

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Camellia

SOCIETY BULLETIN

VOL. 11:6

JUNE, 1950

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Published monthly from November to April, and in June and September. The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, November to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the new library of the Pasadena City College, 1500 Block East Colorado Street. A cut camellia blossom exhibit is always held at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$4.00.

In recognition of the outstanding contribution of the following organizations, nurseries and business enterprises to the success of the Third Annual All-Camellia Show held at Brookside Park February 18th, 19th, 1950, Directors of the Southern California Camellia Society and the Pacific Camellia Society wish to express their appreciation of the magnificent displays and exhibits prepared and shown by these firms, and to commend their artisans and designers for the splendid work that made the displays among the finest in the history of The Camellia Show.

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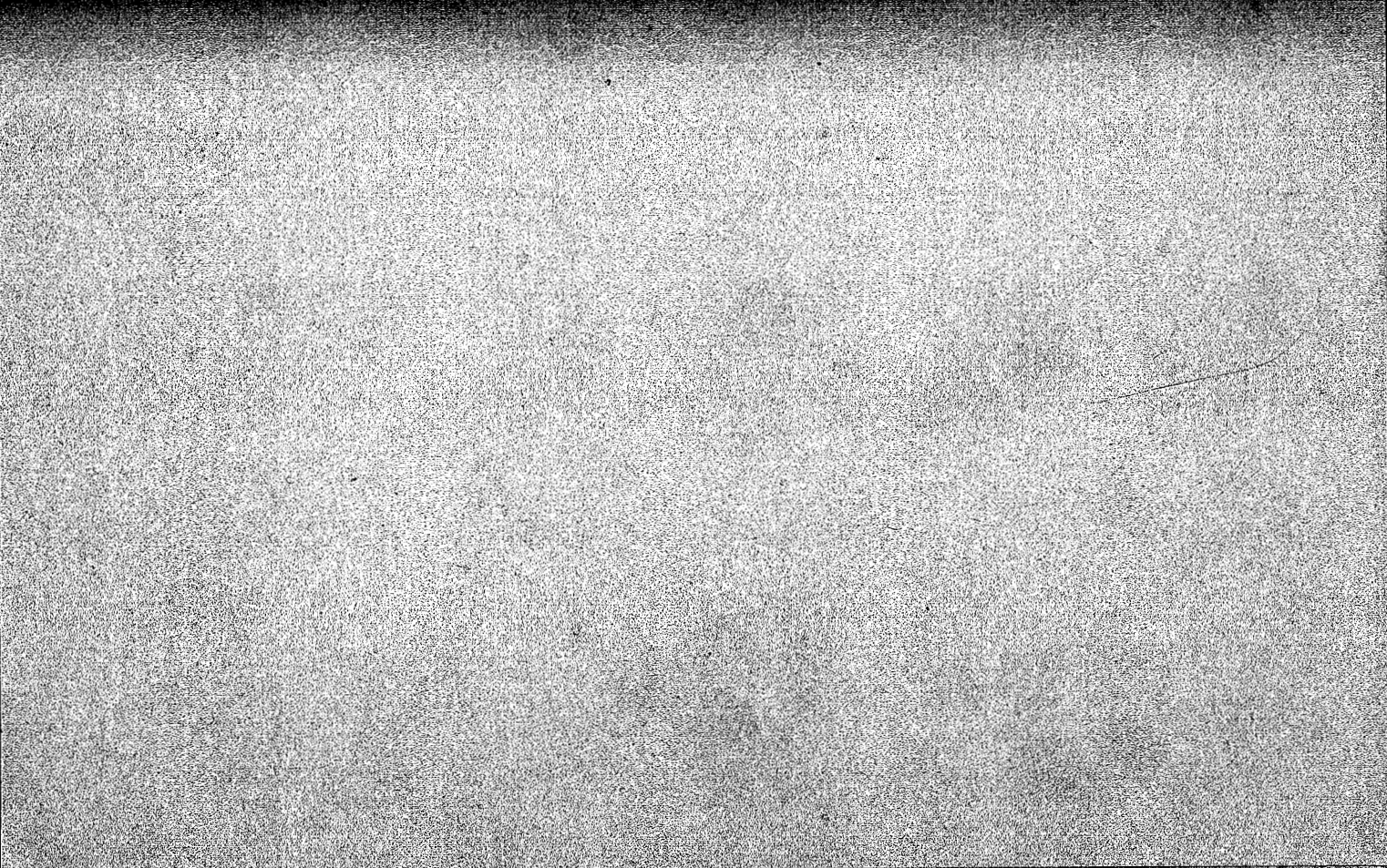
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JUNE *the month for cuttings*

BY DAVE COOK

June initiates the season camellia enthusiasts can begin propagating more of their favorite varieties by inducing cuttings to take root. While 95 percent of all camellias lend themselves to propagation by the cutting method, there are some that are not generally satisfactory for this type of cultivation. Varieties Colletti, Alba Plena and Gigantea are varieties that are slow to put out root growth and quick to produce a discouragingly high "mortality rate." In view of the effort that needs to be expended in successful propagation by cutting, I would recommend the amateur grower avoid banking too heavily on success with these varieties.

For the rest, however, there is no reason why your number of specimens can't be doubled or tripled by the cutting method. Like all essentially simple methods of inducing growth, propagation by cutting can trip up where least expected if the relatively few rules for success are not followed.

Select a good, healthy looking scion of wood from the last growth cycle, preferably a tip growth, and measure down three or four leaf joints. Using a sharp knife, make an angle cut and remove the scion. No sealing or treatment of the wound on the parent plant is necessary. Use of scissors sometimes bruises both parent and scion. A sharp, clean knife cut leaves cambium tissue free to grow.

Prevent the scion from drying out. Ideally, the scion should be placed in the rooting medium immediately after cutting. If, for some reason, it is impossible to "plant" immediately, keep the scion in moist toweling, or cotton, or some suitable, damp environment. The less handling the scion gets the better. Bruising and other tissue damage can be avoided with an immediate "planting."

Professional growers use several soil mediums depending on which one they happen to like to work with. Some place cuttings in a pure sand medium. Others use a half sand, half peat moss mixture. Still others use vermiculite or sponge rock. Some growers reduce the potential of undesirable fungus growth by washing their sand or using a prepared, sterile sand.

In any event, whatever medium is used, the cold flat must have adequate drainage, and, of course, boards in the flats should be free of rot or other infestation.

Once in the rooting medium, the cuttings should be kept moist. Don't flood them with unnecessary waterings. Moisture sufficient to keep the top of the medium damp and wet to the touch is all that should be applied. Excessive moisture will encourage mold and fungus growth.

Keep the cuttings in a strong diffused light. They do not like bright sunlight, of course, but no light at all is just as bad. Cuttings carry on in limited amounts the same photosynthesis processes of the parent plant, and for this they need light. Heating the bottom of the flat by hot water coils or electrically is advantageous in encouraging early growth, but such heating is not necessary to successful propagation by cutting. As for the part of the cutting above ground. It should receive the same temperature and climatic conditions ideal to the parent plant.

(Continued on page 8)

NEW REGISTRATIONS

ANN MILLER

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Paul E. Shepp, Pasadena, Calif.

Bright. Light Salmon Pink. Medium Large semi-double to poeny form. Rapid, compact growth M-L.

ARLENE LEE SHEPP

Mutation of Olive Lee Shepp. Registration by Paul E. Shepp, Pasadena, Calif.

Light Pink shading to White at petal edges. Medium Large Semi-double to Poeny form. Medium, compact growth. M.

BELDEN PAGE

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Roland J. Geimer, San Marino, Calif.

Creamy White. Medium Semi-double to rose form exposing white stamens. Yellow anthers and a few petaloids when open. Medium open growth. L.

BRIDES BOUQUET

A Lotus seedling. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

White. Very Large rose form to formal double with few if any stamens. Medium, open growth. M-L.

CHARLENE ENOT

A Chandleri Elegans seedling. Registration by C. S. Robbins, Altadena, Calif.

Very dark Red. Medium anemone form. Medium open growth. L.

DEEP SOUTH

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

Dark Rose Red. Large informal double—combination of Anemone and Poeny form. Medium, open, pendulous growth. M-L.

DR. JOHN D. BELL

Mutation of Beau Harp. Registration by G. Harp Wilkinson, Pensacola, Fla. Dark Pink to Red and White Var. Very large Semi-double to Poeny form. Rapid, upright growth. M.

DRAMA GIRL

A Family Bolis seedling. Registration by E. W. Miller, Escondido, Calif.

Deep Salmon Rose Pink. Very large Semi-double. Rapid, open, pendulous growth. M.

FIRST LOVE

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Fred T. Bergstrom, Pasadena, Calif.

Deep Rose Pink. Very prominent stamens. Bright Yellow anthers. Some petaloids. Medium Large Semi-double. Rapid, compact growth. M.

FROSTY MORN

A Lotus seedling. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

White. Large Anemone form with no visible stamens. 125-140 Petaloid surrounded by fourteen guard petals. Medium, open growth. M-L.

HEART O' GOLD

A Professor C. H. Sargent seedling. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

Red, brilliant with orange cast. Large single form with eight petals and solid mass of golden stamens. Medium, open growth. M-L.

ILLUSTRIOUS

A Rainy Sun seedling. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

Brilliant Rose Pink. Large Semi-double: Wide round petals, some crinkled. Slow, compact growth. M.

JOSHUA E. YOUTZ

A seedling Product of Daikagura x Nobilissima and Nobilissima x Purity. Registration by J. Ellsworth Youtz Jr., Pasadena, Calif.

White, very large Poeny to formal double. Medium, open growth. E-M.

KATHERINE NUCCIO

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, Calif.

Brilliant Rose Red. Medium formal double. Medium, compact growth. M.

awards which will be made to only the finest of new registrations in Camellias. It is with great pride and satisfaction that we are able to promise you that for the next Camellia show, in fact for several Camellia shows, there will be within the registration lists Camellias capable of drawing the highest awards available to the originators of new Camellias. These will be Camellias which you can acquire and hold with pride for all time to come. These and many

FOR THE 1950 SEASON

KEEPSAKE

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

Brilliant Rose Pink. Medium Formal double. Medium, compact growth. M-L.

LADY BIRD

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Homer C. & Birdie A. Wilson, Fresno, Calif.

White splashed and streaked bright rose red. Large full poeny form. Many petaloids few stamens. Rapid, compact growth. M.

MANANA

An Imperator seedling. Registration by R. C. Carr, Carr's Camellia Gardens, Tulare, Calif.

Dark Red. Medium to large semi-double to poeny form. Rapid, compact growth. E-M.

MASTERPIECE

A Lotus seedling. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

Glistening white opening form blush bud. Large, high centered poeny of rose form. Few if any stamens. Rapid, open, tall growth. M.

MOTHER OF PEARL

Registration by Dr. George J. Hall, Sacramento, Calif.

Light creamy white with lines of pink in base of petals. Large Rose form. Medium, compact growth. M-L.

PINK DIDDY

Mutation of Camellia Diddy Mealing. Registration by Dr. N. G. Mealing, North Augusta, S.C.

Dawn Pink. Large Rose form of many petals. Medium compact slightly pendulous growth. E-L.

PINK SHADOWS

A seedling, Lotus x Rainy Sun. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif. Deep Salmon Pink with deeper shadows of pink. Large Semi-double with inner row of petals fimbriated. Medium, pyramidal, compact growth. E-M.

PRELUDE

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by E. W. Miller, Escondido, Calif.

Turkey Red, Clear. Very large formal double with twisted inner petals. Rapid, compact, tall growth. E-M.

PRIMAVERA

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, Calif.

White. Medium rose form. Medium, compact growth. M-L.

SCENTED TREASURE

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

Rose Red to wine Red. Medium Poeny form. Fragrant. Heavy mass of stamens and many petaloids. Medium, compact growth. M.

SUN DIAL

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Harvey F. Short, Ramona, Calif.

Base of Creamy White to Flesh Pink striped as in Bella Romana Medium Anemone Form showing few if any stamens. Slow, compact growth. M.

WARRIOR

A seedling of unknown parentage. Registration by Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, Calif.

Brilliant Red to Bluish Red depending in climate. Medium Large poeny form. Medium, compact growth. M.

YOSEMITE

A seedling. Registration by H. A. Bogh, Oakland, Calif.

Brilliant Red. Very Large Semi-double. Medium, compact growth. M.

YOUTZ WILD ROSE

A seedling—Purity x Herme Sport. Registration by Ellsworth Youtz, Pasadena, Calif.

Rose Pink, Medium Semi-double. Medium, compact growth. M.

of the competitive entries worthy in themselves of awards, will be on display for your pleasure and interest. Most of them will be available to you: Camellias which you will want and camellias which you will acquire not only with certainty of quality, but with certainty of name and origin. This and the appreciation of the Committee will be the reward for your loyal support. You, after all, are the ones to whom the registration are the most important.

A REPORT FROM EUROPE

As I dictate this, Mrs. Peer and I have completed the garden inspection section of our camellia tour, being now thoroughly saturated with information about camellias in Great Britain. We will attend the Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, disguised as American experts.

The gardens which we visited in Cornwall were indescribably beautiful. The situation is that very wealthy Englishmen interested in horticulture took ordinary woodland and converted it into parks filled with rhododendrons, magnolias and some camellias. It was the fashion for these people to employ plant collectors—for example, Forrest or Wilson. A contract would be made for the results of one season's expedition—for example, to western Yunnan. Now, after forty years, all of these Chinese plants have turned into trees and have become the source of most of the rhododendrons and Chinese magnolias which are now grown all over the world.

As to camellias, there has been not a great deal of interest except in hybridizing experiments. I think this has come about because the camellia japonicas in Cornwall were purchased from nurserymen and simply added to the collection obtained direct from China. The exception, of course, is that Forrest sent back *c. saluenensis*, *c. cuspidata*, *c. taliensis*, and one or two species of *thea*. Actually, all that he sent back were seeds, and these seeds successfully germinated and have now developed into trees twenty-five feet high. Inasmuch as Forrest's introductions were all new to England (and to the world) it was natural that the owners of the property should pay more attention to these special types than to the already well-known japonicas.

As I have already told you, the best of the hybrids so far as I am concerned is DONATION, which is a cross between *saluenensis* and *Donckelari*.

A very similar result has been obtained in SALUTATION, a cross between *saluenensis* and *reticulata*. This new hybrid is, however, defective in that the flowers, when fully developed, turn from pink to white and are not attractive.

The most famous of the crosses is, of course, J. C. WILLIAMS, obtained from *saluenensis* and *Alba Simplex*. To me the result is rather disappointing as I see nothing more than a large-flowered APPLE BLOSSOM. This hybrid, however, has the advantage that blossoms appear constantly for two or three months and remain for a long time on the plant. Here again the flowers have a tendency to fade to white as they become older.

CORNISH SNOW, a cross between *saluenensis* and *cuspidata*, is an attractive shrub, although the blossoms themselves do not amount to much—a white single never more than 1½" across, usually remaining cup-shaped. One of these plants six feet high and covered with blossoms is a very pretty sight. The leaves resemble *reticulata*, except they are only about one-fourth the size of what we are accustomed to.

The hybrids MARY CHRISTIAN and ST. EWE are nothing more than dark pink versions of J. C. WILLIAMS. There are countless *saluenensis* x *japonica* crosses, but excepting only DONATION the best result is J. C. WILLIAMS.

The owners of these gardens have, as a rule, little knowledge of the names of their japonicas. For example, in one of them we found a tree twenty feet high and probably forty years old containing white flowers with small amounts of pink. This was referred to as *Magnoliaflora*. Actually, it was *LADY VANSITTART*. There are many large seedlings in these places, and we saw only one or two which might perhaps merit names.

I have now seen a great many of the "wild" reticulatas—that is, plants from seeds sent back by Forrest from China. He says that these were obtained from wild plants, but the great Chinese expert, Dr. Yu, assures me that there are no reticulatas in Yunnan excepting those which grow in gardens. In any event, these garden varieties frequently produce seeds and I presume that they were the source of the very attractive single reticulatas which are being extensively grown here.

Three or four of these seedlings are very fine, and will be named. I obtained scions from three of them, but did not succeed as to the type which I like best of all.

I found at the Caledonia Nursery on Guernsey a large bush which they called "Pendula" having fine white flowers. Its weeping habit of growth, plus my memory of the blossoms, makes it quite certain that this is identical with the unknown white variety which I "spotted" at Huntington Gardens.

At the Caledonia Nursery one of these plants had been grafted on a standard about four feet high. The resulting plant, now about twenty-five years old, was most striking.

I came across a variety of japonica in one garden here which is labeled "Mrs. Fred Sander" and have sent back some scions. It is a five-petal, cup-shaped white of good substance. The center which is filled with an extraordinary mass of golden stamens is actually white because of more or less fifteen white petaloids growing amongst and higher than the stamens. The white center against the golden background is most effective, and I would say that this is an outstanding camellia. You will find it included in many of the old lists of English varieties.

I have been appointed as a judge (one of three) for the camellia display in connection with the Conference, and apparently will be called upon to participate in the discussions which will occur.

Dr. and Mrs. Hume will be having dinner with us tonight.

We have seen a great deal of Prof. and Mrs. Waterhouse. They would like very much to come to the United States next December.

In general, London is looking much better, as more and more of the wrecked buildings are repaired or replaced. So far, however, there has been nothing done to replace the huge bombed-out area just east of St. Paul's. I would say that there are two square miles there with not one building standing. There is a difference of opinion as to what should be done with this area, and consequently nothing has happened so far.

With kindest personal regards, and many thanks for all of the information you have sent me, I remain

Sincerely yours,

RALPH S. PEER

A NEW SOCIETY

FIRST WITH THE LATEST

South Carolina Camellia Society

From South Carolina, the shores of which saw the first camellias brought to America, comes news of a new camellia society. Early in the nation's history Henry Middleton, who was later to become President of the Continental Congress, laid out the fabulous Middleton Gardens southwest of Charlestown and fitted into his scheme of things America's first camellias. That is another story, but the spirit of this pioneer of American camellias as well as the spirit of the Reverend Drayton who was responsible for the world famed magnolia gardens must have hovered over the capital city of this Cradle of American Camellias on May 3, 1950, when seventy-five camellia fanciers from many points throughout the state met at Columbia and organized the South Carolina Camellia Society—a state wide organization which, we are told, now has a total and growing membership of nearly four hundred.

This new society whose list of members reads like a cross cut of "Who's Who in Camellias" is the result of the dreams as well as the tireless energy of the initial organizer Mr. Frank Griffin of Columbia who spark plugged the idea to its completion. At the meeting of May 3, directors were elected including Judge M. M. Mann of St. Matthews, South Carolina, President; Mr. Joe Holland of Edgefield, Vice President; and Mr. Frank Griffin, Secretary and Treasurer.

The plan of incorporation of this new member of the family of camellia societies, and its bylaws, are patterned after those of Southern California Camellia Society, and the announcement has been made that the new society whose start has been so auspicious will cooperate with existing societies. Plans are already being discussed for a camellia show during the fall of 1950 with the hope of attracting entries from all over the country.

CUTTINGS . . . (Continued from page 1)

Do not fertilize or feed in any manner cuttings while they are in the rooting medium. They should not be fed until transplanted into the single pots containing the soil medium in which they will develop as plants. Feeding, even in limited amounts, burns the sensitive tissues that have to specialize into root structures. Moreover, many feeding preparations do nothing more than act as encouraging nourishment for molds and fungi which can kill your cutting.

When the cutting has given evidence of good healthy growth, anywhere from 6 weeks to 6 months after being put in the rooting medium, it is ready for transplanting into the single pot. Soil preparation for the single pot transplant should be the same as you prefer to use for your mature plants. Cuttings develop into plants ready to bloom in about three years, depending upon the variety. Generally speaking, once rooted, the less fuss the cutting receives the better.

REPORT ON DIRECTORS' MEETING

The Society's Board of Directors met for their regular monthly meeting at the home of the Secretary-Treasurer Gale. President Hill, First Vice President Rifenberick, Second Vice President Fink, Secretary-Treasurer Gale and Directors Cothran and Johnson were present. Also Directors elect Scott, Elmer, Clairmont and McCaskill were present, also Dr. Lammerts. Directors Peer, Parker and Nuccio were absent.

Dr. Lammerts, chairman of the Research Committee gave a very comprehensive report on the activities of the committees over the past 3 years. It was decided to publish the reports of the various research groups in the September issue of the Bulletin. It will be a very valuable reference for camellia growers and one of use to all amateurs. It will be edited by Clifton W. Johnson. A wide distribution is expected for this issue.

By motion, a vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Lammerts and all members of the Research Committee for the fine work they have done.

Dr. Lammerts was also voted a complimentary membership for the great amount of work which he has done for the Society on the Research Committee.

By motion it was decided to join the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at a cost of \$10.00 per year plus a \$10.00 initiation fee. This is for the preservation of a portion of the Lucky Baldwin estate in Arcadia and is a very worth while project.

A request was received to withdraw the registration of the Camellia "Buttons and Bows". The withdrawal was approved to permit its registration by the new owner under a different name.

A letter was received from the Pacific Camellia Society expressing their appreciation for the cooperation given on the Joint Camellia show at Brookside Park on February 18 and 19. The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to send a letter to that society expressing our similar appreciation for Pacific Camellia Society's cooperation with the show. This was personally expressed previously by President Hill.

Secretary-Treasurer Gale submitted a report on the financial conditions of the society. Also the opinion that the fiscal year should end not at December 31 but at the end of the term of office of the directors and officers.

President Hill called the new board of directors to order and advised it was necessary to elect new officers for the ensuing year. Mr. Rifenberick was elected president. He then took the chair. Dr. Clairmont was elected first vice president and Mr. Elmer second vice president. Secretary-Treasurer Gale advised he wanted to be relieved of the office he now holds but would continue in those offices until a successor was elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 P.M.

Col. and Mrs. Gale served refreshments to the wives and directors after the meeting. It was a very enjoyable evening. The officers of your society greatly appreciate the kindness of Col. and Mrs. Gale in making their home available for the directors meeting during the past year.

To Members of the Southern California Camellia Society:

The directors which you have elected for the year 1950-51 appreciate the honor which you have bestowed upon them. They also are fully aware of the work which they will be called on to do, but that will be a pleasure because they are all full of enthusiasm over camellias.

There are so many things to get done in a short time—keep the Bulletin going to you regularly—get many committees appointed and make plans for the coming year.

The work will be very much simpler with the full cooperation of the members. If you are asked to serve on a committee we trust you will find a way to do so. Just remember all your directors are also very busy with the task of earning a living like you, but they find time to serve your society. Just try serving and see how much fun you get out of the work. Will anyone who would like to serve on some of the committees contact one of the officers or directors. You will find their telephone numbers in this Bulletin.

With the help and suggestions the directors and officers are soliciting from the members; they feel they can keep the society on the high level it has been in the past. They also hope to improve it and make it as you want it. Remember it is your society and the officers are trying to carry out your wishes—Let's have them.

W. L. Rifenberick
President

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. W. L. Rifenberick, president,
Southern California Camellia Society,
1715 Ben Lemond Drive,
Glendale, Calif.

Dear Mr. Rifenberick,

An inquiry recently received asked if Camellia scions or cuttings are available from our Camellia Garden which is co-sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society.

Under no conditions are scions or cuttings available to anyone from plants or from plants resulting from scions which have been contributed by members of the Society or through the Society's efforts. Amateurs and commercial growers, knowing of this agreement, have been most generous in their contributions to the Camellia Garden project.

Therefore, we, at the Huntington Garden, recognize the importance of maintaining this policy regarding Camellia scions and cuttings.

Very truly yours,

Ronald B. Townsend
Superintendent

MONOGRAPH ON THE CAMELLIA

By SAMUEL CURTIS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is reproduced a monograph on the camellia by Samuel Curtis. Under the license of "reader interests" we have removed technical descriptions of camellia varieties to make the Monograph of a size suitable to the bulletin. Actually, the monograph was prepared in the 1860's as an illustrated lecture, accompanying showing of plates. What we have printed below is the historical interest contained in the lecture.

THE VARIETIES

THE JAPAN ROSE was long held in the highest estimation by the Chinese, and by the Japanese, who call it Tsubaki, and it is a Tree of considerable size, with ash-coloured bark, and most beautiful shining evergreen leaves; few plants possessing greater attractions at all seasons of the year. With us it is cultivated only for its beauty, but the Chinese gain the profitable addition of a fine expressed Oil for culinary purposes; and although we are told by travellers that this oil is produced from the Sesanqua, we apprehend it is expressed from the kernels of this species also, as several of the varieties bear them in tolerable abundance even in this country.

The SESANQUA has less pretensions to beauty than the others, nor are its White Petals disposed in the same artificial manner. Some of them are evidently heart-shaped in our specimens, the Petals are more numerous than are described by travellers, but this difference arises probably from exuberant culture; for in the Sesanqua, as noticed by Dr. Lettson, in his observations on the Tea-Plant, and mentioned by Sir George Staunton, in his valuable History of the Embassy to China, there appear only five Petals, orbicularly placed, like our single Anemone, or the Dog House, and the Petals are round and emarginate. It is thus described by Professor Martyn: "The Camellia Sesanqua is a tree of a middle size, differing from the others in having thinner, narrower, leaves, obscurely serrated; flowers many times smaller, with oblong emarginate Petals, and a smaller and more slender stem. The Flowers are borne singly at the ends of the branches; the Calyx is five leaved, sometimes six leaved; the Petals five in number, sometimes six or seven, snow white and deciduous.

The leaves of this plant are dried in the shade, and have a sweet smell. A decoction of them is used by the women to wash their hair, and they are mixed with Green Tea to give it a grateful odour."

"Indeed," continues the Professor, "this so much resembles the Tea Plant, that it is distinguished by little else besides it coalescing, stamens, and this is scarcely a sufficient mark of distinction, as the stamens coalesce only at the base, and even sometimes seem to be distinct." This account is confirmed by Sir George Staunton, in his History of Lord Macartney's Embassy to China. "Throughout this Journey," says Sir George, "not a mile was travelled without a village, nor a spot observed, except mere rocks, or perpendicular heights, that was not under cultivation."

The rocky places appeared to be denuded of the earth which had formerly covered them, more conveniently a medium for the nutriment of plants. When the surface of the hill or mountain is not nearly perpendicular to the level surface of the earth, the slope is converted into a number of terraces, one above

(Continued on next page)

the other, each of which is supported by mounds of stone. By the management it is not uncommon to see the whole face of a mountain completely cultivated to the summit. A reservoir is sunk in the top of the mountain; the rain-water, collected in it is conveyed by channels successively to the different terraces placed upon the mountain's sides. In spots too rugged, barren, steep or high for raising other plants, the *Camellia Sasanqua*, and the divers Firs particularly the Larch are cultivated with success. This plant the *Sasanqua* grows in a soil consisting of little more than the fragments of stones crumbled into a sort of coarse earth by the joint action of the sun and rain. The Chinese call this plant Chaw-whaw, which means the flower of Tea which it very much resembles, and its petals, as well as the entire flowers of the Arabian Jasmine, are sometimes mixed among the Teas in order to increase their fragrance. The *Sasanqua* yields a nut, from which is expressed an esculent oil, equal to the best which comes from Florence. It is cultivated on this account in vast abundance, and it is particularly valuable from the facility of its culture in places fit for little else.

Petiver names this plant *Thea*, from its great resemblance to the Tea-Plant, or mistaking it for the same, for it is very remarkable, that Linnaeus, for some years endeavoured in vain to produce the true Tea-plant for the Botanic Gardens, at Upsal. In the year 1745, Lagerstrom, a Director of the Swedish East India Company, brought him two plants, obtained from China, which he received as such, but they proved to be *Camellias*. In 1769, Linnaeus made another attempt, and he received, as the true Tea-plant, a plant from Jassieu, in France; but this also proved upon flowering to be a *Camellia*: the crafty Chinese, says Professor Martyn, being more careful to conceal the true Tea-plant. Linnaeus, however, at last obtained it from Gustave Ekeberg, a Captain of a Swedish Indiaman, raised on the voyage from seeds.

The *Camellia* was unknown in the time of Miller, or at any rate it does not appear in the first edition of his Botanical Dictionary. The Single *Camellias*, of which at present we have but few varieties, possess great simple beauty, and serve admirably to exemplify their classical characters.

In the Kew Blush the centre petals are small and assume a quilled appearance, which ranking in confusion, give a pleasing beauty to the whole blossom. As we possess a Rose called the Maiden's Blush, so this is called the Kew Blush, from it being first cultivated in the Royal Gardens at Kew, and as possessing that delicate tinge, which in blushing suffuses the fair skin. Of this colour different specimens abound with us in a greater or less degree, the Petals of some being wholly White. This delicate tint is seen both on the upper and under sides of the Petals.

The Double Red has more grandeur, but less beauty. It is one of the oldest varieties of the double ones we possess in this country, being often seen with the White and Striped before the others were much known. It is not of very luxuriant growth, nor does it flower as freely as most of the other varieties. Although called Double, in opposition to the perfectly Single, it is not entirely so, as it often shows a few of its Stamina between its Petals. This is also seen with the other Double *Camellias*, ornamenting the beautiful China vases, and also on their richly coloured papers; nor may it be amiss to say something here of the introduction of the Japan Rose into China.

In the voyage for the discovery of the southern lands mention is made, in speaking of China, of the Japan Rose, growing in the woods with the odiferous

Myrtle. Of all the countries in the world the Islands of Japan seem the most wonderful; they are situated between the eastern coast of Asia and the western coast of America. Although Japan, properly speaking, is composed of three Islands, as large as England, Scotland and Ireland, the Japanese have no trade with any other country than China; hence the introduction of the Japan Rose there, and also from them to the Dutch in Batavia. Nature seems to have united in Japan the beautiful with the astonishing.

The Japanese, having no commercial intercourse with other countries, and being restricted by their rulers, from leaving their own, dedicate most of their time to the cultivation of the earth; so fond are they of flowers, that all their females are known by names taken from the most beautiful of them, instances of which even in our own country are not wanting. Thunberg in his account of Japan, also says, that the gardens about their houses are adorned with a variety of flowers, also trees, baths, terraces and other embellishments. Kempfer, speaking of Japan, says "it may vie with most if not all known countries, for a great variety of beautiful plants and flowers, wherewith kind Nature hath most liberally and curiously adorned its fields, woods, and forests. Some of these were transplanted into gardens and improved by assiduity and culture to a surprising degree of perfection. One of these plants very much resembles our Rose, hence it is called the Japan Rose. It grows in every wood and hedge, and hath many beautiful varieties. The warmth of their climate somewhat exceeds the heat of our summers; but they possess a colder winter, and this is an advantage of which few are aware; heavy falls of snow appear before the frosts set in, and hence it is that we are not able to succeed in many of our northern plants, which are killed in our severe winters for want of this fleecy mantle for their preservation. At Lord Courtney's, near Exeter, the Camellias grow out of doors and thrive extremely well with the protection of a mat only in the winter. In like manner Parkinson mentions that Master Cole wintered the Common Laurel by covering it with a blanket; and it is not improbable that, in the course of years, these Camellias may be habituated to our climate, as in the Laurel, especially by obtaining them from Seeds from those cultivated out of doors in Devonshire, or the Western counties.

1. CAMELLIA ANEMONEFLORA. Anemone-flowered or Waratah.
2. CAMELLIA ROSASEA. Middlemist's or Rose-coloured Camellia.

These two varieties are now become familiar to most cultivators, being both free of growth. The Rose-coloured variety is particularly so, making longer shoots in one season, than any other we at present know. It was introduced by an industrious cultivator and nursery-man, M. Middlemist, of Shepherd's Bush, near London, and from its nearer resemblance to our common Rose in shape and colour is now distinguished by the name of Rose-coloured. Like most of the others, it possesses great beauty and delicacy, but from it nearer resemblance to the Rose, some may like those better which are more dissimilar to flower now so common. To such the Anemone-flowered will have its full share of attraction.

This will be considered by all as singularly beautiful, the habit, the foliage, the mode of the flowers, and the colour, are all very striking, and united together form one of the most elegant varieties we possess. The outer Petals are broad and similar in number in the other double varieties; but the inner

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SUMMER FEEDING

(Editor's Note: Below are printed statements from a Forum held in November, 1949, in which C. D. Cothran, Robert Casamajor, and Herbert V. Mitchell discussed the matter of feeding in general. We have extracted that part of the discussion pertinent to summer feeding.)

Mr. Cothran's comments: It is customary for the most part to feed camellias during the growing season, not the blooming season. The generally accepted procedure seems to be to apply two or three types of fertilizer just before the beginning of the growing season, early spring, and repeat the application in the summer.

One class of fertilizer that can be applied in July is the organic, slowly decomposing type, such as cottonseed meal, bean straw, barnyard manure, and castor pumice. This can be put on in rather substantial quantities since the heat of summer months stimulates decomposition.

A class of feeding materials that has recently come into vogue is that of the liquid fertilizer. Such fertilizers are often applied by watering can or hose. While this type of fertilizing starts in late March or Early April, it generally requires applications every thirty to sixty days, and hence, should be mentioned in summer feeding. The frequency with which these fertilizers are applied depends upon the strength of the solution used.

The third class of fertilizers consists of the combination of organic, slowly decomposing materials, and those compounds that are water soluble and decompose swiftly. It is customary to use these about twice a year, once in April, and again in June or July, depending upon the state of growth of the plants at that time. In each case, the quantity used should be closely watched.

Generally it is safe to follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Many camellia fans discard instructions on the label in favor of procedures their own experience has shown to be more satisfactory. In general, if you are in doubt, use less, rather than more, fertilizer. In that way you will lessen the chances of burning your plants.

Mr. Casamajor's comments:

I should like to discuss the problem as it relates to growing camellias in pots. Many people have not had very much success with camellias because the soil was bad or badly drained. This problem is eliminated when the camellias are grown in pots. In my opinion, what camellias like is a good organic compote, and I don't think there is anything better than a coarse leaf mold. If you will plant your camellias in a coarse leaf mold, and then feed them with a booster solution, I think you will get your best blooms, and the best quality of flowers.

For a booster solution, I use California Liquid fertilizer. I use the solution known as 8-8-4 during the growing season (March, April and May), and when the buds have set, I shift to the 2-10-10 solution which is also made by the same concern. I dilute both solutions to one-half the strength recommended on the bottle's label, and I apply the solution every two weeks.

The reason for changing is that if you feed your plants the high nitrogen solution (eight parts nitrogen, eight parts phosphoric acid, and four parts potash) after the buds are set, there is always a good possibility you may initiate a second growth cycle. This is always bad for your blooms. Most of the blooms will set on the first growth wood. If you get a second growth cycle you may lose the buds that have already set, or your buds may not set at all.

Therefore, when you reduce the nitrogen in the booster solution and raise the potash and phosphate content, you avoid the possibility of a second growth

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cycle and better results are insured. I feed camellias on the 2-10-10 solution right up to the time the flowers open. It is a type of feeding that is very dilute. It is much better, in my opinion, to feed often in dilute solution rather than feed seldom and in concentrated form.

Mr. Mitchell's Comments: Perhaps some of you will recall the name of Dave Feathers. He is a past president of the Northern California Camellia Society. Dave has been growing camellias for a long, long time. His advice? Camellias are heavy feeders. Feed them plenty; keep them growing. He has to water a lot as there is plenty of hot weather in his locality. He uses many mixes, but didn't care to state what they were. I think he is continually experimenting. He uses a liquid fertilizer around August First, and he feels this is an additional boost which helps in the setting of buds. Dave said the most important thing was to "keep them going," and as bloom time came, be sure to keep them watered thoroughly. Don't let camellias go hungry, is his watchword. He is the adventurous type and a representative for the R.A.C. Fertilizer Company to boot, so of course his answer to the question of "what do you feed them?" was "R.A.C. and plenty of it."

Bill Stoeckle, also from up North and who comes our way every once in a while with a cake box full of camellias, his fingers crossed, and walks away with all the prizes, also has some feeding advice. It's pretty unusual.

Bill's feeding consists of a mulch of ten pounds of cottonseed meal, four pounds of super-phosphate, and two pounds of sulphate of potash. He applies this mulch in March, May, July, and again in November. The feeding Bill uses is not full strength. Bill says it is about half strength.

An interesting sidelight on Stoeckel's growing methods is his disbudding procedure. He starts disbudding as soon as possible, when the buds "are about the size of peas." Stoeckles disbud with rare judgment. They remove buds that might catch rain or dust, or anything else. They leave the buds that are bottom side up, and when they bring them into the show and turn them over, the blooms are top notch.

Bill feels that a half portion of his fertilizer is enough to get his flowers started and keep them going. He stresses liberal applications of water, especially throughout the warm season.

Collectively, we are a container growing people. I would like to tell you a little of my experiences for what they are worth. We have been using a mulch in our camellia patch, and friends who come in to see our plants say they have never looked better.

We do not use any of the feeding methods mentioned above. What food our plants get comes strictly from this mulch. This mulch was not my idea. It comes from a gentleman who was a graduate botanist and is now a physician, and who has one of the largest and finest camellia collections I know of. He is such a recognized camellia grower that when he asked his city council to change the name of his street to Camellia Lane, they did it.

The mulch consists of one bucket (12 quart pail) of peat moss; one bucket of hops; one bucket of oak leaf mold; one cup of ammonia sulfate; three cups of fish meal, three cups of cottonseed meal, and one cup of sulphur. Use one inch thick on plants twice a year, in April and in October.

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are more numerous, small and ranged evenly together, in rows from the margin to the centre, differing very materially from all the rest of this family; in the centre protrudes the Pistillum, and this variety more frequently produces seeds in this country than most of the others. What varieties may hereafter come from those Seedlings will be anxiously sought after the curious collectors. An imported variety of this beautiful kind, with delicate pink flowers, is already in this country, at Mrs. Palmer's at Bromley, where it has flowered very finely, and certainly possessed very great beauty.

1. The MYRTLE-LEAVED and
2. BUFF, or Lady Hume's Blush Camellia.

The first of these, the Myrtle-Leaved, is of smaller growth. In its general habit and foliage, it is oftentimes not larger than that of the common broad-leaved Myrtle; hence it derived its name. The blossom is not however diminutive in the same proportion, being nearly as large as any. It is perfectly double, and in its mode of flowering may be more aptly compared to the Double White than to any of other varieties. The Petals diminishing to one centre, it is, from its less robust habit, not so easily kept as most of the other kinds.

The Buff, or Lady Hume's Blush, so named from being first introduced to the gardens of Sir Abraham Hume, whose Lady is a distinguished cultivator of rare plants. This variety must be admired by everyone for the imbricated symmetrical distribution of its Petals, which appear very clear in the newly open blossom, bleach to an almost perfect whiteness in a more mature state. It is a variety of robust growth, nearly as much so as Middlemist's, and the foliage has strongly marked veins. The blossoms are perfectly double, consequently it can produce no seeds.

In addition to the above description of the varieties here figured, which are only ten in number and the Sesanqua, it may not be improper here to make a few remarks on this beautiful shrub, which is become so universal a favourite. The author was fearful that more plates might be thought to increase its expense beyond the necessary limits, although he possesses most beautiful drawings, by the same inimitable artist of many other fine varieties. The author begs to acknowledge in this place, his obligations to Mrs. Palmer, of Bromley, who has very politely suffered drawings to be taken from several new varieties, and who has also contributed such information respecting them as came within her knowledge, in a letter, dated November, 1820. Alluding to the varieties drawn by Mrs. Pope, for the author, she says, "In the first I must mention the double Blush Camellia Sesanqua. This beautiful shrub was imported by Captain Rawes (Mrs. Palmer's brother) in 1816, and bloomed here first in 1818, when the flower was the size of your drawing; it flowered again in 1819, when, from the plant being unhealthy, the flowers were small, as represented in the Bot. Mag. 2080. The original plant died immediately after flowering in 1819; but we have a very fine graft from it now full of flowering buds, and we expect it will be in a month or two the most beautiful sight in the flower way that can be seen; it appears a very fine grower. Secondly, the new White Camellia Japonica, called, by the Horticultural Society, Welbankiana, after Captain Welbank, who, as well as Captain Rawes, imported a plant in 1816, and both bloomed in 1819. Captain Welbank's at Mr. Turner's, Rook's Nest Park, Surrey, and Captain Rawes' (as you know) here. Thirdly,

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the Pink Waratah Camellia Japonica was imported by Captain Rawes in 1816, and flowered here in 1820; this plant and the Double Sesanqua have never flowered anywhere in England except here."

"Captain Rawes brought home a new collection this year, and from the leaves we expect some new varieties. The Hexangularia, so much talked of, and of which so many drawings have been sent from China, is amongst them, and bloomed finely during the voyage. Another, called by the Chinese Various-Flowered, bloomed on the voyage, and the flowers were some of them white, some pink and some blush; it has buds on it now which begin to show colour. There are two others which Captain Rawes brought from the singularity of the leaves which is striking; he had some plants of the double White Camellia Sesanqua, which he says were beautiful; but the voyage killed them." The foregoing interesting account will naturally raise high expectations of very extensive varieties imported from China, and what may we not anticipate when our native seedlings come into notice? We may reasonably expect the varieties will be as numerous as our present collection of Roses. In a letter from my friend Mr. Edward Buckingham, on the subject of the seedling Camellias, which Chandler and Buckingham, Nurserymen, have raised dated December, 1820, he says "Our seedling Waratah Camellias are now about five or six inches high; we have about a hundred of them; but none scarcely look like the mother plant, nor like any other except the Striped, to which many have a faint resemblance.

A seedling Pompone, or Kew Blush, has a very handsome distinct foliage and veins on the leaves, as prominent as on the White."

The most usual way of increasing the finer Varieties of the Double Camellias is by inarching, or grafting by approach. For this purpose, the Stock, being a plant of the Single, or any robust kind, in a pot, is fixed in a convenient resting-place so contiguous to a young healthy shoot, of the preceeding year's growth, that by the common mode of the tongue-grafting it can be inserted into a clean part of the side of the Stock; and after being firmly bound with bass matting, a small piece of clay may be attached to exclude air from the wounded part; and this, to keep it from cracking, may have a small covering of damp moss tied over it; the head of the Stock should then be shortened, so as to cause a greater flow of sap to the graft; and if the Stock and graft are free-grown healthy plants, in six weeks or two months the union will be so firm that the scion may be cut from the parent plant. In this state it is better to let it continue a week; and in that time, if the leaves remain unaffected by the separation, the clay and matting may all be removed, and the head of Stock cut off a few inches from the insertion of the scion. It makes the grafted plant look better to bandage a fresh piece of matting round it, which in another month may be finally removed, as the scion is apt to swell out without this precaution. Where the plants are in a fast growing state during the period of grafting, at the end of a month, when the adhesion has taken place, it is advisable to slacken the bandage and bind it again; and if the union seems tolerably firm, the matting with a little damp moss is all that will be necessary to insure success. The young plants when removed should be placed in a close frame rather shady.

The best mode of cultivation for those who are not skilled in grafting is by layers; the readiest way to perform which is by planting a bushy plant in a frame, in which a bed of compost is prepared for it to grow. It should be

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turned out of its pot and placed on its side, and the shoots, of not more than two years' growth, should be tongued two-thirds of their substance through, and with a forked peg secured about an inch under the surface of the earth; in this state they must remain until they have made sufficient roots to cut off from the parent plant; and when removed it is better to shorten the head a little and keep them in a close shady frame until they have struck fresh roots again. Such shoots as cannot be brought in a posture for layering may be cut off and used as cuttings.

Those who are very dexterous operators, and have a small close house with suitable heat, may succeed with budding; but as my directions are intended principally for the amateur, not for nurserymen, I should not recommend it as a general practice, since it is only for an experienced cultivator to resort to this mode in a very scarce kind of high value; where a shoot which would make but one plant by grafting may make five or six plants by budding. The time budding requires to make a plant, is against the plan to be pursued on a small scale, as it takes the same stock (which might be converted into a plant by grafting in two months) a year and a half to be equally forward with the grafted one.

All the sorts of Camellias will grow from cuttings, but not equally free; the single is the most so. The mode for this plan of propagating is to take a cutting of from four to six inches long, with three or four joints to it, or more if convenient, and if its leading shoot-bud is perfect, so much the better. It is then prepared by cutting the lower end off smoothly, as immediately below the joint as possible; and after divesting it of its lower leaves, and buds for two or three inches, leaving two or three leaves and buds above, it should be planted in a light sandy earth, taking care to close the earth as firmly as possible to the bottom and sides of each cutting; but in general a clean fine-grained white sand, without the mixture of any earth, is better: as, in watering, the sand perfectly closes to the cuttings, and if the drainage at the bottom of the pot is good, the superabundant moisture readily passes off, so that if watered freely whenever the surface becomes dry, it does them no harm. When the pot is full, at two inches apart each way, it should be placed either under a hand-glass, or in a close place in the house of an even temperature, but without any artificial heat. The best time for making the cuttings is in October, when the young shoots are sufficiently hard in the wood; and the most favourable part for cuttings is the juncture between the young shoot and the preceding year's growth. When the cuttings have remained from October until about the following February, there will be very little visible difference in their appearance; but if the buds look fresh and healthy at that time, such cuttings will generally grow; they should then be plunged into a gentle heat, such as a bark-bed, or a gentle hot-bed of dung, and be kept excluded from more air than is just sufficient to dry the foliage. When the shoots are put forth an inch or two they must be inured to more air; and in the summer should be carefully taken out of the sand with all their young fibres, and potted into small pots, with a compost of one-third bog-earth, one-third fresh loam, and one-third of the white sand, and kept in a close frame until they have begun to make fresh fibres, when they may be hardened by exposure to the air; and the following season they may be potted into the same compost as well established plants.

The only remaining way of propagating is by seeds, which is the most

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simple in the process. The best mode is to place them in the spring in large pots, two inches apart, with the same mould hereafter recommended for growing plants in; and after they have been sown about a week or two, and regularly kept moistened, so as to be only constantly damp, they should be plunged into a gentle heat, of either tan or dung, until they are up; after which they may be gradually inured to the air, and the following winter they may be potted separately, and kept until they flower like other plants. Seedlings from the Single Red, unimpregnated by any other variety, seems constantly to come the same. Whether this is the case with the more double varieties remains to be proved; many are raised, but we believe none have yet flowered in this country to ascertain the fact. The greatest chance of obtaining varieties, much differing from the parent producing the seeds, is by impregnating the Pistils of strong healthy blossoms with the full grown stamina of any variety much differing from them in colour and shape. Seeds thus produced would most likely prove mixed varieties between the sorts thus brought in contact.

In the treatment of established plants many people differ considerably in practice, some using one kind of composition, others another; some using much more heat than others; in short, the Camellias possess good natural constitution to bear the variety of treatment they meet with; for they are obliged to put up with all temperatures, from that out of doors to the heat of Pine stoves. Those who grow them with the greatest success use about one-third of good bog earth and two-thirds of rich sandy loam; by sandy, we mean not inclined to clay, or very adhesive when moist; if the loam is too stiff it had better have one-half of bog earth and one-half of loam; in this compost they will make good growth and flower very freely. We have seen them make greater shoots in more bog earth and less loam; but in this they are shy of producing blossoms.

Respecting the temperature of heat most congenial to them we should recommend their being kept in a Green-house, with only the frost kept out of it through the early part of the winter, and in the early part of the spring. When they are blooming, the heat may be kept up a little more, which may be continued until they have made their growth, which the Camellia soon does in the early part of the summer. As soon as the foliage is a little hardened to the tops of the young shoots, the lights may be opened freely, so as to admit plenty of air day and night, and when the nights are warm the plants will be better removed and placed where they can have the morning and evening sun, but be shaded in the heat of the day; and in the hot weather they will require a copious supply of water every day when thus exposed. Those who cultivate this plant in a Conservatory, its proper place, can only throw the lights open to admit plenty of air; but, if the exposure to the full sun is very great, they will do well to shade them in the hottest part of the day with mats, or any temporary screen, from the sun's rays.

It is not an infrequent complaint that those plants which make the least growth seem to bloom themselves into a weak state; and taking off part of such blossom-buds does not often remedy the evil. When a plant gets into a better state, making a growth of only an inch or two from each leading branch, the fault is mostly at the root, and it is better, as soon as the young shoots are hardened by exposure, to take such a plant out of its pot and remove a large portion of the earth from its ball, also any decayed root, and to repot it in fresh earth, taking great care that the drainage of the bottom of the pot is good; for this is more the cause of diseases in potted plants than any other. The plant should then be placed in the warmest part of the Green-house, and the following spring the shoots will most likely be more free in their growth. If the head of the plant is thick and full of short sprigs, judicious pruning, so as to thin it out, leaving the best of the leading shoots in every direction, will be of great service.

Camellias are very apt to shed their buds without an apparent cause; when they have a great profusion it signifies very little as to the loss of the buds; but when they are sparingly produced it is a disappointment. This is chiefly caused by the state of vigour in the plant; and it often arises from not watering the plant so freely when the buds are swelling as they require. Keeping the house too warm, or too great an exclusion of fresh air, will assist in casting off the buds; the White, Red, and Buff, are the most apt to loose them. The Waratah requires a warm summer to produce a sufficient number of buds; but they generally retain them. The Calyx of this variety turns of a dark chocolate colour before the expansion of the Corolla, which gives the buds a dead appearance. The fruit of the Waratah is as big as a Walnut, and in exposed situation turns of a dark red colour, nearly resembling the Norfolk Beefin Apple.

AN EXPLANATION FOR DELAY IN THE BULLETIN

This issue of the Bulletin should be out in April but because of unavoidable delays it is being published in June and is therefore called the June issue. Ordinarily the Bulletin is issued during the summer in April, June and September, but this year the April is the June, June is the July and the September issue will be on time. Conditions will be corrected so the issues will be out on time after July.

We now have a Bulletin and Editorial Committee of which Dr. Clairmont is chairman. This Committee will function with the Editor to expedite publication of our Bulletin.

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