

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

A BACKWARD GLANCE.

BY ANNIE L. JACK.

The fruit and flowers are garnered, and we are now able to look back upon the season's work and see its *pros* and *cons*, its advantages and failures. It has been rich in garden lore, in experience and in pleasure, with now and then a wave of disappointment that threatened to overwhelm us. The strawberries were magnificent. Shall we ever forget the size of "Sharpless" and "Lincoln" or the flavour of "Cumberland" and "Bidwell"? Then the roses have been superb; from the multitude of "Hybrids" to the delicate "Tea," how we revelled in their beauty and fragrance. Then came the later fruits, and the flowers that bloom with them—stately dahlias and queenly lilies, while the gorgeous autumn flowers were a gleam of beauty among the apples, pears and grapes. How ruddy and luscious the apples that ripen in August! I hope every one that plants even a garden will put in a Tetofsky; and of pears, the Duchess and Flemish Beauty seem the hardiest here. The grapes were a marvel of fruitage. I wish, Herman, we had some satisfactory method of saving them until spring. Fifteen varieties fruited with us this season, but we found none of finer flavour than "Eumelan" and one of Charles Arnold's seedlings, sent to us for a Delaware, but turned out something larger, hardier, and as fine flavoured. We have often wished to know its name, but the earnest originator has passed away and perhaps we shall never know. "Othello" is a great acquisition to this Province. It is a heavy cropper, and a fine, dark grape, while the fact that we have had experience of its being improved by frost is, in itself, of great importance in this short-lived summer land; for the "Othello" will hang upon the vines, fresh and rich in its dark purple juices, after the leaves of the vine are withered by a frost that will destroy the "Concord" and other hardy sorts. Our plants are housed for the winter, blooming; and looking at the blooming Chrysanthemums we feel a pang of regret. Last spring, when in New Jersey, a well-known florist gave us a new seedling of this flower. We prized and cherished it and carried it through many difficulties home in safety, but, in July, we set a pretty dark-eyed Canadian to hoe among our flowers; she took the rank growing plant for a weed that the leaf resembles, hoed it up, and the pieces were scattered with other rubbish. Ybs, we were disappointed and the sight of our other Chrysanthemums makes us think of this one we valued most. But such things will happen in the best regulated gardens, and we cannot expect to escape without some losses and failures, even with the best of care and intention.

LEGENDARY NAMES OF WILD FLOWERS AND PLANTS.

We take from an interesting lecture of the Rev. Mr. Tuckwell, of Somersetshire, England, what he says about the names of plants derived from the legends and traditions connected with them. Many curious bits of myth and history reveal themselves as we excavate down to these old meanings. The Peony, or healing plant, commemorates the Homeric god Peon, the first physician of the gods, who tended the bellowing Ares when smarting from the spear of Diomed. The Century is the plant with which the centaur Chiron saved the wound inflicted by the poisoned arrow of Hercules. The Ambross, or Wormwood, is the immortal food which Venus gave to Æneas and Jupiter to Psyche—the Sanskrit *amrita* which Kehama and Kailyal quaff in

Southey's splendid poem. The Anemone, or Wind-flower, sprang from the tears wept by Venus over the body of Adonis, as the Rose sprang from his blood. The Daphne, Syringa, Andromeda tell their own tales. The last, which you may find in the peat-bogs round Shapwick Station, is due to the delicate fancy of Linnaeus, who first discovered and named it, blooming lonely on a barren, rocky isle, like the daughter of Cephæus, chained to her sea-washed cliff. The Juno Rose, or tall white lily, was blanched by milk which fell from the bosom of Juno, the tal being transferred in Roman Catholic mythology to the Virgin Mary and the Milk Thistle. The yellow Carline Thistle is named after Carl the Great (in Mr. Freeman's county I must not call him Charlemagne), who, praying early for the removal of a pestilence which had broken out in his army, saw in a vision an angel pointing out this plant as a Heaven-sent cure. The Herb Robert healed a disease endured by Robert, Duke of Normandy, still known in Germany as *Ruprecht's plague*. The Filbert, though this is disputed, commemorates the horticultural skill of one King Philibert. Treacle Mustard, a showy crucifer, resembling the Wall-flower, was an ingredient in the famous Venice treacle, compounded, as you will remember, by Wayland Smith to treat the poison sickness of the Duke of Sussex. The word treacle is corrupted from the Greek *theriacum*, connected with wild beasts, whose blood formed part of the antidote. It was first made up by the physician to Mithridates, King of Pontus, and is still in many parts of England known as Mithridate Mustard. The Flower-de-luce, or *fleur-de-lys*, is the flower of King Louis, having been assumed as a royal device by Louis VII, of France, though legend figures it on a shield brought down from Heaven to Clovis, when fighting against the Saracens. It is probably a white Iris.

Not a few strange superstitions and beliefs are embalmed in well-known names. The Celandine, from *Chelidon*, the swallow, exudes a yellow juice, which, applied by the old birds to the eyes of the young swallows who are born blind or who have lost their sight, at once restores it. The Hawkweed has the same virtue in the case of hawks. The Fumatory, *fume-terre*, was produced without seed by smoke or vapour rising from the ground. The Devil's-bit is a common Scabious, with a premorse or shortened root, which was used so successfully for all manner of diseases that the Devil spitefully bit it off and forever checked its growth. The Eyebright, *euphrasy*, was given to cure ophthalmia.

"Michael from Adam's eyes the film removed,
Then purged with euphrasy and rue
The visual nerve, for he had much to see."

The Judas tree, with its thorns and pink blossoms, was the tree on which Judas hanged himself. The Mandrake gathered round itself a host of wild credulities. It was the Atropa Mandragora, a plant nearly allied to the deadly Nightshade; but with a large forked tuber, resembling the human form. Hence it was held to remove sterility, a belief shared by Rachel, in the Book of Genesis, and was sold for high prices in the middle ages, with this idea. In fact, the demand being greater than the supply, the dealer used to cut the large roots of the White Byrrony into the figure of a man and insert grains of wheat or millet in the head and face, which soon sprouted and grew, producing the semblance of hair and beard. These monstrosities fetched in Italy as much as thirty gold ducats, and were sold largely, as Sir T. Brown tells us, in our own country. It was thought that the plant would grow only under a murderer's gibbet, being nursed by the fat which fell from his decaying body; hence it formed an ingredient in the love-

philtres and other hell-broths of witches, and, as it was believed that the root when torn from the earth emitted a shriek, which brought death to those who heard it, all manner of terrible devices were invented to obtain it. The readers of Thalaba will remember the fine scene in which the witch Khawla procures the plant to form part of the waxen figure of the Destroyer. I have seen the plant growing in the Cambridge Botanical Gardens. It is not uncommon in Crete and Southern Italy. Its fruit is narcotic, and its name is probably derived from *mandra*, an enclosed, overgrown place, such as forms its usual home.

WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT ORCHARDS.

In many sections orchards will be planted during the fall. Spring and fall are the seasons usually set apart for starting orchards, and each has its advocates. At the south an intermediate season is usually selected; midwinter being a favourable time with horticulturists at the extreme south. Spring in most sections is believed to be the best time for planting out the stone fruits. In climates where the winters are long and severe, or where alternate freezing and thawing is of frequent occurrence, the transplanting of fruit-trees ought unquestionably to be accomplished during the early spring. In many localities fall planting is not only permissible but preferable, for at that season there is more leisure time, and then, too, it is the fitting season for taking up seedlings and rooted layers for stocks.

There is nothing more important in starting an orchard than the selection of a favourable site. It ought to have a medium position as regards exposure and influences of the season. Where winters are uniform in temperature and cold spring frosts do not prevail, the main object is to guard against high winds from the east and north, which injure the blossoms and blow off the fruit before it is mature. This is best done by a belt of woods or a hill, or a border of rapid-growing trees planted simultaneously with the setting out of the orchard. When late spring frosts prevail a high location with a northern exposure is best, for a cold locality keeps the fruit-buds back until the frosts are past. Where the winters are variable, as in some portions of the west, select elevated, dry firm soil, rich enough to produce a solid, well-matured growth.

The character of the soil must also be considered. Penty, or mucky and damp, cold and spongy soils are unfit for fruit orchards of any kind. As a rule apples and pears thrive best on dry, deep, substantial soil, between a sandy and a clayey loam in which occurs a considerable proportion of lime. The most enduring peach orchards, it is believed, are those grown on dry, sandy loams. Generally speaking the plum delights in a rather stiff, clayey loam, though some sorts succeed well on light soils. The cherry thrives on a light, dry, warm soil. In orchards where apples, pears, peaches, plums, etc., are planted promiscuously, a sandy loam with a sandy clay subsoil is the best. Under all circumstances the soil for an orchard should contain lime, potash and a fair proportion of vegetable mould.

It is essential that the soil be deep and in good tilth. The selection of varieties should be influenced by the wants and circumstances of the grower. Large orchards, for profit, ought to be made up of well-tested varieties that have been proven in similar localities and soils. Whatever the variety, low, stocky trees are to be preferred to tall, slender sorts.

The usual arrangement of orchard trees is in the square form, in rows the same distance apart and an equal distance between each tree. A common mistake is that of setting the trees too