

tion is the *Aristolochia Sypho*; very useful for training on a porch, covering an outbuilding, or for any purpose where a dense screen is desired. Its vigorous growth and the graceful habit of the large heart-shaped leaves (often twelve inches across, lapping over the other, make it, to my mind, the noblest of all the hardy climbers.

Among climbers there is none more hardy than *Akebia Quinata*. It is abundantly clothed with dark green leaves, divided into five lobes. The quaintly characteristic trilobed flowers a purplish maroon in color, and very fragrant. It is not a noted climber like ivy, so will not cling to a wall unaided; but, given a trellis or a support as a base of operation, it will twine and wreath itself in every conceivable position. One of the handsomest *Akebia* plants I have ever seen was twisted into a compact mass some four feet in diameter, and extended to a height of twenty feet, making a perfect pillar of leaves and blossoms.—*A Few Flowers Worthy of General Culture.*

RUSSIAN MULBERRIES.

BY HENRY MARTIN.

The seeds of these mulberries were brought from Russia by the German Russian Menonites about ten years ago. They have been extensively planted in parts of Kansas and Nebraska, and are well adapted to the soil and climate of the United States. They were extensively cultivated in Southern Russia by the Menonites as food for silk worms, they being considered the best for the purpose, making the finest silk. They are quite an acquisition to American gardens, and should be in every collection. The leaves are large and of a beautiful glossy green, making a handsome appearance and dense shade on the lawn. They are extremely hardy and long lived, and survive in drouth where many other trees perish. They bear annually an immense crop of good fruit the size and appearance of a blackberry. There are three kinds, white, black and purple. The black predominates and are the most esteemed. Some trees have the peculiarity of ripening their fruit for over three months. They are very popular with the hogs and hens and are very nice for the children, who can hardly get enough of the goodies. They can be grown thickly in hedges and make the best of wind breaks, and will bear about as much fruit in that way. Fancy hedges can also be made, as they will stand any amount of pruning. They are a very rapid grower, often growing from seven to eight feet in one season. The wood is

very tough and as durable for fence posts as red cedar. The pollen mulberry bears no fruit. They are a valuable tree, and when once tried will not be discarded.
Canton, Kan.

A SELECTION OF GOOD SHRUBS.

The aim in making up this list was to provide for a continuous display of beauty throughout the year. The months following each name indicate the time of flowering, or of the greatest attractiveness otherwise:

Mezeron Pink (*Daphne mezereum*), April.
Golden Bell (*Forsythia*), early May.
Japan Quince (*Pyrus Japonica*), May.
Double flowering Plum (*Prunus triloba*), May.
Flowering Almond (*Prunus*), May.
Thunberg's Spirea (*Spirea Thunbergi*), May.
Plum-leaved Spirea (*Spirea prunifolia*), May.
Lilacs (*Syringia*), many sorts, May.
Tree Peony, May.
Bush Honeysuckles (*Lonicera*), May.
Rough-leaved Viburnum (*V. rugosum*), May.
Lantana-leaved Viburnum (*V. lantanaoides*), May.
Garland Mock Orange (*P. coronarius*), June.
Double-flowering Mock Orange, June.
Large-flowered Mock Orange, (*P. grandiflorus*), June.
Silver Bell Shrub (*Halesia*), June.
Lance-leaved Spirea (*S. lanceolata*), June.
Roses, Summer, Hybrid Perpetual, etc., June.
Dwarf Snowball (*Viburnum plicatum*), June.
Graceful Deutzia (*Deutzia gracilis*), June.
Double Deutzia, in several varieties, June.
Weigela Rose and varieties, June.
Red Branched Dogwood, June.
White Fringe (*Choinanthus*), June.
Alder-leaved Clethra (*C. alnifolia*), July.
Fortune's White Spirea (*S. callosa alba*), July.
Fortune's Spirea (*S. species Japonica*), July.
Oak-leaved Hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*), August.
Altheas Double and Single (*Hibiscus*), September.
Large-paniced Hydrangea, September.
Purple Fringe (*Rhus cotinus*), July to Oct.
Honeywort-leaved Cotoneaster, August and later.
Prunus Pissardi, dark red foliage, all season.
Purple-leaved Berberry, dark foliage all season.
Variegated Cornelian Cherry, white-blotched foliage.
Silver-leaved Corchorus, white-edged foliage.
Holly-leaved Mahonia, evergreen.
Box, in different varieties, evergreen.
Popular gardening.

HYACINTHS.

(Extract from a paper by Mr. J. Polman Mooy, of Haarlem, Holland, in the "Gardener's Chronicle," April 5.)

The hyacinth is a native of the Levant, and was first introduced into England in the year 1596, but it was known to Dioscorides, who wrote about the time of Vaspasian. Gerard, in his "Herbal," published at the close of the sixteenth century, enumerates four varieties—the single and double blue, the purple and the violet. In that valuable book on gardening, "Paradise in Sole, Paradise Terrestre," published by John Parkinson in 1629, eight different varieties are mentioned and described. He tells us: "Some are pure white, another is nearly white with a bluish shade, especially at the brims and bottoms of the flowers. Others, again, are of a very faint blush; some are of a fair blue, others more watchet, and some of a very pale blue. After the flowers are past the stem bears a round black seed, great and shining, from which, after sowing and protecting, the new varieties can be obtained." During the 250 years that have passed since the above was published there has been a steady improvement in the size, form and color of the flowers of this plant.

From the eight varieties of 1529 more than 4,000 varieties have been produced, of which, however, the greatest number have become extinct or out of cultivation. Many have been thrown out to make room for the latest improved sorts, from which about 200 varieties only are at present subject to extensive commerce.

The pressed fan-like leaves of the not very common Ginkgo or Maiden Hair Tree, are said to be used by New York florists for creating Japanese effects.

The French call tomatoes "Love Apples" which shows exactly how much they know of the subject. Love is more frequently found in pairs than apples.—*Judge.*

I knew an old lady who planted some choice Peas and a hen ate them, and she caught the hen, cut open the crop, got the Peas, sewed up the hen's crop, and again planted the Peas. The hen lived and Peas grew.—*Cor. Farm Journal.*

The smallest bird of America is the humming-bird; and of Europe the golden-crested wren. The smallest quadruped in the world is the pigmy mouse of Siberia. The most diminutive plant is the Arctic raspberry, which is so small that a six-ounce vial will hold the whole, branches, leaves and all.

A handsome costume with its floral adornments is thus described: The material was a peach colored silk with overdress of Canton crepe of the same tint. Pale pink Begonia blossoms, each drooping petal of which seemed frosted with silver, were profusely scattered over corsage and skirt, each bunch being held by a coral branch of that faint rose color, so rare and costly.