

group—the French Paradise, the Collin, *Pyrus frutescens*, and the Doucin or Sweetling, *P. praeox*. Koch thinks it possible that the true English Collin may be a native of this country. The Doucin differs essentially from the others in the hairiness of its young shoots. Probably *P. Sieversii* of Ledebour is the same thing. A very interesting and good old variety of *P. praeox*, called in Germany the Fig Apple, was recently rediscovered and propagated by the late André Leroy, in whose catalogue it bears the name of Sans Queue. It is the same as the *P. dioica* of books, and is remarkable for its very small petals; indeed some writers have described it as being destitute of petals. Konrad Gesner first mentions it in the first half of the sixteenth century. According to him several specimens of it grow in the vicinity of Zurich. As arborescent Apples, three—*P. sylvestris*, Will.; *P. dasyphylla*, Berkh.; and *P. prunifolia*, Wild.; to which may be added, though of less interest to the pomologist, *P. bacata* and *P. spectabilis*. The three first form the centres of so many groups of varieties, but intercrossing has given birth to varieties which connect the whole. *P. sylvestris* (*P. acerba*) is very distinct from the other arborescent forms in its crowded branches, which often terminate in spines, and in other characters, particularly of the fruit, which is quite uneatable. It is, however, very near *P. frutescens*, and may possibly be an arborescent form of that species. The Calvilles, Collins, Rose Apples, and other varieties, have descended from *P. sylvestris*; whilst *P. dasyphylla* is the mother of most of our Reinettes, and *P. prunifolia* of the Astracans, and the singular Ice Apple of the Russians, &c.—*Gard. Chron.*

(To be continued.)

#### GREENHOUSE AND HOUSE GARDENING.—SEASONABLE HINTS.

Insects are apt to be troublesome in growing houses,—particularly Red-spider, Green-fly and Mealy-bug. A free use of the syringe is a good preventative. Tobacco-smoke, in two or three light doses, is still the best thing for the Green-fly. The Red-spider, fortunately, shows his depredations more villainously than most insects,—light yellow lines or spots marking almost at once the scenes of his depredations. If one has good eyes, the finger and thumb will keep him down, as a slight and rapid passing of the finger over the leaves early crushes his little body. When he becomes an “army with banners,” more scientific approaches must be made to give any show of success.

*Pelargoniums* become “drawn,” spindly, and worthless, if they are not allowed to occupy the lightest and most airy part

of the house. If fine specimens are desired, the shoots should now be tied down to the surface of the pots and pinched off so as to induce them to shoot freely; but a too frequent use of “finger and thumb” is bad,—nothing renders a *Pelargonium* weaker; rather encourage them to grow bushy, by the free use of light, air, and manure-water.

A good supply of young *Fuchsias* should be coming on now. Re-pot as their roots fill each pot; let them not want for moisture or light; do not pinch off the tops, but let them grow rapidly. The temperature in which they are grown should not exceed 55°. A turfy loam, moderately enriched with well-decayed manure, and well drained with charcoal, suits them admirably.

The *Mimulus* is receiving more attention than it has been. Where they are grown they are much improved by having pans of water under their pots.

*Epiphyllums*, as they continue to flower, will require the warmest part of the house, and a fair supply of moisture.

The most interesting tribe of plants at this season of the year is, undoubtedly, the *Cucullia*. The buds frequently drop off before flowering; this may spring from three causes—from the plants being kept too dry, or from the drainage being bad, whereby the soil becomes sodden, or from the house being kept too warm by insufficient ventilation. As the leaf-buds burst, the plants are benefited by occasional syringings; and, indeed, an increased supply of water altogether, in order to accommodate the demands of the young growth.

*Cinerarias* will soon be the chief attraction. The least frost kills them, yet they will not do well if kept at a high temperature. They love moisture, yet are very impatient of damp. No plant is more improved by the use of charcoal in potting than this.

The *Calceolaria* will require the same condition as the *Cineraria*.

*Hyacinths* that have been out of doors, or in any reserve place for protection, may be brought in a few weeks before wanted; they should not have much light, heat, or moisture for a few days, and then only gradually.

*Carnations* and *Pinks* are much admired when grown in pots, and flowered there early. They do not flower well if too much warmth be given, but the usual temperature of the greenhouse will bring them forward a month before they can be had out of doors. Whenever the roots make their appearance through the bottoms of the pots, they should be shifted into a size larger. They require very little water and love the light, and what-over manures are used to enrich the soil should be thoroughly rotten. The *Pansy*, on the other hand, delights in half-rotten,

straw manure and turfy loam. If a quantity of seedlings have been raised in the Fall, they will require potting this month. They do not flower well here when the weather becomes warm; but when grown in pots, and forwarded slightly by the aid of a cool flame they do very well.

*Cacti* and *succulent* plants generally, will scarcely require water at all, unless in very dry situations, and then receive but a very slight sprinkling with a syringe. The rule “When you water a plant at all, let it soak right through,” does not, by any means, hold good with these plants, if there be not some other good exception.

*Oranges* and *Lemons* will require the coolest part of the house, and to receive no more water than will just keep them fresh.—*Gardeners' Monthly*.

#### GLADIOLI FOR WINTER.

BY MR. B. N. J. GRAY, GARDENER TO E. S. RAND, JR., BOSTON, MASS.

It is to be regretted that these highly ornamental bulbs are not generally cultivated for winter blooming. They are as easily grown as hyacinths and bulbs of a like nature, and their cheerful appearance for house decoration during our dull winter weather, will amply repay the little labor they give.

To insure success, select in spring bulbs which have not pushed their buds. These should be kept dry until about September 1st, when they must be potted in rich sandy loam, single bulbs in five-inch pots, or a larger number of various colors in larger-sized pots. I sometimes put as many as twenty-five bulbs into about fourteen inch pans, and if the bulbs are chosen of equal strength and forwardness they will come into bloom together, and give a splendid mass of flowers for parlor or other decoration. As soon as potted they may be placed in the greenhouse until they have made considerable growth, after which they may be moved to a warmer position, and watered occasionally with liquid manure.

Those who have no greenhouses, may plant the bulbs about the middle of July in the open air in a rich border. When they have made a growth of about a foot or fifteen inches, they may be dug up and potted; and before there is any danger from frost, should be removed to a sunny window in the house, and kept well supplied with water. The best time to dig is after a continued spell of dry weather, when the soil is rather dry; and if they are potted and well watered as soon as lifted, they receive no apparent check whatever, but will give as good spikes of bloom as those ordinarily flowered in the open air. I have a bed in an