

# A Flower of Many Colours

*A Chat About The Pleasing Peony*

By E. T. COOK

A FLOWER of early summer, the flower it may be aptly called, is the peony, which is a hardy herbaceous plant, that is, a perennial dying down each year to spring forth the next. It seems to enjoy thoroughly the parks and gardens of Canada. It is wild in many countries—Siberia, Northern Asia, the south of France, Spain, and the tree or mountain forms are among the flower treasures of China and Japan. The herbaceous or border peony is in mind now, the big, splendid mass of petals which are the chief note of beauty in many gardens of the land, and whether in groups, one distinct laid in each, or in a variety of colours, it stands apart as a thing to regard with much consideration.

Here is a suggestive note for a peony bed in which lilies and daffodils are used as a foil. The bed should be made deep and rich, as peonies cannot be expected to reveal their true strength and beauty in shallow, poor soil. In the spaces between them, lilies may be planted in clumps of from six to twelve bulbs, but no manure should be allowed to come into contact with these—a most important point. Good kinds of lilies for this purpose would be the madonna lily (*Lilium candidum*), orange lily (*L. croceum*), white martagon lily (*L. martagon album*), nankeen lily (*L. excelsum*), scarlet Turk's-cap lily (*L. chalcedonicum*), and the tiger lilies (*L. tigrinum splendens* and *fortunei*). Daffodils of golden colour are preferable for this planting, such as *narcissus emperor*, *empress*, *horsfieldi*, *maximus* and *golden spur*, while of the incomparabilis section, *Sir Watkin*, *Stella*, *cynosure* and *conspicua* are the most reasonable in price and give most satisfaction.

The horticultural world owes a deep debt of gratitude to the famous Kelway and Sons, of Langport, England, for raising the many lovely forms we see in our gardens to-day. As they point out, they are amenable to the simplest treatment in almost any soil, and are as hardy as the dock by the wayside. They need not the slightest protection, as neither the severest frost nor the most biting wind does them hurt.

When it is written that they will grow in "almost any soil," that does not mean some preparation is not needful. Dig the soil from two to three feet deep and add to it plenty of cow manure, with some leaf material in the case of stiff clays, and when once planted never disturb them if this is avoidable. There is one strong objection to the peony, and that is disturbance at the root. Until six years, or even more, have elapsed, when root division and fresh soil are an advantage, the plants by that period having become too mat-like in growth,

over the surface of the soil around the big, lusty clumps spread manure or leaky litter to maintain moisture in the ground during the hot summer weather. All depends upon where the plants are to go and what distances apart they are placed—but for a quick display not less than 18 inches will be correct, removing every other crown in the second year. Four feet or five feet is sufficiently close for permanent plants for the obvious reason it is a flower of much strength, the big thick leaves spreading over a considerable diameter and the flowers are in the same massive mould. In this helter-skelter age everything must be done at once. There seems no joy in watching flowers pass through the various stages to full development, and those who have such dispositions should not talk with nature. The peony may be disappointing the first year. It takes its own time to grow into maturity, but once the roots have got firm hold of the new soil growth begins surely and firmly, and the second year of blossoming will reward the first year's apparent shortcomings.

## Fragrance and Colour.

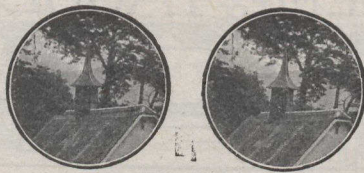
The peony may be accounted among the sweetest of all flowers, even the rose not excepted. The writer was in a nursery garden once in which peonies of every variety were planted in thousands, new sorts and old sorts, and the range of colours was bewildering from snow white to the crudest purple, but scent—the wind was saturated with the breath of a hundred odorous gardens. Spices and honey, rose and honeysuckle, violets and woodruff—a pot-pourri of fragrance wafted over the neighbouring village. A fragrance study, if you will, this great gathering of all that was best in the peony world. When the fall came the nursery was once again seen, no warm scents, but a rich, sun-dyed colouring from the fading leaves, shades of purple-brown, blood-red, and dull rose-pink—a great end to a glorious season of beauty, which had given many bow-erfuls of flowers for the home and friends.

The collection has been increased so largely of recent years that it is a matter of difficulty to choose the finest from the gay throng. There are single and double kinds, and the range of colouring is almost infinite. The double Duchess de Nemours is at the moment of writing in full flower in a garden in Toronto, and a sweeter representation of the peony it is difficult to conceive. This is one to select. The flower is fully double and pure white, with a primrose tint at the base of the petals, and the scent is delicious.

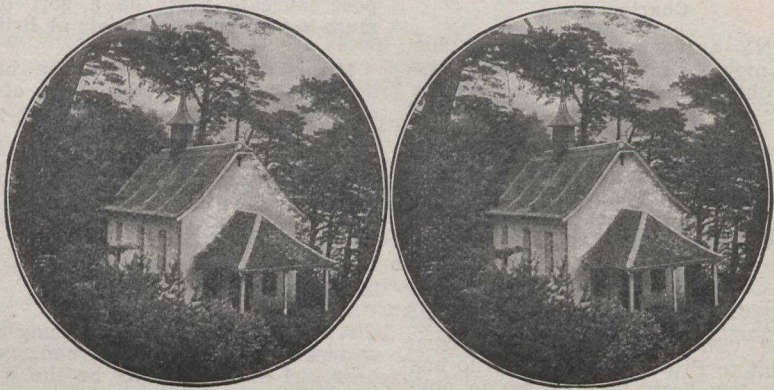


All Abloom—An Exceptionally Fine Example of the Peony.

ORDINARY FIELD GLASSES



GOERZ NEO BINOCULARS



These disks give you an idea of the difference in magnifying power between ordinary field glasses and the

# GOERZ NEO BINOCULARS

The Neo is the latest Goerz Binocular and of entirely new design. It is an excellent glass for general use, possessing great luminosity, as its objective lenses are larger than those of former types. It has simultaneous focussing adjustment and one of its eye-pieces permits separate adjustment to compensate for any difference that may exist in the eyes of the user. Furnished in 6, 8 and 12 magnifications.

CANADIAN AGENTS,

THE UNITED PHOTO STORES, Limited, Montreal

Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver.



## CANADIAN PACIFIC

### GREAT LAKES SERVICE

FASTEST AND MOST LUXURIOUS OF STEAMERS

Port McNicoll, Sault Ste. Marie,  
Port Arthur, Fort William

### 57 HOURS

TORONTO TO WINNIPEG

Leaving Tuesdays and Saturdays.  
Other Luxurious Steamers Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays.

### STEAMSHIP EXPRESS

Leaves Toronto Daily, except Friday and Sunday, 12.45 noon, and arrives at Ship's side 3.55 p.m. Parlor Cars, First-class Coaches.

A SERVICE PERFECTED BY STUDIED EFFORT AND YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

### MUSKOKA LAKES POINTS

Conveniently and Comfortably Reached via  
Canadian Pacific Railway and

### BALA

THE HEART OF MUSKOKA LAKES DISTRICT

MUSKOKA LIMITED Leaves Toronto

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY 11.50 A.M. ARRIVING BALA 3.40 P.M.  
RETURNING LEAVES BALA

DAILY EXCEPT SATURDAY 8.00 P.M. ARRIVING TORONTO 11.50 P.M.

Improved Facilities for Passengers and Baggage at Bala Wharf

Particulars from Canadian Pacific Agents or write M. G. MURPHY, D. P. A., C. P. Ry., Toronto