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BOUGANVILLEA GLABRA

VAR. SANDERANA

BY

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THIS plant, which is shown as the frontispiece to our magazine this month, is creating quite a large amount of interest among flower dealers in many parts of our country because of the ease with which it is cultivated, its great beauty and long period of blooming, as well as its lasting qualities when cut for table decoration.

When given liberty, by being planted out in the bed of a conservatory, it will grow to a length of twenty feet or more if desired, and be covered with its beautiful masses of rosy red bracts for at least six months of the year. The plant from which the photograph was taken began to bloom last November, and is still covered with masses of bloom. So persistent is it in flowering that the stumps, left in cutting the graceful wreaths of blossoms, break out afresh, and are soon a rosy mass.

It makes a fine pot-plant also, and a very small one will bloom for a long time, and on this account it is beginning to figure largely among our Easter plants.

It is named after Bouganville, a celebrated French navigator who flourished at the latter part of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. It is common in the forests Brazil and Argentina, as well as some parts Southern Europe, where it is used to cover the fronts of cottages.

It is easily propagated by cuttings in sand.

The plant referred to above is trained to the centre pillar of the conservatory, then right and left to the beam 15 feet in one direction and 12 in the other, and from these two arms hang down hundreds of slender twigs covered with beautiful dark glossy leaves and multitudes of flowers. I know of no insect enemy infesting it, which is much in its favor. It is altogether a most desirable addition to make to a greenhouse or conservatory, especially if it can be planted in a bed. It is not at all particular about what soil it grows in, and it is no uncommon thing for me to have to cut canes of nearly 10 feet coming from the root in very sandy soil.