

breeding new sorts, Mr. Douglas, after carefully selecting his breeders, considered himself lucky to get one seedling in a hundred that was worth growing for further trial. This applies only to the show or edged Auriculas, seedlings of the alpine varieties being generally of good quality and far less variable. Of course, all the named varieties are propagated by offsets and division. The seed should be sown as soon as ripe, usually about midsummer, and kept in a cool shady place. It germinates freely in the following spring, and the seedlings are pricked off as soon as they are large enough to be handled with safety. They are again potted into single pots, flowering, as a rule, in the second year from the sowing of the seeds. As a rule, a full-sized plant can be grown in one year from the seed-pot or from an offset. The offsets are planted in small pots and kept under shaded hand-lights till well rooted. The right season for repotting is May, the soil to use is good loam, and the position for the plants during the summer is in an airy frame on the shaded or north side of a building or wall. Mr. Horner has said that many people failed with Auriculas because they would set them out under garden-hedges, much to the enjoyment of snails and caterpillars, or keep them in cold damp pits or even down in areas. The successful grower has cool, light, airy houses or frames for them, and with these conditions, plus an intelligent knowledge of the nature of the plants, no department of floriculture yields greater or more lasting pleasure than that of Auricula growing.

London.

W. Watson.

### Plant Notes.

**AKEBIA QUINATA.**—This vigorous twining plant is generally used for the covering of fences, arbors and the like, and it will quickly spread over large surfaces. But while it is most useful for that kind of work, it is also interesting when trained as an upright bush on a border or lawn, or when allowed to ramble over some shrub which is of little value. The prettily shaped leaves, which are digitate, are unlike those of most other vines, and they hold their shape and color well into the winter. The flowers, while lasting only a short time, are exceedingly pretty; the female flowers open first, and are more showy than the male flowers, being of a rich claret color, and two or three times as large as the others. They possess the additional merit of being very sweetly scented. A good way to train the plant to a bush form is to stick a few good stout tree branches in the ground; it will soon ramble over them and make a most beautiful object. The reason that this vine does not ripen fruit more frequently is probably owing to the fact that it flowers so early in the year, and that it produces the female flowers first, and these are nearly past before the males have had time to ripen their pollen. Occasionally, however, individual plants in this country and Europe produce fruit. In Japan its long, slender, pliable shoots, which are of uniform size throughout, are much used for wicker-work and even for baskets, trays and sun hats. Cuttings of the ripened wood put in a cold frame about the beginning of September will root quickly. The plants need considerable sunlight for their best development.

**EXOCHORDA GRANDIFLORA.**—This Pearl Bush, as it has been aptly called, is now altogether the most striking shrub in Central Park, although most of the specimens there have been allowed to grow into disagreeable open shape, which, together with thin foliage, makes a rather unattractive plant when out of flower. In New England this is not a long-lived shrub, and rarely attains a height of more than six or eight feet. South of this it becomes a small tree, or a shrub from fifteen to twenty feet in height. If cut in hard after it flowers every year it can be held to something like a compact shape, but if left to itself it has a better effect with some lower-growing shrubs massed in front of it to hide its naked stems. This is by no means a new shrub, having been known to cultivation for nearly half a century,

but for some reason it has never become as common as its near relatives, the shrubby Spiræas. Its great beauty consists in its large flowers, which appear with the leaves in long axillary racemes. They are borne in great abundance and are of a dazzling white. Large plants in this latitude produce seed freely, so that the plant is readily propagated in this way.

**LILY OF THE VALLEY, FORTIN'S VARIETY.**—This is a variety of French origin, and though it was distributed a few years ago by Peter Henderson & Co., and perhaps others, it does not seem to have created much of a stir, and it is not much grown in American gardens. It is a noble variety, much more vigorous and larger in all its parts than *Convallaria majalis*. The stem is tall and is clothed with flowers over twice the size produced by the ordinary variety under the same treatment. The bells are of the purest white.

**IRIS STATELLÆ.**—This is a Sicilian variety of *Iris lutescens*, and is one of the most attractive Irises, of medium height, which flowers at this time. It has large prominent standards, tongue-shaped and smaller reflexing falls. The flowers are of a pearly-white color, of very fine form and most distinct. It is a fine garden variety and excellent for decoration.

### New or Little-known Plants.

#### A Blue Water-lily from Mexico.

**T**HE handsome Water-lily\* figured on page 206 was collected by Mr. T. S. Brandegee near Mazatlan, Mexico, in November, 1893. The flowers, which vary somewhat in size, are sometimes fully six inches in diameter and are of a pale blue color. The stamens are yellow, with long anthers and minute tips. The leaves are nearly orbicular, with few teeth, greenish above, with a few blotches, and of a dark purple beneath. The flowers were obtained from a small pond in an enclosed pasture containing about a hundred plants. Although those were the only specimens seen, the plant was reported to grow in abundance about the neighboring river. I am not quite sure of the species, but it appears to be nearest *Nymphaea elegans* of Hooker, which was figured in the *Botanical Magazine* in 1851, table 4604. Mr. Brandegee's specimens agree almost exactly with this figure, except that the flowers are considerably larger. *N. elegans* has until recently been one of our rarest species, and for nearly forty years remained uncollected (*Bull. Torrey Bot. Club*, xv.: 14). In late years it has been frequently sent in by such well-known collectors as Mr. C. G. Pringle, Mr. G. C. Nealley and Mr. J. E. Bodin. The original specimens of *N. elegans* are said to have come from New Mexico, but all our recent collections have been made from Texas. The species has not been reported from the west coast of Mexico, and this fact, taken in connection with the difference in size of the flowers, leaves some doubt as to above reference of these specimens. It certainly belongs to no other Mexican species with which I am familiar.

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### Cultural Department.

#### The Rock Garden.

**T**HE winter, just past, proved to be one of the most trying of recent years for vegetation on rock-work. On the first of May the plants seemed two weeks behind time, but the dry, hot weather of the past week has hurried all spring flowers into bloom, so that everything has caught up. We cannot complain of many specific losses, but much injury has been

\* *Castalia elegans* (Hook.), Greene, *Bull. Torrey Bot. Club*, xv.: 85 (1888).—*Nymphaea elegans*, Hook., *Bot. Mag.*, t. 4604 (1859).

Leaves nearly orbicular, a little longer than broad, 7½ by 6 inches, with 7 or 8 radiating nerves on each side of the mesial line, dark green or somewhat purplish above, dark purple beneath, the margins nearly entire with 5 or 6 small scattered teeth; lobes overlapping at base except their apices; flowers 4 to 6 inches in diameter, light blue; sepals brownish at base, light green above with purple blotches, light blue within; outer sepals without a scarious intermargin and inner sepals nearly like the petals; petals 12 to 20, oblong, obtuse; stamens not numerous, about 75 filaments broad, yellow; anthers longer and narrower than the filaments, yellowish; the prolonged connective a mere tip, at most 1½ lines long.