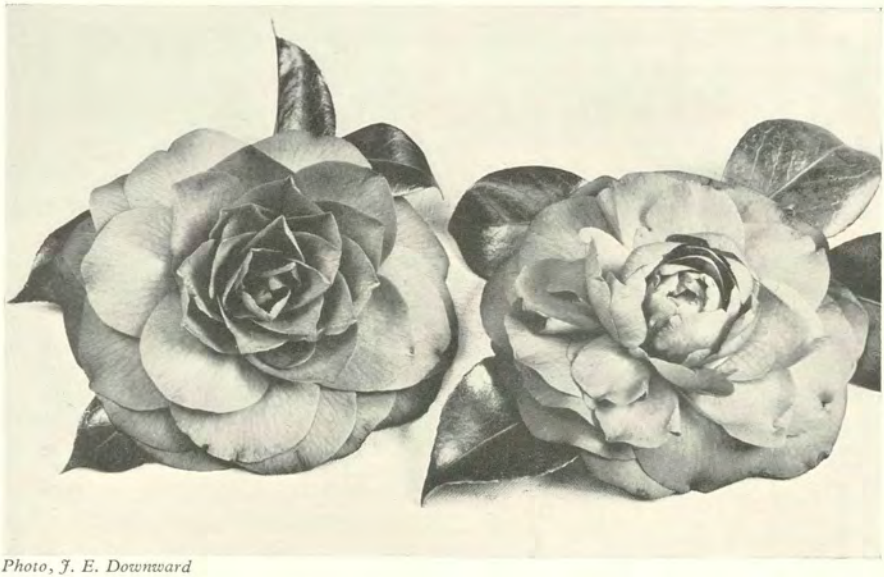


FIG. 45—*Camellia williamsii* 'Pink Wave' A.M. January 22, 1957. Shown by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor (see p. 107)

Photo, J. E. Downward



Photo, J. E. Downward

THE CAMELLIA SHOW AND COMPETITION, 1957

FIG. 46—Two different types of *Camellia japonica* 'Mathotiana' flowers (see p. 104)

Photo, T. Durrant

CAMELLIAS IN NEW ZEALAND

FIG. 47—*Camellia japonica* 'Waiwhetu Beauty' (see p. 100)

CAMELLIAS AT TIRAU, NEW ZEALAND

By COL. T. DURRANT, D.S.O., M.B.E., T.D.

THE current revival of interest in the genus *Camellia* has reached New Zealand, where some substantial collections of species and new cultivars are being built up. The New Zealand climate must, presumably, be highly favourable to evergreens since the remarkable native flora is almost entirely of this habit. The oceanic climate with ample rainfall, high humidity and, in the main, mild winters, provides almost ideal conditions for camellias, as for rhododendrons and azaleas. There are, of course, wide variations of climate within New Zealand, depending on latitude, which varies from 34 to 47° south, proximity to the sea and elevation.

Tirau is in the North Island, at latitude 38° south (corresponding in the Northern Hemisphere to Sicily or Athens), but lies inland of a range of hills and about 30 miles from the sea. The average rainfall is 60 inches, about twice that of the south of England but, fortunately, Tirau also experiences twice as many hours of sunshine. In the summer, temperatures rarely rise above 85° F., humidity is ample and rain reasonably distributed throughout the year. In winter occasional radiation frosts occur during still weather and are usually followed by bright, sunny days.

The soils of this part of the North Island are volcanic in origin. Here it is very free-draining, sandy loam, derived from a volcanic shower which overlies the main, deep pumice shower, which originated from the Lake Taupo area. It has a natural pH of 5·8 to 6·0 and, improved by the addition of organic matter and suitable fertilizers, provides an ideal medium for growing camellias. The free, downward movement of soil water results in fairly quick leaching of plant nutrients and must be taken into account in the fertilizing programme.

Perhaps a description of the climate should include some account of the plants which can be successfully grown. Lemons, grapefruit and tangerine oranges, produced commercially on the coast, grow and fruit well if protected when young. Rhododendrons 'Polar Bear', 'Tally Ho', 'Royal Flush' and 'Fragrantissimum' will

flourish in selected positions with some shade and good katabasis. Herbaceous plants generally are not successful as the winters are not cold enough to enforce dormancy. Trees and shrubs grow freely. *Liriodendron tulipifera* and *Cedrus deodara*, planted in 1948, have reached 25 feet in nine years; while chance seedling peaches, from stones thrown out with household rubbish, grow to fruiting size in three years. This description may read as if Tirau is a gardening paradise, but weeds of an infinite variety can also put up most impressive growth performance and lawns need mowing all through the year.

There appears to be no record of the earliest plantings of camellias in New Zealand but adequate research would probably throw some light on the subject. The recently formed South Auckland Camellia Society is setting up an Historical Committee with the task of investigating and identifying the many fine old camellia trees which are to be found around the older homesteads. It is hoped that the committee will also be able to trace the origins and history of some of the specimens. It seems likely that most of the original plants reached this country via Australia and many of the cultivars, known to have been present in New South Wales in the mid nineteenth century, can be recognized all over New Zealand. The most freely planted seems to have been *Camellia japonica* 'Aspasia McArthur' which, often carrying its sports, 'Lady Loch' and 'Otahuhu Beauty' can be seen in many places in this district. This cultivar probably carries a heavy share of responsibility for the decline from favour of camellias. Its cream, paeony-form flowers, beautiful when freshly opened, bruise and batter very readily and remain on the plant when faded. As a result, one sees many large and flourishing trees looking quite disgusting, smothered with dead brown flowers. The coloured sports do not bruise so readily but share the parent's bad habit of not being self grooming. *C. japonica* 'Lady St. Clair' also occurs as very large specimens.

It is from the United States of America that most of the new camellias are reaching New Zealand, though some are coming from Britain or Australia. The work of PROFESSOR E. G. WATERHOUSE, of New South Wales, and the infectious enthusiasm and assistance of MR. RALPH S. PEER, president of the American Camellia Society, have both contributed very largely to the revival of interest. The American Camellia Society and the Southern California Camellia Society have accredited honorary representatives and, between them, some seventy New Zealand members.

The collection at Mayhills Farm, Tirau, is in its infancy, having been commenced with the purchase of a plant of *C. reticulata*, 'Captain Rawes' in 1948. It now numbers over 300 varieties, including all the available Kunming reticulatas and a very representative gathering of new cultivars of *C. japonica*. Some of the plants are still too small for an opinion to be expressed about their performance under local conditions but many have already attracted a great deal of interest and appreciation. While severe weather, in the European sense, is never experienced, a sharp radiation frost (sometimes 10°) followed by brilliant sunshine from a clear blue sky, provides a fairly severe test of the hardiness of plants in full flower. Most of our garden is shaded only in the early morning and, by 10 a.m. nearly all of the camellias are in full sun.

Among the more established plants, *C. japonica* 'Débutante' has all the attributes of a camellia aristocrat. It roots very readily from cuttings, grows freely with an upright, open habit and blooms when young. The flowers, of full paeony-form, are a very delicate shade of Camellia Rose (622/3), shading off to almost white on the edges of the petals. They can be handled and worn without bruising and last for ten days or more when cut. The plant is self grooming, the flowers falling in one piece before the petals begin to fade. During a recent series of nine consecutive radiation frosts averaging 7°, 'Débutante' continued to open flowers normally without showing frost damage. *C. japonica* 'Marjorie Magnificent' has an open, upright habit, flowers when young and has attractive elliptilanceolate foliage. Its flowers are small (8–9 cm.), delicate in colour, Rose Pink 427/1, shading to 427/3, and having something of the substance and texture of 'Magnoliaeflora'. There are some fourteen or fifteen guard petals, waved and each distinct, while the flower centre has some erect and folded segments, intermingled with very bright, golden stamens. This, too, is a long lasting, hardy flower of very distinctive appearance. It deserves the second part of its name.

Another flower of very great charm is *C. japonica* 'Begonia' from Australia. It is a small (7 cm.), formal, double flower, the hardiness of which belies the utmost delicacy of its appearance. The colour is Rose Pink (427) with white markings on some petals. The plant grows freely, roots cuttings readily and, with the two preceding cultivars, has been much admired by a large number of lady visitors.

A chance *japonica* seedling of New Zealand origin, 'Waiwhetu Beauty', is of considerable interest and worth attention overseas.

The plant is of open, graceful, rather drooping habit; flowers very freely when young; propagates from cuttings with ease and, with us, sets quantities of seed. The flower is Spinel Pink (625), semi-double, with sixteen orbicular, emarginate guard petals, occasional petaloids and one or two erect, folded segments. The filaments are white, joined for one-third of their length, finely tapered and with small, dark golden anthers. The flower has a silky texture, opens almost flat except for the petaloids, and is very hardy (Fig. 47). This is an unusual and very good camellia. Waiwhetu is a Maori place-name and is correctly pronounced Why-fet-oo, with unaccented syllables.

C. japonica 'Mrs. Bertha A. Harms', a hand-pollinated cross between 'Gauntletti' (syn. 'Sode-ga-kushi', 'Alba grandiflora', 'Lotus') and 'Lady Clare', is, in my opinion, the most lovely and sensational flower among the American varieties we have. The flowers are something of the form of 'Lady Clare', with three distinct rows of large, waved petals of splendid texture. The colour is soft ivory and there is a glorious burst of vivid, golden stamens. As the flower ages a faint flush of rose-pink appears in the centre. Our small plants have produced blooms up to 14 cm. across.

Among the *japonica* varieties some very fine white camellias include 'K. Sawada', an imbricated, rose-form double which opens finally to show a few white stamens and is remarkably free from weather damage. 'Diddy Mealing', 'Yuki-botan' and 'White Giant' are all very distinguished in appearance, the last having a quite noticeable hyacinth scent which adds to its charm. Among many others, 'Joseph Pfingstl', 'Berenice Boddy', 'Virgin's Blush', 'Blood of China', 'Peach Blossom', 'The Czar', 'Australis', 'C. M. Wilson', 'Hatsu-Sakura', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Joshua E. Youtz', 'High Hat', 'Lady Clare', 'Madam Hahn', 'Mrs. Tingley', 'Hanafuki' and 'Ville de Nantes', are all establishing themselves well and flowering freely under New Zealand conditions.

C. sasanqua var. *fragrans*, imported from England, has attracted considerable attention. Its flowers, of unusual substance for the species, open to champagne glass shape up to 10 cm. across and are displayed well on an erect, sturdy plant. The inner petals are white and the outer edged with deep pink. Its fragrance is less earthy than that usual to *sasanqua* varieties. It would be interesting to hear if this cultivar has performed well in England and if the name is correct. The large, single pink *sasanqua* 'Plantation Pink', raised by PROFESSOR E. G. WATERHOUSE, is growing and flowering

with great vigour. One plant appears to have produced an attractive pink and white sport which may merit separate propagation. *C.* (?) *sasanqua* 'Showae-no-sakae', 'Setsugekka' and 'Shishigashira' are flowering freely.

C. reticulata 'Captain Rawes', first imported into New Zealand about 1930, thrives at Tirau in full sun and exposed to some wind. Every September it produces a mass of glorious flowers, some of them up to 20 cm. across. *C. reticulata* Wild Form is well established. Last year it was knocked flat to the ground, when in full flower, by a large walnut tree blown over in a gale. After being stood up straight and well staked, it grew with such vigour that some of the runs of new growth were 16 inches long and as thick as a pencil. One would, however, hesitate to recommend such violent treatment. When *C. reticulata* 'Tali Queen', is fully established it promises to be something quite exceptional in camellias. It has already produced a few magnificent flowers of rich colour, form and texture.

C. fraterna, a dwarf species of drooping habit, with slender, pubescent stems and dainty, elliptic foliage, has given us a great deal of pleasure. It bears hundreds of small (2·5 cm.), pink and white, single flowers with five petals and many stamens. The blooms are axillary along the branches and have a sweet, spicy perfume. It is said to have a chromosome count of $2n = 30$ (*vide* Southern California Camellia Society's *Camellia Review*, July 1956) and, if this is correct, there seem to be almost limitless possibilities of producing a whole new range of miniature camellias. *C. fraterna* appears to be difficult to root from cuttings but has been grafted successfully on to *japonica* and *sasanqua* stocks. It sets seed and several seedling plants have already been distributed for hybridizing.

THE CAMELLIA SHOW AND COMPETITION

April 16 and 17, 1957

By PATRICK M. SYNGE

THE spring season in the south and south-west of England was a very unusual one and many plants, including camellias, bloomed well before their normal date. In consequence, in many gardens, the camellias were almost over by the time of the show. During the middle of the previous week a long spell of warm weather had been broken by one or two nights with hard ground and air frosts in many areas. As a result the array of camellias was smaller than in the previous years and there were probably not so many blooms of outstanding quality, although of course there were some exceptions. When measured the winning blooms were mostly slightly smaller than those measured last year. One of the exceptions was the group from MR. E. DE ROTHSCHILD, of Exbury, which won the first prize in Class 41 and also the Peer Trophy for the most meritorious exhibit in the competitive classes. This class required six blooms of *C. japonica* which could be taken from mixed types and MR. E. DE ROTHSCHILD showed very fine specimens of 'Lady Clare', 'Hatsu-Sakura', 'Mercury', 'Kumasaka', 'Apollo' and 'Alba simplex'.

There was only one trade group in which camellias were the main exhibit, that of Messrs. Haskins who arranged plants of *C. japonica* with Japanese maples. Noticeable among the camellias was a group of 'Campbelli' and 'Latifolia' and this was awarded a Flora Medal. Messrs. Hilliers had some camellias in a fine mixed group of trees and shrubs. Two of the more tender species, namely, *C. hongkongensis* and *C. tsaii*, were distinctive for their fine young bronzy foliage, the leaves of the latter being narrow and pointed. There was also a good plant of *C. japonica* 'Apollo' and the rather uncommon deep pink semi-double called 'Abundance' seemed a good flower.

This year a few changes had been made in the schedule and the system of classification had been revised in accordance with that drawn up by the Camellia Nomenclature Sub-committee and published in the Year Book last year. In addition a classified list of

varieties of *C. japonica*, in accordance with their classes, was appended to the schedule and it was stated that any variety of *C. japonica* mentioned in the list must be shown according to the class given. This obviated the appearance of the same variety in two classes, particularly those for single and semi-double varieties as had happened in previous years. A new class was also added for blooms of C. 'Salutation', which was won by the Crown Commissioners, Windsor, with a fine flower 5 inches in diameter.

Classes 1–8 cover single varieties of *C. japonica*. In Class 1, for 'Alba simplex' or 'Devonia', there were six entries and MR. R. F. BRITTEN, of Boreham, nr. Chelmsford, won first prize with quite a good flower; SIR GILES LODER was second and MR. DE ROTHSCHILD third. Class 2, for 'Jupiter' or 'Juno', was won by MAJOR-GEN. E. G. W. HARRISON with a flower of a good deep colour, 3½ inches across. Messrs. Waterers were second and the DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE third. Class 3, for 'Kimberley', attracted only one entry and a first prize was given to MR. DE ROTHSCHILD. In Class 4, for any other single red variety, there were again six entries and MRS. G. PRESTON, of Haywards Heath, was first with a fine deep pink flower of unknown name. It was not unlike 'Hatsu-Sakura' in type, but rather deeper in colour. MAJOR-GEN. HARRISON was second with 'Silva', a very fine garden variety in almost any year, and MR. DE ROTHSCHILD third with 'Red Cardinal', a deep pink-red single of medium size. MR. M. HAWORTH-BOOTH won both first and second prizes in Class 6 with unnamed pink seedlings. In Class 7 a first prize was given to MRS. PRESTON for a lovely bloom of 'Apple Blossom' (Fig. 42) and this variety appeared again in her winning group of three varieties in Class 8, the others being two unnamed seedlings. Messrs. Waterers were second with 'Furoan', 'Excelsa' and 'Alba simplex'.

Classes 9–19 were for semi-double varieties and the ever-popular 'Adolphe Audusson' attracted nine entries, the first prize being won by the MISSES GODMAN with a fine bloom 4½ inches across. They also won the first prize in the next class for 'Donckelarii'. Class 13, for 'Lady Clare', had eight entries and some good flowers of this magnificent old favourite were shown. The first prize was won by MRS. PRESTON, the second by SIR GILES LODER and the third by MR. DE ROTHSCHILD. Class 15, for any other semi-double red variety, was also popular and had twelve entries, the largest number of any class in the show. SIR GILES LODER was first with a fine flower of 'Lady Audrey Buller', Messrs. Waterers second with 'Apollo' and LORD ABERCONWAY and the National

Trust third with 'Mars'. There was also an unusual flower, 'Koran-jura', a very dark red variety with rather narrow pointed petals. In Class 16, for any other semi-double white variety, several rather divergent flowers were shown under the name 'Gauntletti' and the first prize went to Messrs. Waterers and the second to Sir Giles Loder.

In Class 17, for any semi-double self-coloured variety other than red or white and not specified in a previous semi-double class, the Duke of Devonshire won first prize with a good regular bloom of 'Nagasaki', Mr. de Rothschild was second with a rather large bloom of 'Mercury' and Messrs. Waterers third with 'Lady Vere de Vere'.

Class 19, for any three semi-double varieties, attracted some good entries and the first prize was given to Mr. Haworth-Booth for good flowers of 'Apollo', 'Joy Sander' and 'Adolphe Audusson', Messrs. Waterers were second and included an unusual flower in 'Dr. Tinsley', which was white with a pink flush on the outer petals. Their other flowers were 'Apollo' and 'Mars'. In Class 20, for *C. japonica* 'Elegans', a first prize was awarded to Sir Giles Loder and a second to Mr. O. Cutts, whose flowers are grown in London. Class 23, for a red anemone or paeony-form flower, attracted seven entries and the first prize went to Messrs. Waterers for 'Anna Bruneau', a deep pink flower of medium size and good form heavily flushed with scarlet. The second prize was awarded to Miss Marsh, also of London, and the third to Mr. de Rothschild for a nice flower of 'Childsii'.

Messrs. Waterers won first prize in Classes 24–27 inclusive for anemone or paeony-form flowers of *C. japonica*, and in Class 25 showed an unusual flower in 'R. L. Wheeler', a deep pink, 4½ inches across.

Class 30, for single blooms of *C. japonica* 'Mathotiana', was perhaps the most interesting in the show for it showed the surprising variety in flower form and colour of this old favourite. The Misses Godman exhibited two very fine blooms, one of which won first prize. Both of these were picked from the same tree, yet one had pointed petals while the other had rounded and the two centres were different, only one bloom having the typical rosebud centre (Fig. 46). Yet another bloom from the same tree exhibited in the spray class showed a most curious triple centre, each section being of paeony-form and this was growing on the same branch and within 4 inches of a flower of normal form. Good blooms were also shown by Messrs. Waterers and the Duke of Devonshire

for the second and third places respectively, while an unusual flower with deep mauvish colouring overlying pale crimson, especially in the upper part of the petals, was shown by Sir Giles Loder. In Class 35 there were some beautiful flowers of the pale salmon double 'Souvenir de Bahaud-Litou' and first and second places went to Mr. Haworth-Booth and the Misses Godman respectively. Class 39, for any rose formed or formal double not provided for in the previous classes, also produced some interesting blooms. First prize went to the Misses Godman for a very fine flower of 'Augusto Gouveia L. Pinto' and probably this was one of the best flowers in the show. It was 5 inches in diameter, the pink colouring overlying a white ground. Messrs. Waterers were second with 'Governor Earl Warren', a good pink flower of medium size, and the Duke of Devonshire third with 'Eximia'. The Misses Godman also showed the same variety in their winning group of three in Class 40, the other two being 'Mathotiana' and 'Imbricata alba', second prize went to Mr. de Rothschild's 'Kumasaka', 'Imbricata alba' and 'Chitosigibu', a small deep pink with a white streak in the centre of the petals. In Class 41, Mr. E. de Rothschild showed the six flowers which won the Peer Trophy, while Sir Giles Loder was second with 'Snow Goose', 'Adolphe Audusson', 'Lady Clare', 'Donckelarii', 'Altheaflora' and 'Jupiter'. Lord Aberconway and the National Trust were third.

In Class 42, for the wild form of *reticulata*, Lord Aberconway showed a lovely deep pink flower of medium size for first place, while Mr. de Rothschild showed a paler but slightly larger flower for second place.

Among the sprays the single varieties showed well again, particularly the whites such as 'Alba simplex' and the red 'Jupiter', although 'Elegans' and 'Adolphe Audusson' looked well as a spray and were free flowering. The forms of C. × *williamsii*, however, are pre-eminent when shown in this way. The class for a bowl of camellias was won by Sir Giles Loder with a beautiful display of *C. japonica* 'Alba simplex'.

SOME NEW CAMELLIAS RECORDED IN AUSTRALIA

THE following details of new varieties of camellias raised in Australia have been recorded with the Australian and New Zealand Camellia Research Society and are reprinted from Number 3 of their *Camellia Annual*, by kind permission of their Honorary Secretary and Editor, PROFESSOR E. G. WATERHOUSE, and their Council. The numbers run consecutively from those published in the *Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book*, 1957, pp. 136–7.

10. 'Edward Marsh': This seedling of unknown parentage was planted about 1941 by MR. MARSH, of Moonee Ponds, Victoria. In 1954, it was removed to the garden of MR. A. STEWART, of Moonee Ponds. It is an upright grower producing light pink, peppered and striped carmine blooms of an incomplete double. The blooms are 4 to 4½ inches in diameter and there are 10 to 14 petals with an indefinite number of petaloids. Application for registration submitted by MR. A. STEWART, Moonee Ponds.

11. 'Esther Henty': An unknown seedling planted by MRS. HENTY, of Balwyn, Victoria, in 1940. It first flowered in 1946. The plant is now 8 feet high and 8 feet in diameter. It is vigorous and flowers profusely early August–September. The blooms, 4 inches in diameter, are of an incomplete double form, soft pink in colour, and somewhat resemble 'Gloire de Nantes'.

12. 'Myrtle McLeod': raised by MR. CHAS. F. COLE, Canterbury, Victoria, from seed obtained by crossing 'Elegans' with 'Spencer's Pink' in 1946. First flowered in 1955. The blooms are single, pure white, with a cluster of bright yellow stamens. It flowers in July–August, producing blooms 4 to 4½ inches in diameter. The leaves are deep green, oval in shape and 3¼ by 2 inches in diameter. The broad petals and large cluster of stamens are prominent features.

13. 'Thomas Cornelius Cole': raised by CHAS. F. COLE, Canterbury, Victoria, by crossing 'Spencer's Pink' with 'Elegans' in 1949. It first flowered in 1954. The bloom is 4½ to 5½ inches in diameter, semi-double form, bright rose pink in colour, and flowers from early August until late September. Dark green foliage and erect habit of growth.

14. 'Cathy Becher' (pronounced Beecher): raised by MRS. D. M. ANDREW, Lindfield, New South Wales. Seedling from 'Constance'. First flowered 1954. Informal double deep rose, large, 5 inches diameter. Leaves deep green, apices pointed.

CAMELLIAS AND RHODODENDRONS WHICH RECEIVED AWARDS IN 1956 AND 1957

Camellia 'Elizabeth Johnstone', A.M. March 19, 1957. A cross between *C. reticulata* (wild form) and an unknown camellia, which has proved hardy in Cornwall and reached a height of 10 feet. The flowers are 4½ inches across with nine waved petals and coloured a bright, rich shade of Camellia Rose (H.C.C. 622/2). It is of interest that the serrations of the leaves are very close together. Exhibited by G. H. Johnstone, Esq., O.B.E., V.M.H., Trewithen, Grampound Road, Cornwall (Fig. 44).

Camellia japonica 'Coquetti', A.M. April 17, 1956. This is an old European variety and is one that is particularly suited for growing in the open. The leaves are inclined to be smallish and, characteristically, are variable in shape, some being ovate and some elliptic while the margins are obtusely serrate. On the plant shown the flowers were 4 inches across with the petals regularly imbricated to form a complete double. In the main the petals were emarginate although a few were rounded and all were coloured Delft Rose (H.C.C. 020/1–020). Exhibited by Messrs. J. Waterer, Sons and Crisp Ltd., Bagshot, Surrey.

Camellia × williamsii 'Pink Wave', A.M. January 22, 1957. The exhibitors of this hybrid state that it was raised in 1949 from seed collected off a plant of *Camellia × williamsii* 'J. C. Williams'. On the short flowering stems shown the leaves were variable but tended to be rather narrow; on the upper surface they were a shiny light green and beneath a very pale green. Marginal serrations were small and close together. The flower was typical of the hybrid group. It was 3 inches across and coloured Rhodamine Pink (H.C.C. 527/2) with some pale flushes, while the back of a few outer petals were partially coloured Phlox Pink (H.C.C. 625/1). The corolla was made up of six petals and three petaloid appendages. Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks (Fig. 45).

Rhododendron argyrophyllum var. nankingense, A.M. April 30, 1957. On this plant the leaves are elliptic, of a leathery texture and on the underside have a thin, felty indumentum, while the petiole is grooved above and tough. The loose truss is made up of sixteen campanulate flowers, each of which is coloured Persian Rose

(H.C.C. 628/3) shaded with some darker flushes chiefly on the lobes. Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, Windsor Great Park, Berks (Fig. 15).

Rhododendron (elliottii × 'May Day') 'Billy Budd', A.M. April 30, 1957. The leaves on this hybrid are elliptically shaped and waved at the margin, and on the underside show a light tomentum which is soon glabrous. Eleven flowers make up the lax, flat-topped truss and the campanulate corolla is coloured Turkey Red (H.C.C. 721/1). Exhibited from the R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey.

Rhododendron chaetomallum var. hemigymnum, A.M. March 19, 1957. GEORGE FORREST collected the seed from which this plant was raised, in South-Eastern Tibet, under his number F. 25605. Its leaves are narrowly obovate, 2½ inches long and 1¼ inches wide, and coated beneath with a thick, brown tomentum. The corolla is campanulate and coloured Orient Red (H.C.C. 819/3). The flowers naturally hang pendulous on long petioles and about seven of them make up each truss. Exhibited by Mrs. R. M. Stevenson, Tower Court, Ascot, Berks.

Rhododendron ('Azor' × 'Isabella') 'Cranbourne', A.M. June 4, 1957. It is interesting to note the exhibitors state that this hybrid has been grown in full sun and it might therefore be useful for planting under a variety of conditions. The large truss is formed from nine flowers and is open and flat-topped. The campanulate corolla is 3¼ inches long and 4½ inches wide and coloured a varying shade of Tyrian Rose (H.C.C. 24/2), and has a large, red blotch in the throat and reddish-brown spotting on the upper lobes. The leaves are 6½ inches long and 2¼ inches wide. Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, Windsor Great Park, Berks.

Rhododendron floccigerum var. appropinquans, A.M. March 19, 1957. In open moist situations at about 13,000 feet, this plant is found naturally in South-Eastern Tibet. Its leaves are very narrowly elliptic, 3 inches long and ¾ inch wide, dark green above and glaucous below. The truss is made up of six pendulous flowers. The campanulate corolla is 1½ inches long and 2 inches wide; in colour it is pale cream with the edge of the lobes suffused with a very pale shade of Cherry (H.C.C. 722/3) and some pale, greenish spots on the upper lobes. Exhibited by Col. The Lord Digby, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., Minterne, Dorchester, Dorset (Fig. 33).

Rhododendron forrestii var. tumescens, A.M. April 2, 1957. The specimens of flowers exhibited were taken from plants raised

from seed of Dr. J. F. Rock's expedition of 1924–5 and grown under his number R. 59174. The elliptically shaped leaves are scaly on the underside and the petiole ¼ inch long. Usually three flowers make up the truss and typically the calyx is petaloid varying in length up to ¾ inch. The corolla is 2 inches long by 2 inches wide, campanulate and coloured Cherry (H.C.C. 722–722/1); the lobes are reflexed. Exhibited by Mrs. R. M. Stevenson, Tower Court, Ascot, Berks.

Rhododendron ('Fusilier' × (Jalisco grex) 'Eclipse') 'Grilse', A.M. May 20, 1957. At Chelsea this plant was shown particularly well and its outstanding characteristics may well attract the attention of future hybridists. The full truss is well made up with ten flowers and is flat-topped. The corolla is 3 inches long and 4 inches across and coloured throughout an attractive, bright, undefined reddish shade of Porcelain Rose (H.C.C. 620–620/1), apart from some dark crimson spots in the throat and on the upper lobes. Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, Windsor Great Park, Berks (Fig. 50).

Rhododendron hanceanum var. nanum, A.M. April 16, 1957. Being dwarf in habit, this rhododendron is admirably suited for the rock garden. It is free-flowering, annually displaying terminal inflorescences, the flowers of which are a cream colour and the buds a contrasting shade of creamish-green. Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, Windsor Great Park, Berks (Fig. 36).

Rhododendron irroratum, A.M. March 19, 1957. A species with variable characters found in the shady, pine and rhododendron forests of mid-west Yunnan. On the plant exhibited the truss was composed of eight pendulous flowers. The corolla was tubular-campanulate, 1¾ inches long by 2 inches across and white with a faint, bluish-pink tinge. The buds were tinged bright bluish-pink. Exhibited by Col. The Lord Digby, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., Minterne, Dorchester, Dorset (Fig. 34).

Rhododendron irroratum 'Polka Dot', A.M. March 19, 1957. The distinctive, free-flowering, spotted form, which Mr. de Rothschild has used as a parent for some of his latest hybrids, was well shown. It is particularly interesting for its full, globular truss of twenty well-packed flowers. On these the corolla is tubular-campanulate in shape, 1¾ inches long by 2 inches wide and white in colour, heavily marked throughout with spots of Paeony Purple (H.C.C. 729/1) and suffused with a shade of pink. Exhibited by Edmund de Rothschild, Esq., Exbury, nr. Southampton, Hants (Fig. 29).

Rhododendron (Duke of Cornwall grex) 'John Holms', A.M. April 9, 1957. From this cross has resulted a large shrub some 18 feet high and of rapid growth. It has a tightly packed, globular truss made up of twenty-five flowers. Each of these flowers has a deep campanulate corolla coloured a shade of Cherry to Rose Red (H.C.C. 722–724) and some limited dark spotting on the upper lobes. Exhibited by Mr. and Mrs. A. C. and Mr. J. F. A. Gibson, Glenarn, Rhu, Dunbartonshire.

Rhododendron lochae, A.M. July 30, 1957. By reason of it being the sole representative of the genus in Australia, this species is an interesting one. The detailed account and illustration of the plant appears in the *Botanical Magazine* (t. 9651). It will be noted however, that the specimen exhibited had somewhat brighter flowers than those depicted in the illustration and, in fact, were a light shade of Geranium Lake (H.C.C. 20). Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, Windsor Great Park, Berks (Fig. 32).

Rhododendron mollyanum 'Benmore', F.C.C. April 9, 1957. At the first meeting of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee to be held in Scotland a magnificent specimen of this lovely form was exhibited. It was raised from seed about fifteen years ago and the plant is now about 10 feet high and just starting to flower. The leaves are elliptic, 12 inches long and 5½ inches across, the underside silvery and the stout petiole 2 inches long. Each heavy truss was large, flat-topped and loosely made up of twenty flowers. The campanulate corolla was 2¼ inches long and 2¾ inches wide, and coloured a variable shade of Fuchsine Pink (H.C.C. 627/2) with some deep pink staining and a small, deep-crimson blotch in the base of the throat. There were eighteen stamens and the stigma was disc-like. Exhibited by Younger Botanic Garden, Benmore, By Dunoon, Argyll (Fig. 1).

Rhododendron mucronulatum, F.C.C. January 22, 1957. A beautiful early-flowering species of vigorous habit from Korea, Japan, and Northern China. The flowers, which are about 1½ inches across, are of a rich purplish rose colour, and although flowering in January and February appear to suffer very little damage from frost. The leaves, which are deciduous are about 3 inches long and 1½ inches broad. This species received an Award of Merit in 1925 (R.H.S. *Journal*, 50, xxxix, 1925). Exhibited by Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks (Fig. 35).

Rhododendron (Emerald Isle grex) 'New Comet', A.M. April 30, 1957. An attractive hybrid (shown as Wisley 80) with

a heavy, globular, large truss of twelve flowers loosely packed. The corolla is shallow funnel-shaped, 4½ inches across and 2½ inches long, has reflexed lobes and coloured Mimosa Yellow (H.C.C. 602/1), flushed with a limited, irregular shade of pale pink, recalling the presence of rhododendron 'Naomi' in its breeding. Exhibited from the R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey (Fig. 48).

Rhododendron parryae, A.M. April 30, 1957. Being native to Assam, this rhododendron is one to be grown under greenhouse conditions in Britain. The lax truss is made up of four flowers. These are shallow funnel-shaped, 3 inches long and 4½ inches across, and coloured white with a prominent yellow-orange blotch. Exhibited by Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (Fig. 31).

Rhododendron (Racil grex) 'Hariet', A.M. April 9, 1957 (subject to its being given a clonal name). With a parentage of such good garden plants as *R. ciliatum* and *R. racemosum*, this hybrid is becoming widely planted particularly, in the rock garden. The leaves are broadly elliptic and scaly beneath. The clusters of bloom are made up of about twenty flowers, each of which are a rotate campanulate shape, 1 inch long and 1¼ inches across and coloured a whitish-pink shade. Exhibited by Michael Noble, Esq., Ardkinglas, Argyll.

Rhododendron (Perseverance grex) 'Revlon', A.M. May 20, 1957. This plant makes another addition to the many lovely hybrids raised from the crossing of *R. cinnabarinum* with other rhododendrons. Typically the leaves are elliptic with the underside and petioles densely scaly. Pendant clusters of seven flowers make up the truss. Each flower is tubular-campanulate with large lobes and coloured Carmine (H.C.C. 21/1). Exhibited by Edmund de Rothschild, Esq., Exbury, nr. Southampton, Hants (Fig. 30).

Rhododendron (Lactcombei grex) 'Robert Keir', A.M. April 2, 1957. This is a particularly fine hybrid, with a large, rounded and well-packed truss of fourteen flowers. On each of these the corolla is open campanulate, 2¾ inches long by 3 inches across. In colour the flowers are pale yellow, deepening in the throat and lobes flushed, in varying degrees, with pale pink, while the outside of the corolla is a dark shade of pink. The leaves are broadly elliptic, 7 inches long and 4 inches across, the base auricled and the stout petiole is 2 inches long. The plant is named after Mr. Robert Keir, for many years head gardener to the late Mr. J. B. Stevenson and subsequently to Mrs. Stevenson. Exhibited by Mrs. R. M. Stevenson, Tower Court, Ascot, Berks (Fig. 51).

Rhododendron ('Blue Tit' × russatum) 'Song Bird', A.M. April 9, 1957. A rhododendron for planting on the rock garden. Clusters of violet flowers (H.C.C. 36/2) appear in bunches of about twenty blooms. Each corolla is rotate campanulate and ¾ inch long and 1 inch wide. Exhibited by Lt.-Col. J. N. Horlick, Isle of Gigha, Argyll.

Rhododendron 'Lochinch Spinbur', A.M. April 9, 1957. On this hybrid the narrowly elliptic leaves are 3 inches long and 1 inch wide and scaly on the underside. The truss is loosely composed of five flowers. In shape the corolla is tubular, 1½ inches long and 1 inch wide and coloured whitish-yellow with some pale pink staining. Exhibited by The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Stair, D.S.O., K.T., Lochinch Castle, Stranraer, Wigtownshire (Fig. 16).

Rhododendron (Nausicaa grex) 'Wayford', A.M. April 2, 1957. A distinguishing feature of this plant is its magnificent foliage for the narrowly elliptic leaves are 13 inches long and 4½ inches across; beneath there is a sparse, grey tomentum. The truss is a large, heavy, flat-topped one containing about twenty-four flowers each borne on a long, red-stained pedicel. The corolla is round, open campanulate, 2 inches long and 3 inches across; in colour white with dark crimson on the outside. The yellow stigma is disc-like. This plant was raised by MAGOR by crossing *R. calophytum* and R. 'Gill's Triumph'. Exhibited by Humphrey Baker, Esq., Wayford Manor, Wayford, Crewkerne, Somerset (Fig. 49).

Rhododendron wiltonii, A.M. April 30, 1957. About eleven flowers make up a loose truss. The campanulate corolla is white with a dark crimson blotch in the throat, while the outside is flushed irregularly with a shade of pink. Apart from its flowers, this shrub makes a good foliage plant as the leaves are puckered and glossy on the upper surface and below are coated with a reddish-brown felt. Exhibited by Edmund de Rothschild, Esq., Exbury, nr. Southampton, Hants.

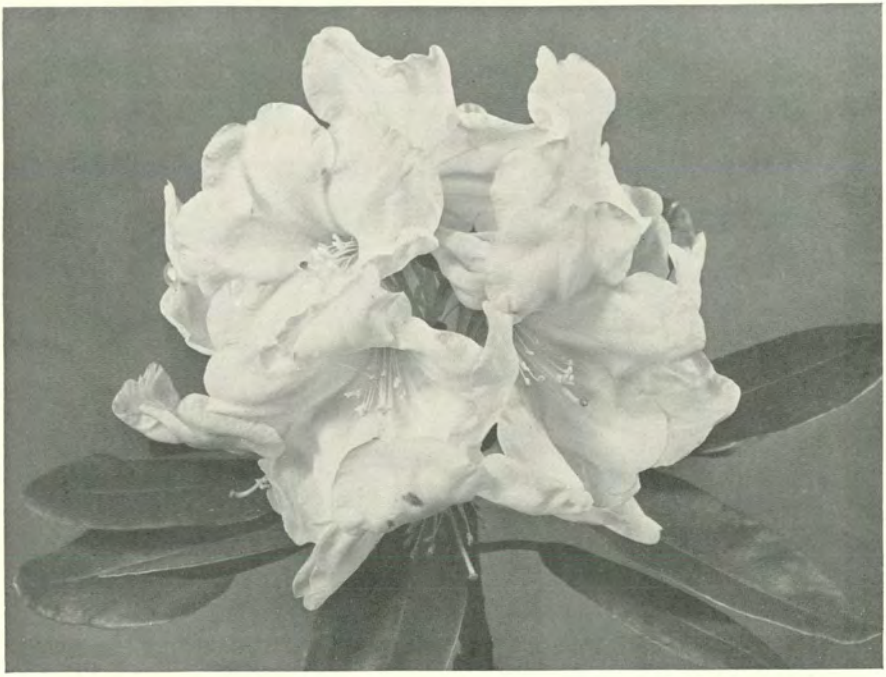
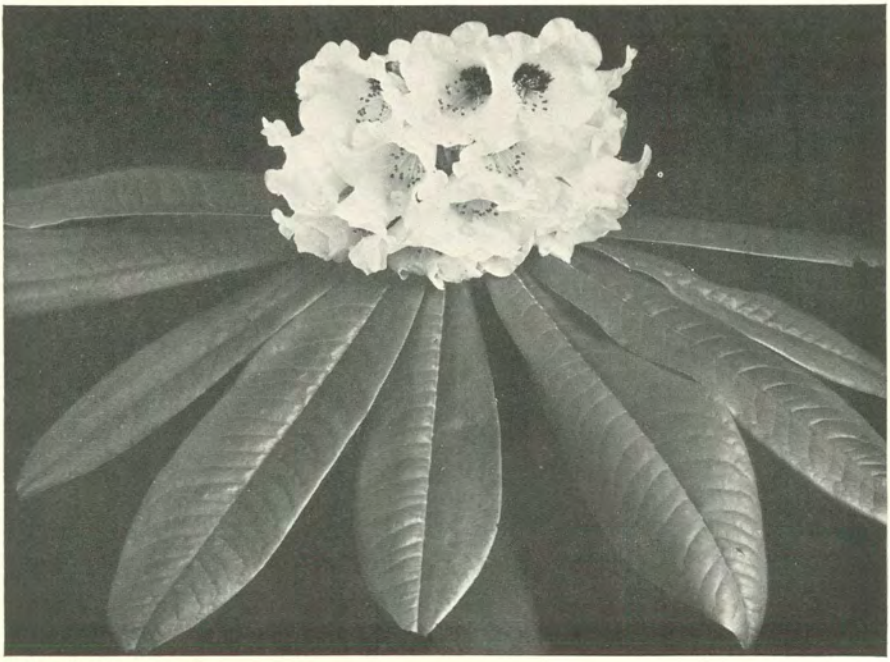


FIG. 48—Rhododendron 'New Comet' A.M. April 30, 1957. Shown as Wisley No. 80 by the Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley (see p. 110)



Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 49—Rhododendron 'Wayford' A.M. April 2, 1957. Shown by H. L. P. BAKER, ESQ. (see p. 112)

FIG. 50—Rhododendron 'Grilse' A.M. May 20, 1957. Shown by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor (see p. 109)

Photos, J. E. Downward

FIG. 51—Rhododendron 'Robert Keir' A.M. April 2, 1957. Shown by MRS. R. M. STEVENSON (see p. 111)

AWARDS TO RHODODENDRONS AFTER TRIAL AT WISLEY, 1957

THE Council of The Royal Horticultural Society has made the following awards to rhododendrons after trial at Wisley on the recommendation of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee. The number in brackets after the description of the variety was that under which it was grown in the trial.

WHITE SWAN. (Raised and sent by Messrs. John Waterer, Sons & Crisp Ltd., Bagshot, Surrey.) **F.C.C.** May 14, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant 12 feet high, 12–14 feet spread, vigorous; upright habit, very free flowering; leaves 6 inches long, 2½ inches wide, very dark glossy green. Flower truss 8½ inches diameter, 9 inches deep, very compact, conical shaped, nineteen flowers per truss; corolla 4 inches diameter, 3 inches long, fully expanded funnel shaped, margins waved, white tinged Rhodamine Pink (H.C.C. 527/3) with spotting of pale green deep in throat, buds Rhodamine Pink (H.C.C. 527/2). Flowering from May 8, 1957 (**A.M.** 1937). [347]

DAVID. (Raised, introduced and sent by the late F. J. Rose, Esq., Treknow, Telegraph Road, West End, Southampton.) **A.M.** May 2, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant 3½ feet high, 2¾ feet spread; vigorous, upright habit, free flowering; leaves 6½ inches long, 2⅕ inches wide, dark glossy green. Flower truss 6½ inches diameter, 5½ inches deep, compact, dome shaped, sixteen to nineteen flowers per truss; corolla 2¾ inches diameter, 2 inches long, fully expanded funnel shaped, margins waved, Cardinal Red (H.C.C. 822/1) with conspicuous white stamens, some fine dark spotting on upper petal at throat. Flowering from April 10, 1957. [120]

FARALL YELLOW. (Raised, introduced and sent by Mr. M. Haworth-Booth, Farall Nurseries, Roundhurst, Haslemere, Surrey.) **A.M.** May 2, 1957. A deciduous azalea. Described R.H.S. *Journal*, 81, p. 457 (**H.C.** 1956). [110]

PAULINE. (Raised by the late T. Lowinsky, Esq., introduced by the late L. de Rothschild, Esq., sent by Messrs. Walter C. Slocock Ltd.) **A.M.** May 2, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant 5 feet high, 5½ feet spread; vigorous, compact habit, very free flowering; leaves 6 inches long, 2 inches wide, dark green. Flower truss 5½–6½ inches diameter, 6–6½ inches deep, compact, dome shaped, seventeen flowers per truss; corolla 2½ inches diameter, 2 inches long, open funnel shaped, margins waved, Currant Red (H.C.C. 821/3) heavy spotting on upper petal at throat black, stamens rose-pink. Flowering from April 23, 1957. [928]

QUEEN SOURIYA. (Raised and sent by Messrs. Walter C. Slocock Ltd.) **A.M.** May 2, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant 7 feet high, 11 feet spread; vigorous, spreading habit, free flowering; leaves 6 inches long, $2\frac{2}{5}$ inches wide, medium dull green. Flower truss $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, compact, dome shaped, ten flowers per truss; corolla $3\frac{3}{5}$ inches diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, fully expanded funnel shaped, margins waved, cream flushed Fuchsine Pink (H.C.C. 627/3) with pale amber-yellow flush at throat, buds a shade near Fuchsine Pink (H.C.C. 627/2). Flowering from April 30, 1957. [362]

ROSE NEWCOME. (Raised by the late H. J. Mangles, Esq., sent by Messrs. Walter C. Slocock Ltd., Goldsworth Nursery, Woking, Surrey.) **A.M.** April 11, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant 8–10 feet high, 12 feet spread; vigorous, spreading habit, free flowering; leaves $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, dark glossy green. Flower truss 9 inches diameter, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, compact, flattened dome shaped, ten flowers per truss; corolla $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches long, open funnel shaped, margins recurved and waved, white. Flowering from April 5, 1957. [162]

SYLPHIDES. (Raised, introduced and sent by Messrs. Knap Hill Nursery Ltd., Woking, Surrey.) **A.M.** May 2, 1957. A deciduous azalea. Described R.H.S. *Journal*, 81, p. 458 (**H.C.** 1956). [772]

VULCAN. (Raised, introduced and sent by Messrs. John Waterer, Sons & Crisp Ltd.) **A.M.** May 14, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 6 feet spread, vigorous, compact habit, very free flowering; leaves $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, $1\frac{4}{5}$ inches wide, very dark dull green. Flower truss $4\frac{1}{2}$–5 inches diameter, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, open, dome shaped, ten flowers per truss; corolla $2\frac{3}{5}$ inches diameter, $1\frac{4}{5}$ inches long, open funnel shaped, margins waved, Blood Red (H.C.C. 820/3). Flowering from May 10, 1957. [730]

ADMIRAL PIET HEIN. (Raised by Messrs. C. B. van Nes & Sons, Boskoop, Holland, sent by Major A. E. Hardy, Sandling Park, Hythe, Kent.) **H.C.** May 2, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet spread; vigorous, upright compact habit, very free flowering; leaves $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, dark glossy green. Flower truss $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, flattened dome shaped, twelve to fourteen flowers per truss; corolla $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $2\frac{3}{5}$ inches long, fully expanded funnel shaped, margins waved, edges of petal Pastel Mauve (H.C.C. 433/1), throat almost white, spotting on upper petal at throat yellow, stamens pale mauve. Flowering from April 25, 1957. [992]

FURNIVALL'S DAUGHTER. (Raised, introduced and sent by Messrs. Knap Hill Nursery Ltd.) **H.C.** May 14, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant 4 feet high, 4 feet spread; vigorous, upright habit, very free flowering; leaves 5 inches long, $2\frac{3}{5}$ inches wide, medium glossy green. Flower truss 6 inches diameter, 6 inches deep, compact, globular shaped, fifteen flowers per truss; corolla $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, fully expanded funnel shaped, margins frilled, Fuchsine Pink (H.C.C. 627/3) veined with Fuchsine Pink (H.C.C. 627/2), heavily

spotted on upper petal at throat strawberry red. Flowering from May 1, 1957. [207]

HOPEFUL. (Growing in the collection at Wisley.) **H.C.** April 11, 1957. An evergreen azalea. Plant 26 inches high, 4 feet spread, vigorous, spreading habit, very free flowering, flowers borne in pairs and threes; corolla 2 inches diameter, $1\frac{2}{5}$ inches long, fully open funnel shaped, a shade near Scarlet (H.C.C. 19/1). Flowering from April 4, 1957.

KATHLEEN. (Sent by Messrs. Knap Hill Nursery Ltd.) **H.C.** May 14, 1957. An evergreen azalea. Plant $2\frac{3}{4}$ feet high, $3\frac{1}{4}$ feet spread, vigorous, compact, free flowering, flowers in pairs; corolla $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, funnel shaped, a colour near Phlox Pink (H.C.C. 625/1), spotted reddish brown at throat. Flowering from April 25, 1957. [430]

MARTIN STEWART. (Raised by Mr. C. E. Brown, introduced and sent by Messrs. D. Stewart & Son Ltd., Ferndown, Dorset.) **H.C.** May 14, 1957. An evergreen azalea. Plant $2\frac{3}{4}$ feet high, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet spread, vigorous, open upright habit, very free flowering, flowers borne in clusters of three and four; corolla hose-in-hose, $1\frac{2}{5}$ inches diameter, $1\frac{1}{5}$ inches long, funnel shaped, Neyron Rose (H.C.C. 623). Flowering from May 11, 1957. [930]

MOONSHINE GLOW. (Raised and sent by The Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Woking, Surrey.) **H.C.** April 11, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant 4 feet high, 5 feet spread; vigorous, upright compact habit, free flowering; leaves $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, medium dull green. Flower truss $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, compact, flattened dome shaped, nine flowers per truss; corolla $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, open funnel shaped, margins waved and entire, a delicate pale shade of Yellow near Uranium Green (H.C.C. 63/3), buds tinged pink. Flowering from March 29, 1957. [119]

MRS. DAVIES EVANS. (Sent by Messrs. Knap Hill Nursery Ltd.) **H.C.** May 14, 1957. A hardy hybrid rhododendron. Plant $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 9 feet spread, vigorous, upright and compact habit, very free flowering; leaves $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, dark dull green. Flower truss $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, 5 inches deep, very compact, globular shaped, nineteen flowers per truss; corolla 3 inches diameter, 2 inches long, fully expanded funnel shaped, margins waved and crêped, Imperial Purple (H.C.C. 33/1), white blotch on upper petal at throat with spotting of mustard yellow. Flowering from May 6, 1957. [380]

OBERON. (Sent by Messrs. Knap Hill Nursery Ltd.) **H.C.** May 14, 1957. An evergreen azalea. Plant $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet spread, vigorous, dense and very compact habit, very free flowering, flowers borne in threes; corolla $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, funnel shaped, Fuchsine Pink (H.C.C. 627/1), fine spotting on upper petal at throat reddish brown. Flowering from May 10, 1957. [528]

R. OBTUSUM AMOENUM 'SPLENDENS'. (Sent by Messrs. Knap Hill Nursery Ltd.) **H.C.** May 14, 1957. An evergreen azalea. Plant 3 feet high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet spread, vigorous, very free flowering, flowers growing

singly and in pairs; corolla 1 inch diameter, $1\frac{1}{10}$ inches long, funnel shaped, Rose Bengal (H.C.C. 25/2) changing to Rose Bengal (H.C.C. 25/1) in throat. Flowering from May 9, 1957. [495]

WHITETHROAT. (Raised, introduced and sent by Messrs. Knap Hill Nursery Ltd.) **H.C.** May 14, 1957. A deciduous azalea. Plant $3\frac{3}{4}$ feet high, 5 feet spread, vigorous, very good compact habit, very free flowering; leaves $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $1\frac{1}{5}$ inches wide, medium glossy green. Flower truss $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, compact with flowers clustering on one side of truss, eight flowers per truss; corolla $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, $1\frac{2}{5}$ inches long, tube $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, funnel shaped, margins waved and frilled, pure white. Flowering from May 7, 1957. [795]

RHODODENDRONS 1956*

THE American Rhododendron Society produces its handbook, or "year" book at intervals, and 1956 was one of such years. A well-got-up publication, it incorporates both general subjects and also lists of hybrids, which they call varieties, and species.

The former has some interesting articles but, like many American publications, the sections on pests and diseases occupy a large part. However, the contrasts in their climate may well account for this. Two adjoining articles, one on growing fragrant rhododendrons and the other on the culture of hardy varieties in the severe New York climate, exemplify this contrast.

The latter section, which includes the lists, is worthy of close study. Not only is the rating given, from x to xxxx, but also a hardiness rating is added, together with an approximate height after ten years' growth. The latter, naturally, is only a rough guide, as from experience in this country soil and climate can easily make more than 100 per cent difference in growth rates. An enthusiast could easily spend hours seeing how their ratings, both for excellence and hardiness, differ from ours. For instance, among the hybrids R. 'Naomi' is given a higher hardiness rating than many of the hardy nurseryman's hybrids we know. Amongst the species *R. caloxanthum* is considered hardier than *R. calostrotum*, in exact variance to our English rating, whilst *R. eximium* is elevated in excellence to xxxx, in place of our xx. Many other variations give food for thought.

The American Rhododendron Society also produces a quarterly bulletin for its members and in last summer's issue is an interesting account of the discovery of some large old trees of *R. arboreum* growing apparently wild in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica. One wonders who was the pioneer who planted them many years ago. Several other articles are worth study, apart from accounts of regional meetings and shows.

GILES LODER

* Edited by J. Harold Clarke. The American Rhododendron Society, 3514 N. Russet St., Portland 17, Oregon, U.S.A. 231 pp. Illus. $4.25.

THE CAMELLIA*

THE Camellia has a tradition of representation in lavish and beautiful books and this latest volume is surely a fine member of a series which began with the magnificent and vast folio of SAMUEL CURTIS, with its five plates by CLARA MARIA POPE, and includes such names famous in Camellia history as CHANDLER, BOOTH, the ABBÉ BERLÈSE and VERSCHAFFELT. Hand colouring is no longer possible but the twenty drawings have been reproduced with great care and fidelity by Messrs. Lohse of Frankfurt in eight-colour litho-offset. The original drawings are drawn with great skill and the majority have not lost much in their reproduction except, perhaps, 'Incarnata' or 'Lady Hume's Blush', which has blushed in the cold a bit mauver than usual and the same applies to 'Magnoliaeflora'. The whites of 'Yuki-Botan' and 'Gauntletti' are superbly rendered, although the yellowish green of the leaves of the latter is perhaps a little over-emphasized. This colour does, however, occur in the leaves of this plant.

In the description of each plant a considerable effort has been made to unravel the complicated nomenclature and synonyms and this is no easy matter. None of us can realize this until we have started to try ourselves. We should be most grateful to MRS. URQUHART for the persistence and care with which she has dealt with the tangled threads and presented them clearly for future writers. Such a work is a real service to camellia growers and to lovers of this flower.

For each variety she gives the synonyms, if any, a brief but adequate description, a longer note on the history and frequently a note by some authority on its cultivation and garden value. There are eighteen plates of *japonica* varieties, one of *C. sinensis* and one of *C. williamsii* 'J. C. Williams'. There is also an unusually interesting introductory chapter on the history and early introduction of camellias into Europe. Camellia collecting has not changed much over the centuries and here one reads of an early sixteenth-century TOKUGAWA OF JAPAN who collected every camellia variety known in that country at that time, and his

* Edited by BERYL LESLIE URQUHART with 3 reproductions from paintings by RAYMOND BOOTH and 17 reproductions from paintings by PAUL JONES. Folio. 50 pp. (The Leslie Urquhart Press, Plaw Hatch Hall, Sharpthorne, Sussex.) 75*s*.

collection amounted to nearly a hundred varieties. One sympathizes with the unfortunate LADY PUMPHRASTON who was sent a pound of fine green tea and served it with melted butter as condiment to a salted rump of beef and complained that no cooking she could contrive "would make these foreign greens tender". There are also short chapters on the introduction of camellias into America, by RALPH PEER, and into Australia, by PROF. E. G. WATERHOUSE. The series is to be continued and it is good news that another volume is in production.

PATRICK M. SYNGE

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INDEX

Figures in Clarendon refer to Illustrations.

An asterisk denotes award after trial at Wisley. (a) denotes Azalea.