

the "Orange Rust of the Blackberry." It is I regret to say common on both blackberries and raspberries. The remedy I believe is prompt removal and burning of the affected plants. My books are all packed up still but, from memory, I think it is called *Cecoma nitens*. There was an article on it in the *Prairie Farmer* of either 1885 or 1886; I think the former.

Oleanders and Auriculas.

74. What is the proper soil and cultivation of Oleanders, also that for Auriculas? I have been very successful in raising the former from cuttings, but I think I could do better with proper advice, etc.—RICHARD HENRY LIGHT, Kingston.

Reply by D. W. Beadle, St. Catharines, Ont.

OLEANDER—Well rotted sods enriched with old manure and leaf mold is the best soil in which to grow the Oleander. It should be kept in the winter at a temperature of from 35° by night to 45° by day, and in summer may be placed in the open ground in any part of the Province where peaches can be raised successfully. It is best propagated by cuttings of nearly ripe wood, immersed in phials of water, which are kept in a warm place, if possible on bottom heat. These cuttings will soon emit roots, and as soon as the water is nearly filled with them may be taken out of the phials and potted singly in small pots. These plants are subject to attacks of an insect known as "Scale," and sometimes are infested by the "Mealybug." These can be kept in subjection only by careful watchfulness on the part of the cultivator, removing them as soon as they make their appearance. A little spirits of turpentine applied with care, is an effectual remedy with the "scale." I have usually been able to dislodge the "mealybugs" by syringing them with a mixture of whale-oil-soap and tobacco-water, to which has been added a little spirits of turpentine.

AURICULAS—In treating of the cultivation of these plants, I may as well state at the outset that our climate is by no means as favorable for the cultivation

of these flowers as that of Great Britain. Our summers are too hot and our winters too cold to admit of their being treated in the same manner as cultivators in England treat them. Your subscriber will probably succeed better by obtaining seed from some first-class reliable seedsman which he will sow in boxes in the greenhouse in the month of March or April in light soil; as soon as the plants show some four or five leaves, transplant them into pots which have been filled with soil made largely of rotten sods, enriched with well rotted manure, not less than two years old, to which has been added about an eighth of coarse sand. These should be kept in a mild temperature where they will get a little sun, until all danger of frost is past, then they may be transplanted into the open border on the north side of the house or high fence, where they will be protected from the direct rays of the sun. The border should be made quite rich with well decayed compost, and thoroughly underdrained, so that stagnant water can remain about the roots.

When these plants bloom he can mark those that he wishes to preserve, if he is desirous of raising only first-class blooms; but if not particular in this respect he may build a frame about them all, and as the cold weather comes on, nearly cover them with dry leaves, and place a sash over them, giving them air on mild days, and keeping them from being soaked with the rains; and as the weather grows colder, keeping them well covered until the mild weather appears in the Spring. Should a spell of warm weather occur during the winter it may be necessary to open the sash sufficiently to give them a little air, taking care, however, that the leaves with which they have been covered, do not become soaked with rains or melting snows. Great care will be needed as the spring comes on to give them air in the mild weather and protection at night until danger from frost is past, when the sash can be removed and the covering