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My Lady's Garden

Garden Chat

By M. E. B.

SINCERELY do I sympathize with those who long to see things for themselves, and for some reason or other, have to possess their souls in patience and stay quietly at home. Doubtless a long sojourn in the "Desert of Waiting" is the only thing to develop us morally and spiritually and it is only when we become resigned to it and willing to leave our lives in the hands of an all wise Providence that we are really fit to have our liberty.

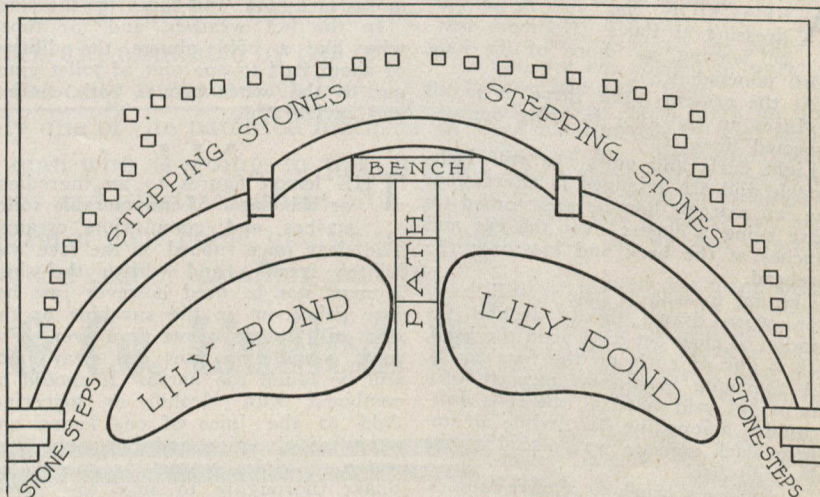
Fortunate are we if our tastes are simple, and green things "all a-growin," all a-blowin," will give us pleasure.

Nevertheless, our longings to see the "green things" of other countries may be just as great as those of others to see the art treasures of those countries—"the green things," of course meaning broadly, the woods, fields and gardens. To these I fain would try and tell of some of the many things so well worth seeing on this side of the water.

England is a veritable paradise for flower and garden lovers. In London you may buy for a penny (from early spring until frost) dear little bunches of the different flowers, according to the season. At present roses, sweet peas, corn-flowers, Iceland poppies, the lovely mauve daisy, erigeron speciosus

spike five to six feet high. "Pedro Hamel," semi-double, rich violet, inner petals plum color, very large pure white eye. The edges of the flower are crinkled, giving it a distinct look of its own. "Portia," single corn-flower blue, with the faintest flush of rose and black "Bee," a lovely rich color. "Sir John Forrest," rich violet, semi-double, inner petals purple, with pure white eye, a grand variety. "Lord Hawke," huge double flowers of royal blue, very large double white eye, fine, tapering spike. "Smoke of War,"—the name describes it, a wonderful deep misty purple, with no eye visible, tall graceful spike, unique. "Sailor Prince,"—another grand rich purple and very graceful. "The Rev. E. Lascelles," a very distinct and fine dark blue, with very large double white eye. "Dusky Monarch,"—huge flowers of the "old rose" type with double black "Bee" with gold—quite out of the ordinary. "A. F. W. Hayward," a grand double mauve and blue, with double dark eye, graceful, tapering spike. "Countess of Ilchester,"—immense blue with double white eye. "Prince Andrew,"—huge and very lovely, perfect spike. Of the shorter varieties there are now some beautiful hybrids of the lovely "Belladonna"—about the same height as it is (three feet) and of equally graceful branching habit. Amongst these "Belladonna grandiflora" is larger and finer than the type and "Lamartine," a very rich blue with a huge double white centre, which makes

40 FOOT RETAINING WALL OF BRICK OR CEMENT



ROUGH PLAN OF WALL AND WATER GARDEN

superbus—(a sister of our little wild erigeron known as the "Flea Bane" daisy)—the annual Gypsophila (G. elegans) and Gaillardias are most in evidence. When they are gone other things will take their places.

Of flower shows and gardens I have taken enough notes to fill several note books to overflowing. The Holland House Show held on the 5th of July, was quite the equal of the Temple show. Roses, sweet peas, Delphiniums, and Japanese Iris (T. kaeruferi) being the leading out-door-growing flowers exhibited. The Perrys of Enfield had a marvellous show of Delphiniums, occupying nearly the whole of one tent. The effect of this "Symphony in blue" was charming. I spent a delightful afternoon, since then, at their "Hardy Plant Farm" at Enfield, (only a few miles from London) and Mr. Perry Jr., told me there were 18,000 spikes of Delphinium in that exhibit. They were awarded a gold medal for it by the R. H. S.—the first time it has been given solely for Delphiniums. Kelway & Sons also had a grand display of them and so, to a smaller extent, had several other firms. The hybridists aim now at large tapering steeple-like spikes, as well as pure colors, and great size in the individual blossoms. Some of the blossoms actually measured three inches across and I have heard of them being four inches. Here are the names of a few of the most striking varieties: "Candidat" — magnificent semi-double, huge flowers, outer petals rich "Gentian" blue, inner ones rosy plum, with a bold white eye, spike seven to eight feet long and branching freely; "Lizzie Van Veen"—single, a rich cambridge blue, with a snow-white eye, spikes six feet long, enormous flowers, very lovely. "Madam Violet Geslin," round, clear blue, semi-double flowers with lavender inner petals and large white eye,

it most striking are "must haves."

Of the Japanese Iris, one called "Morning Mist," (some poet must surely have given it the name) was—well, a dream flower!—pure white with a faint brush mark of purple mist—laid on by some fairy artist doubtless, who felt that some of the evanescent color should be caught ere it vanished completely. "Purple Emperor," a majestic flower, deep plum-purple. "Nankeen Mauve," white, slightly dotted with mauve; "Distant Mountain," white, reticulated with rosy-mauve, and "The Mikado," a lovely white with mauve reticulations on the standards and a conspicuous blotch of greenish yellow, were all beautiful and of immense size.

Quite the feature of the exhibition was a beautifully arranged wall and water garden, occupying the entire side of one of the largest tents. The laid wall (no mortar used in the making of it) was three feet high and the earth behind it was level with the top.

Charming little Alpines had been planted in the crevices and it was so cleverly done that you would have thought they had grown there naturally. Against a background of evergreens were tall Eremuri in soft shades of yellow and many yellow lilies—plants of less stately growth were planted in front, many of them of trailing habit, overhanging the wall, which in the centre, curved gracefully inwards and in this curve was a stone bench for a seat, immediately in front of which was a flag-walk leading to it. On both sides of this walk were little pear-shaped lily ponds, with Japanese Iris planted round their margins, and other graceful water plants. Ferns grew against the base of the wall. The whole thing was charmingly carried out and was so simple that many persons could have the same thing in their own garden, provided they