

and at present such a bed waits for its third set of plants. These will probably be Cosmos for fall flowers. Cosmos, beautiful in foliage and flowers, seems to be an accommodating plant which can be topped or layered; it takes root wherever it touches the ground. As it is naturally tall-growing and often needs late protection, it seems to be worth while to try pegging it down. A bed well covered with these finely cut leaves and graceful flowers at a moderate height should prove effective. Sweet Peas are, of course, in full beauty and fragrance. I am trying this year Emily Henderson, Blanche Ferry, Mrs. Gladstone, Countess of Radnor, Orange Prince, Apple Blossom, Senator, Mrs. Eckford, Delight and a few others. I rate them in the order named. Emily Henderson leaves nothing to be desired as a pure white flower of good size and substance and is most prolific. Its white is as pure as that of the white perennial pea. Blanche Ferry is well known as a most beautiful and valuable pink. Mrs. Gladstone is a salmon-pink, very delicate and pleasing, and Radnor an equally satisfactory lavender. I fail to discover any satisfactory primrose color in Mrs. Eckford, the latest offering in this approach to yellow. The darker flowers interest me little, and I find that while some of the bluish ones, especially those which, like Lottie Eckford, have bluish tints on white, are charming when first plucked, they soon become degraded in color. The culture of these always charming flowers offers few difficulties if one can arrange to have the flowers promptly plucked.

The fall and self-sown annuals, such as Calliopsis, Nicotiana, Centaurea affinis, Chrysanthemum, Myconis, Poppies and Argemone, come into flower earlier, and are stronger than those which have been sown under cover in the early spring. It is strange how long some of the hardy annuals will linger in a garden. I found a few plants the other day of Baby's-breath, Gysophila muralis, a delicate little plant which I do not remember to have seen for two or three years, and of which seeds have certainly not been sown for twice that time. The fashionable Ragged Sailors, Centaurea Cyanus, is a much too prolific and weedy subject in a small garden, but they furnish great quantities of flowers. Sweet Sultan, C. suaveolens, is a much handsomer Centaurea, and its bright flowers, with large smooth ovaries and thread-like petals, are among the most distinct and satisfactory annuals now in flower.

Elizabeth, N. J.

J. N. Gerard.

Gooseberries.—The greatly increased demand for this fruit is even more noticeable this year than it was during the two previous seasons, and it is of growing importance that we should be able to raise fine gooseberries without mildew or other loss. I have for the last ten years had no trouble either with the native or the foreign varieties of this fruit. Formerly I was much troubled with mildew. My plan now is to grow on high well-drained soil, in rows running north and south, and well open to the sun. There is no danger from shade if the land be open and well drained. The plants should be in rows, easily cultivated with a horse, and the soil often stirred in the spring. I do not think it pays us to grow the natives like Downing and Houghton and Smith, so long as we can just as well grow the larger sorts. Industry has never done well with me, but others report that it is prolific. Crown Bob and White-Smith are two of the best of foreign parentage. But better yet is an old sort we have had for sixty years, and known only as the "Irish Gooseberry." The earliest and richest I have is a wilding, which resembles the foreign sorts in bush, but has a fruit like Houghton in color, but much lighter red. It bears abundantly, and is ripe about the 1st of July. It is evidently a cross between the foreign and native species. Columbus and Red Jacket, I think, are emphatically valuable introductions. There is room for a new race of cross-bred Gooseberries.

Clinton, N. Y.

E. P. P.

## Correspondence.

### Bulbous Plants in North Carolina.

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

Sir,—We are having now (June 29th) superb flowers of Gladiolus from seed sown in April of last year. The spikes are strong and full as any of those from large old corms. These seedlings (Gandavensis hybrids) were left in the ground all winter, and grew off and began blooming earlier than the old corms that were lifted last fall. Late April seems rather too late for sowing Gladiolus-seed in this latitude, as many of the young seedlings were cut off by hot weather in May. Sown here early in March, almost every seedling will reach a

blooming size. The seedlings left in the ground last fall were well up by the middle of March, and had seasonable weather to get strong before the hot weather began. Old corms of Gladiolus continue to grow here much later than I have ever seen them grow in Maryland, and the consequence is that many of the offsets, besides the main ones at the top of old corms, get large enough to bloom. Last spring I selected six good-sized corms in order to note their natural increase. All were lifted, separated and replanted this spring. I have just counted forty-six that are blooming, or certain to bloom, while the whole number that will flower next year will be over a hundred. When Gladioli increase in this way, and grow with certainty to a blooming size in one season, why should not our people enter the lists for the production of these plants for market?

In Roman Hyacinths, Ascension Lilies, Narcissi, and early Tulips we can show equally good results, and if we could only persuade market-growers to make a fair trial here we believe that in a short time we could supply most of the bulbs now imported for forcing, as we have done in the case of the Tuberose. While the Polyanthus Narcissus in all varieties are hardy here, when properly treated, we find it necessary to treat them differently from other classes. If planted in autumn they at once make such strong top-growth that when freezing weather comes they are apt to be seriously injured. But if the planting is deferred until late December or early January no such trouble is experienced. Narcissus dubius or Paper White is particularly liable to injury if planted too early. In the ripening of these fall-planted bulbs our long spring season is a great advantage, as they have a cool growing season from January until May before the sun gets hot enough to hasten their ripening. They therefore attain a full development of bulb, and Roman Hyacinths, which bloom with us in the open air from Christmas to March, make bulbs of a size I have never seen equaled in any of the lots sold by seedsmen. We are making arrangements to have some Lilies grown in the deep peaty soils of the counties bordering on our sounds. This section, where the soil is a mass of decomposed vegetation of unknown depth, ought to be the ideal place for Lily-growing. These lands are found in the counties of Onslow, Hyde, Tyrrell, Dare and some others, and more fertile soils do not exist, while the climate is much milder than it is here.

Raleigh, N. C.

W. F. Massey.

### Our Native Persimmons.

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

Sir,—Almost three-score years ago I drove twelve miles to get a half-bushel of small persimmons. I took them home hard and green, and under exposure to frost and sunshine they ripened. During all these years this fruit has interested me, and for three years past, when all our other fruits have been failing, the persimmon interests me still more deeply. They never fail, and by selecting the best varieties from early to late we can have them fresh for six months in the year, and when properly dried they are not to be despised during the remaining six months. That the persimmon is an astringent fruit only fit for opossums and raccoons is a great mistake; that they are not good until touched by severe frosts is another mistake. I have two varieties that begin to ripen in August, and are nearly gone by the time severe frosts occur. I have others that hang on the trees in a dry winter until March. Although I have been a nurseryman for fifty years I have not yet learned to grow young trees successfully, and, therefore, have no trees to sell, but can furnish grafts at the proper season at moderate prices. My only success has been in crown-grafting. But recently the owner of trees which bear the largest fruit I have yet seen has hit upon a plan of spring-budding which has proved successful, and in this way stock may probably be grown to meet the increasing demand for trees.

I have seen groves of a hundred trees in fruit without an individual tree worth growing. Ten years ago I offered \$5.00 for the best persimmon, and fruits came from all quarters—one from St. Thomas, Cole County, Missouri, and I now have a tree grafted with this variety which bears bushels every year. Seedling-trees which spring up on my place are left until they fruit. If the fruit is superior I have a good variety, if not I graft the tree with something better. I have now eight varieties, all of which I consider worth having.

Early Golden came from E. A. Riehl, Alton, Illinois. It commences to ripen in the latter part of August here, is a rich golden yellow, with few seeds and of excellent quality. It bears well and regularly.

Kansas Seedless is the name of another, but it is not seedless altogether. Some fruits have but a single seed, and some

small ones no seed at all. It ripens with the first named, is yellow, of excellent quality, and bears abundantly.

Josephine. This I discovered on the edge of the river-bank a few miles from here, and now have a fine tree from grafts. It also commences to ripen before frost, and is of superior quality, but has plenty of seed. I have measured specimens of this variety two inches in diameter.

St. Thomas. This ripens after frosts, and the fruit dries on the tree, so that a peck was gathered from it in March the following year, when the cedar-birds commenced to eat them. The fruit must be fully ripe before it loses its astringency, then it is delicious.

Marion. This variety bears the largest fruit of any in my collection, and has but few seeds. Out of eleven fruits I counted but fifteen seeds. The quality is not quite so high as that of some others, but its large size and few seeds make it valuable. J. H. Marion, of Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri, is its originator, and he is propagating it, I understand. This variety needs frost to ripen it.

Ruby. This is a seedling, and the fruit, although small, is so handsome and the foliage is so abundant that it is worth planting. The fruit hangs on all winter.

Of seedlings raised about one-half will be barren, but the sex of the tree can be distinguished at its first blossoming. The fertile flower is not very beautiful, but that of the barren tree is something of the form of Lily-of-the-valley, and is very sweet.

Bluffton, Mo.

S. Miller.

### Woodlands of New England.

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

Sir,—I have more than once stated that I cannot but regard the impression erroneous that northern New England is being rapidly divested of its forests, and is liable, therefore, to become a dry and barren waste. After a residence of nearly thirty years in northern Vermont, with occasional trips through various portions of the upper Connecticut valley and northeastern Maine, I still find ample grounds to sustain my belief that while trees valuable for timber in the more accessible parts along the water-courses have been considerably thinned out, and that the cut, as now shown by the annual "drives" down the Connecticut, the Kennebec and the Penobscot rivers, is made up mainly of a considerably smaller growth than those which were familiar to me as a native resident of the Kennebec valley between 1828 and 1849, yet the actual extent of these great forests, and their present value as a source of future supply, is very slightly impaired.

Aside from the great timber-forests, there was a time between 1850 and 1870 when the woodlands along the lines of railroads were being rapidly denuded of their smaller tree-growth for locomotive fuel and for charcoal. But this ceased almost at once when mineral coal and coke were found to be cheaper and better for nearly all uses. A recent and somewhat extended trip through such forest-territory really astonished me when I noted how rapidly all of it had been again covered with a thrifty growth, which has filled all gaps, and is, in fact, encroaching to a considerable extent upon once cultivated fields.

Some persons who have read my statements on this subject have rather hastily assumed that I hold the belief that a let-alone policy is all that is required in this matter. That is a mistake. I well understand that forests, like farms, may deteriorate; and will deteriorate of necessity without intelligent care. As a farmer, and as a writer for the press, I have been always urgent for sound teaching in our agricultural colleges upon all subjects connected with woodlands as well as plowlands. I have looked for such institutions to furnish us with men capable of rightly caring for and managing all landed property. But I think many readers who criticise me are unaware of the fact that our great owners of forest-lands—perhaps I should say timber-lands—are not all ignorant regarding their interests in this particular. Such men are in many ways careful of those interests, and have their rules as to systematic cutting, as well as to the prevention of damage by fire. If really competent foresters were to be had—men who fully understand our American forests and their conditions—I believe that supervisory work would be ready for them. There is an immense amount of money invested in New England woodlands; and owners are far from being indifferent in regard to their management and preservation. But as yet expert foresters, who understand American needs and conditions, are very few in number.

Newport, Vt.

T. H. Hoskins.

### Recent Publications.

*With the Wild Flowers.* By E. M. Hardinge. New York: Baker & Taylor Co.

This little book is another attempt to bring before young people some of the elementary facts of botany and to explain some of the intricacies of vegetable structure in familiar language. Of course, it is not possible to go very profoundly into the science of botany or any other science, in fact, without the use of technical terms, and most efforts of this kind must fail in point of clearness and accuracy. It is a mistake to suppose that people who are really desirous of learning anything have minds so sluggish that they cannot acquire the language of that science as fast as it is needed. Mr. Hardinge asserts in his preface that such words as "dicotyledons," "angiosperms" and "polypetalous" "excite loathing" in the pupil. But this is an exaggerated statement. Whenever the necessity arises for inviting attention to an object or a process there is need of a word to describe the thing or the action, and while it is true that language ought always to be plain and easily understood, and that it is foolish to use words beyond a pupil's intelligence, nevertheless it is always indispensable that his knowledge of scientific terms should keep pace with his knowledge of scientific facts. Scientific language properly used is never a hindrance and always a help, and one who is apt to teach can make the study of the words and phrases which it is necessary to employ quite as interesting as the study of the plants the student is investigating.

The separate chapters of this book are not logically connected, but they treat of different subjects which are suggested as the season advances. Indeed, the matter contained in the book has appeared before in the form of contributions to different periodicals, and this will account for its lack of system. This is no objection, however, to a book of this character, the chief value of which is to arrest attention and to excite in the young reader an interest in plants and prompt him to examine them for himself. No one can acquire any considerable knowledge of botany by reading what some one else has written about it. Whenever a boy or a girl begins seriously to examine plants and their structure, to compare them, to mark their points of similarity and difference, he has entered the path which will ultimately lead, if he continues to walk in it, to a knowledge which is genuine and scientific so far as it goes. The subjects of the book are well chosen to arouse such an interest, and although it is written in a style that is rather too intense for the subject, it is a good book to give to bright young people to read during their summer vacation. The illustrations are better than those of most other books of its class.

*Glimpses of the Plant World.* By Fanny D. Bergen. Fully illustrated. Ginn & Co., Boston.

Miss Bergen's book is somewhat less ambitious than the one noticed above. She talks to children about the beauty of early awakening nature, the charm of wild flowers, and adds a little about plants of low degree, such as the Mushrooms, the Yeast Plants, the Sea-weeds, the Ferns. Then the structure of the flowers and their seed-bearing are explained in a familiar way easy of comprehension to a small child, and yet accurately and practically. The descriptions are illustrated plentifully with well-drawn pictures. Books of this character, although not strictly scientific in method, have a genuine value, so long as their statements are accurate, since they tend to give an impulse to a child's life which may develop into an ardent love for nature, and this in maturer years will help to brighten life with one of its purest and most satisfying pleasures.

### Notes.

Two-tenths of an inch only of rain, precipitated in one short thunder-shower, fell in the neighborhood of Boston during the month of June. This is probably the smallest recorded rain-