

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN

No. 33

February, 1928



W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Editor*

Robbinsdale, Minn.

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

Those who make application for membership as any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 per year, and *all checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership.* Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

Back bulletins of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 50c per copy and \$1.00 for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No bulletins available prior to No. 13.

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY,
JANUARY 25, 1928**

The annual meeting of the American Peony Society was held in New York City, Jan. 25th, 1928. The directors room of the Merchants Association of New York was placed at our disposal through the courtesy of this splendid organization and its efficient Convention Manager, John R. Young. Representation of membership in actual attendance was very small although a considerable number mailed in their votes. An intensely interesting meeting was enjoyed by those present.

Meeting called to order by President A. M. Brand.

As the minutes of the last annual meeting were presented in full in BULLETIN No. 30, the reading of same was dispensed with. Similar action taken in regard to report of last Directors meeting which also appeared in BULLETIN No. 30.

Secretary's report next received and briefly summed up as follows:

The year just passed has produced many changes. A very substantial increase has been made in membership and a steady, continued growth is anticipated. We regret to chronicle the deaths of a number of our influential members that have been reported to this office during the year.

Record of membership follows:

Members in good standing previous to 1927.....	616
New members added during the year	144
Honorary members	6
Life members	22
Total in good standing	
Resignation during the year	27
Dropped for non payment of dues	57
Deaths	9

BULLETINS No. 30, 31 and 32 were issued during the year.

A very substantial increase in members and advertising was made during the year as will be noted by comparative statement following herewith.

	1927	1926	Gain
Members in good standing.....	786	733	55
New members	144	115	29
Advertising	\$833.50	\$720.00	\$102.50

While it will add somewhat to the cost of the BULLETINS, we feel that illustrations materially improve the appearance of the BULLETIN and expressions received justify this assumption.

Members are responding to the call for annual dues and we have already secured six new members for 1928 which brings our total membership to 794. I feel confident that with the distribution of the manual now in preparation, our membership will be materially increased over last year.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Sec'y.*

Mr. W. W. Cook moved that the Secretary's report be received, approved and made a part of the record. Motion seconded and carried.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. James Boyd was next presented and follows, together with comments and suggestions.

THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jan. 1, 1927 to Jan. 1, 1928

Receipts

Cash in Bank January 1, 1927.....		\$ 348.14	
Dues	\$2,322.65		
Advertising	1,013.60		
Back Bulletin Sales	54.00		
Income from Reserve Funds	47.04		
Bank Interest	12.75		
Sale of Electro	6.00	3,456.04	
		<hr/>	
Sale of Government Bonds.....	\$900.00		
Peoria Prize Money Refund	186.00	1,086.00	\$4,890.18

Disbursements

Secretary's Compensation (on account).....		600.00
Cash Prizes at Peoria Show	631.00	
Bulletins 29, 30, 31	624.79	
Medals	156.74	
Postage	65.32	
Misc. Office Expenses	43.61	

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Misc. Printing	137.76		
Sec. Traveling Exp. to Peoria and Return	49.38		
Directors' Traveling Expenses	539.77		
Treasurer's Bond	12.50	2,260.87	
Brand Special Prize	\$100.00		
Trial Gardens at Urbana, Ill.	187.96		
Peony Manual	1,437.73	1,725.69	4,586.56
Cash in Bank January 1, 1928			\$ 303.62

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
January 1, 1928

Assets

Cash in Bank January 1, 1928	\$ 303.62	
Investments—Government Bonds	2,500.00	2,803.62

Liabilities

Lee R. Bonnewitz Memorial Prize	\$ 100.00	
Surplus	2,703.62	2,803.62

PEONY MANUAL ACCOUNT

Clerk and Typist, April 30 to Dec. 31, 1927	\$ 655.00
McFarland Co. Services of Mr. Stevens	725.43
Rental of Typewriter	25.00
Mimeographing, Office Supplies, and Postage	32.30
	\$1,437.73

COMPUTATION OF SECRETARY'S COMPENSATION

33 1/3% of Dues (\$2,241.65).....	\$747.22
10% of Advertising (1,013.60).....	101.36
10% of Commercial Dues (81.00).....	8.10

Total	\$856.68
Already remitted for 1927	600.00
Balance Due for 1927	256.68
Check sent January 4, 1928	255.13
Balance still due	\$1.55

JAMES BOYD,
Treasurer

To the Members of the American Peony Society.
Gentlemen:

In presenting the Treasurer's Report herewith, I wish to make the following comments and suggestions.

The report shows the *actual* receipts and disbursements during the year 1927, but to arrive at your true income and expenses, you must figure as follows:

Income

Dues collected	\$2,322.65	
Less cost of Collection	755.32	\$1,567.33
BULLETIN Advertising	\$1,013.60	
Less Commission on Secretary.....	\$101.36	
Less Cost of BULLETINS	624.79	287.45
Bank Interest		12.75
Income from Reserve Funds		100.79
		\$1,968.32

Your expenses have been as follows:

Cost of Peoria Show	\$631.00	
Less Refund	186.00	
	\$445.00	
Plus Cost of Medals	156.74	
Plus Sec. Expenses to Peoria Show	49.38	\$651.12
Directors' Expenses		539.77
Treasurer's Bond		12.50
Printing, Postage, and Office Supplies		246.69
		\$1,450.08
		\$518.24

Out of this amount (\$518.24), you appropriated \$187.96 to the Trial Gardens at Urbana, Ill., and this leaves a margin of \$330.28, so you can see that at the present time you are keeping well within your means.

However, I wish to call your attention to the fact that the books of your Society have never shown a Life Membership Fund, and I strongly advise establishing same as soon as possible. You now have twenty-two (22) life members, and although for a while the life membership fee was much lower, I recommend that the fund be established at the rate of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per member, and all money that is paid in for life memberships be added to this fund and only the income from same be used by the Society. On this basis, we should establish a Life Membership Fund of \$1100.00 as soon as possible.

The Society for many years has had a reserve fund amounting to \$3400.00. This fund originated from the sale of the Peonies in the Trial Gardens at Cornell University, and it was resolved many years ago that it should be used for the publication of a Peony Manual. Such a book is now in process and \$1437.73 has already

been expended for this purpose. This leaves a balance of \$1962.27 which will be insufficient for the completion of the work. Careful consideration should be given to revenue from advertising in the Manual and to a sale price for the book.

I also suggest that a budget should be established for future guidance of your Directors in making appropriations for the current year. In 1928 I estimate that your income will be at least \$2,000.00, and your expenses will be about as follows:

Directors' Expenses	\$ 550.00
Printing, Postage, & Office Supplies	250.00
Treasurer's Bond	12.50
Exhibition Expenses	700.00
	\$1,512.50

This gives you nearly five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to be appropriated as you may direct. I hope that you will put at least three hundred (\$300.00) into your Life Membership Fund every year until it reaches the proper amount.

Your Secretary deserves much credit for building up the advertising in the BULLETINS and making them a source of revenue instead of expense as formerly.

I think this Society is to be congratulated on its financial condition.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES BOYD, *Treasurer.*

Upon motion offered by Mr. Cook, duly seconded and fully approved by all present, the Treasurer's report was received together with recommendations.

Mr. Boyd asked for authority to employ an accountant to audit the accounts of the Society prior to turning the same over to his successor. Mr. Cook made a motion that Mr. Boyd be authorized to employ a public accountant to audit the accounts. Motion carried.

At this point the matter of number of Directors as called for in original charter was taken up and discussed at some length. After considerable discussion, Mr. Harry F. Little made a motion that the President appoint a committee of three to make recommendations for changes in the charter that will pass legal opinion, and also propose amendments to the by-laws to make them conform, if necessary, and to report at the next meeting. President Brand appointed on this committee the following:

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Harry F. Little, Chairman, Baldwinsville, N. Y.

W. W. Cook, Clinton, Iowa.

Prof. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.

Due to the vacancy on the Board caused by the death of Mr. Ward Welsh, Mr. Little presented a motion that Charles F. Wassenberg, of Van Wert, Ohio, be added to the Board, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Motion seconded and duly carried.

President Brand appointed Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, of Ardmore, Pa., and W. G. DuMont, of Des Moines, Ia., to act as tellers of the votes cast for directors. Forty-three votes were recorded and the following directors elected to serve for three years, 1928 to 1930. inclusive:

Prof. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.

W. F. Christman, Robbinsdale, Minn.

Chas. F. Wassenberg, Van Wert, Ohio.

The Secretary presented a list of one hundred and forty-four new members for adoption. All were favorably acted upon and elected to membership.

As no further business was presented, motion for adjournment was favorably acted upon.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. CHRISTMAN,

Secretary.

BRIEF REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, JANUARY 25 AND 26, 1928

Following the annual meeting of the Society the Directors' meeting was called to order by President Brand.

Directors present: Messrs. Brand, Boyd, Little, Saunders, Cook, DuMont, Thurlow and Christman.

Matter of Regional Shows discussed at some length after a thorough presentation by Mrs. Edgar Hires.

Motion presented by Mr. DuMont that the President appoint a committee of three, or more, if necessary, to work out a definite schedule for regional shows, to map the territory in regional districts and submit their report for publication in the BULLETIN as soon as completed. Motion carried.

Following committee appointed to act:

W. G. DuMont, Des Moines, Ia., Chairman.

W. W. Cook, Clinton, Iowa.

Chas. F. Wassenberg, Van Wert, Ohio.

Location for the 1928 show was discussed and Mr. Thurlow suggested Boston, Mass., if agreeable to all concerned, the exhibition to be held in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Horticultural Society's annual peony show. Invitation heartily approved and Mr. Thurlow authorized to go ahead with necessary arrangements.

Note: All preliminary arrangements completed by Mr. Thurlow and June 22, 23 and 24 selected as dates for the show.

EDITOR.

Secretary presented a communication from Mr. Leonard Barron, Editor of *Garden and Home Builder*, placing at the disposal of the Society, as an annual award, their silver Achievement Medal.

Mr. Boyd moved that this Achievement Medal be awarded to the best new peony at the exhibition and that the award be made by the seedling committee. Motion seconded by Prof. Saunders and carried.

Appointment on Seedling Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Ward Welsh next considered.

Mr. W. W. Cook moved that the incoming President appoint a new member on the Seedling Committee to succeed the late Ward Welsh. Motion seconded and carried. Mr. A. B. Franklin, of Minneapolis, Minn., appointed to fill the vacancy.

Election of officers resulted as follows:

President, Harry F. Little, Baldwinsville, N. Y.

Vice-President, Prof. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.

Secretary and Editor, W. F. Christman, Robbinsdale, Minn.

Treasurer, W. W. Cook, Clinton, Iowa.

Mr. Brand, the retiring President, invited Mr. Little to assume the chair.

The creation of a Life Membership Fund recommended by Mr. Boyd was put in form of a motion that the Treasurer establish such a fund and that \$300.00 be set aside for this purpose this year. Carried.

At this point the meeting adjourned until 10 A. M., January 26, at the Pennsylvania Hotel.

Second day's meeting called to order by President Little. All directors present.

Mr. Boyd moved that the President appoint a committee of three to be known as the Farr Memorial Committee, said committee

to solicit contributions from members of the Society in amounts not to exceed \$5.00, the money to be used for procuring an appropriate medal to be known as the Farr Memorial Medal. Motion seconded and carried.

The President appointed the following:

Prof. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y., Chairman.

James Boyd, Haverford, Pa.

A. M. Brand, Faribault, Minn.

Upon motion presented by Mr. Cook, this same committee were authorized to proceed with the preparation of a medal, with preference to portrait medal.

The Secretary presented the question of medals annually offered at local peony shows. Motion carried that the following cities be granted these medals, the same to be awarded as sweepstake prize and the name of winners to be reported promptly to the Secretary.

Following cities eligible to the medal:

Boston, Mass.

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Des Moines, Ia.

Duluth, Minn.

London, Ont.

Minneapolis, Minn.

New York City, N. Y.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Portland, Ore.

Sioux Falls, S. D.

Seattle, Wash.

Washington, D. C.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

A list of accredited judges throughout the country was selected, who are to judge exhibits wherever the medals of the Society are offered or regional shows held.

The list will consist of fifty or more to be furnished to the committee of any peony show desiring it. This matter left in the hands of the Regional Committee.

The Secretary presented a communication from Mr. Geo. W. Peyton, of Rapidan, Va., with reference to check list of peonies. Practically a complete list of varieties now in commerce has been prepared, carded and indexed, for the manual which Mr. Boyd proposed turning over to the Secretary. New poenies are to be added as originated, with the purpose of avoiding duplications in names and resulting confusion.

Mr. Thurlow moved that a Department of Registration be established in charge of the Secretary, containing, as far as possible, a complete check list of varieties in commerce, and publish the names

of new introductions from year to year for the guidance of originators. Motion carried.

Nomination for Directors to serve three years, 1929 to 1931, inclusive, next considered. Mr. Boyd made a motion that W. G. DuMont, H. F. Little and W. H. Thurlow be nominated to act for a term of three years. Motion seconded and carried.

Prof. Saunders moved that we recommend at the next meeting of the Society that the Board of Directors be increased to twelve. Motion seconded by Mr. Boyd and carried.

Motion presented by Mr. Boyd that a suitable resolution be prepared and placed on record expressing the deep loss sustained by the Society in the death of the late Ward Welsh, of Springfield, O. Motion carried and President Little appointed Mr. Boyd and Prof. Saunders to prepare the resolution, which follows:

The Directors of the American Peony Society record their profound regret in the death of Mr. Ward Welsh.

Mr. Welsh was an ardent lover of the peony and one of its largest cultivators. He was a valued Director in our Society, who had endeared himself to us individually by his frank and charming personality.

It is directed that this resolution be spread upon our minutes and a copy be sent to Mrs. Welsh.

JAMES BOYD,
A. P. SAUNDERS,
Committee.

The Secretary recommended that the commercial dues of \$10.00 be discontinued. Mr. Boyd moved that Sec. 5, Art. 1 of the by-laws appearing in BULLETIN No. 28, relating to commercial dues, be revoked and the following substitution made:

“That the annual dues of all members shall be \$3.00, and that in the membership list names of all advertisers shall be printed in heavy type, and names of growers, other than advertisers, can be printed in heavy type for \$5.00 per year.” Motion carried.

The cost and delay in publishing BULLETINS discussed at some length and motion made and seconded that the BULLETINS be placed in the Secretary's hands to secure the best possible price, workmanship and material to be considered. Motion carried with the provision that Mr. Boyd's approval be considered, as he was obliged to withdraw from the meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Brand, the American Peony Society, through its Directors, extended a vote of thanks to the University of Michigan for the splendid work accomplished in the peony trial gardens at Ann Arbor, Mich. Mr. Boyd was also tendered a vote

of thanks for the splendid work he has accomplished in compiling the manual.

The price of back BULLETINS was increased to 50 cents. BULLETIN No. 14 remains priced at \$1.00.

To create a closer fellowship and understanding of the privileges of membership, Mr. Brand moved that a program be prepared for the Boston show which was carried and following committee appointed:

W. H. Thurlow, West Newbury, Mass., Chairman.

Harry A. Norton, Ayers Cliff, Quebec, Canada.

Harry F. Little, Baldwinsville, N. Y.

As no further business presented for action of the Directors, motion for adjournment was favorably acted upon.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. CHRISTMAN,

Secretary.

SOME OF THE THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN GROWING FLOWERS

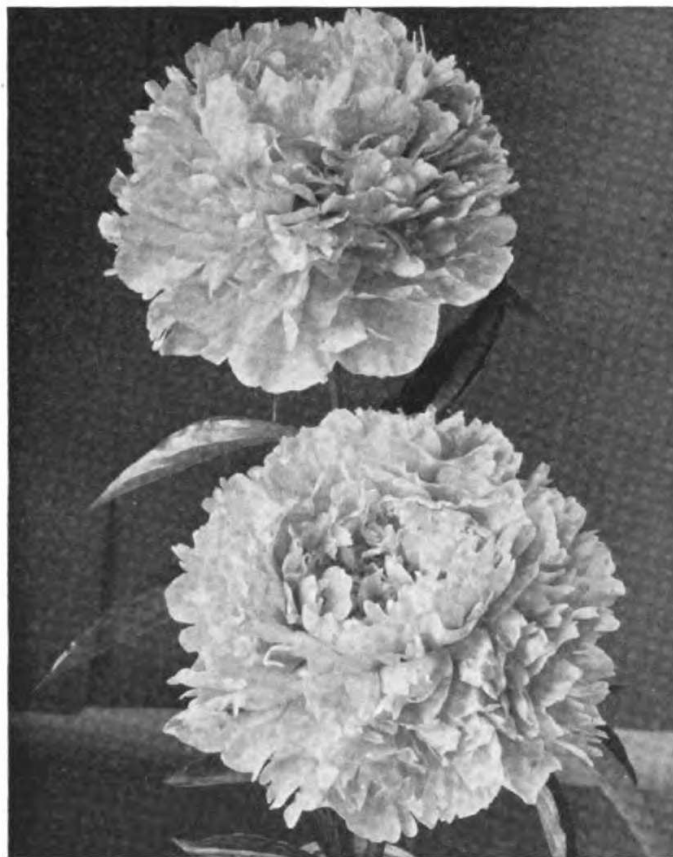
Can we growers of flowers regulate conditions? Almost all of what are called diseases of plants are nothing but the results of the interference with the natural working parts of the plants. I am disposed to carry this assertion so far as to intimate that even fungi are largely due to our inability to assist the plants in their physiological action. If we really knew plant physiology, we should be well on the road to stamp out much of the trouble.

The word "disease" means "not at ease," and when we either knowingly or unknowingly set up conditions in a garden which impair plant health we produce the "not at ease" conditions. Undoubtedly, then, the greatest thing to be considered in garden management is the prevention of conditions that lead to disease.

There seems to be little information on the control of plant diseases that can be used in a practical way on a small scale. To illustrate my ideas, imagine how long and fast one would have to talk to convince the average grower of flowers that he was a chemist, working in an expensive chemical laboratory. Yet undoubtedly he is a chemist.

When we commence to study the physiology of the leaf we are brought face to face with one of the most intricate mechanisms ever

devised. In fact, a leaf is the single place in nature where every essential is manufactured. When we realize that a leaf takes in sunshine, carbonic gases and water, and from these simple elements makes all the food for the animal life, purifies the air that we may live, and gives man all of his comforts and necessities, such as food,



Lillian Gumm

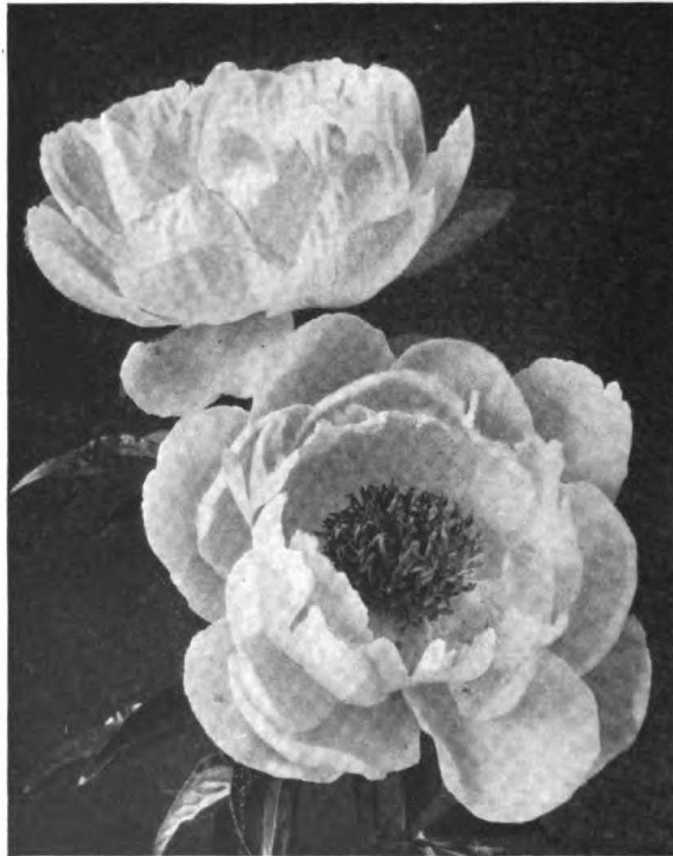
light, heat, clothing, etc., we are brought face to face with the most gigantic chemical laboratory in existence.

GARDENERS ARE CHEMISTS

We gardeners, then, are chemists, for the simple action of the leaf, which is a mere incident in this branch of photo-chemistry, is responsible for the flowers we grow or sell. We have a real problem before us, as we have three of the essentials of flower production somewhat under our control.

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Realizing how difficult it is to visualize this idea, we work in our gardens, which shows through the eye something of the problems we must solve. We have the soil which is a medium for the plants to grow in and we take it for granted that it contains all the essential mineral elements; the soil moisture, of which we have some knowledge, and sunlight.



Marie Jacquin

In all chemical experiments temperature is important. Any successful grower of flowers has learned by some method that temperature is important in his work. In fact, the better grower he is, the more positively he knows this. The next real essential is the correct amount of moisture in the air. There seems to be little known about this important and vital condition, or if such information is known, it has not been imparted to us in a practical form. The third vital condition is the amount of moisture at the roots.

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The fourth essential is sunlight, and without this nothing can be done. It is the only one of the four conditions which is not in a measure under our control. We are forced in the production of flowers to deal with four elements, which are chemical. We must strike a balance, if we have the ability to do that, we come out well. If we do not, we fail in varying degrees.

One reason I emphasize this is that all of us seem to be of the opinion that if we can put the correct amount of fertilizers in the soil for the various crops, our troubles are over. When we realize that less than three per cent. comes from water and air, through leaf action, it is plain that there are at least three other things to consider.

I am of the opinion that plants do not feed much in cloudy weather, and if we encounter a period of cloudy weather, we must bear this fact in mind and govern ourselves accordingly. By careful observations we can see that changes must be made if there is no sunlight. The moisture in the soil, the humidity of the air and the temperature are then to be changed if possible.

If your location is good, we can do this and save ourselves a great deal of trouble. The only real difficulty is, governing the amount of moisture in the soil. This is a different problem in every location, for there are no two soils alike.

I believe I am right when I contend that if we do not keep these four essentials adjusted, according to the amount of work done by the leaf in sunshine, we are setting up a condition which will exact a toll from us in the depreciation of the quality of our product. Unless we consider these four essentials, we are laying the foundation for mildew; various kinds of leaf spots, botyris and blight, such as on delphiniums and the different fungi.

I contend that if we know at the time that we are subjecting the plants to conditions unfavorable for their best growth, we are not only lowering their vitality, which will make them easy prey to these plant diseases, but we are actually producing conditions under which fungi and spores are produced. In other words, unfavorable conditions for the plants are favorable conditions for disease. There is another important item which must be considered in our work if we are to get the best results. That is the quality of air around the roots of the plant, not only is the humidity changed but amount of free oxygen, nitrogen and even hydrogen no longer are the same.

If you have mildew on delphiniums ask the assistance of any practical grower; he will advise spraying and placing the plants

where they will get more sunlight and air. Here is the truth about the matter: The mildew on delphiniums is a plant, and the conditions favorable for its multiplication are not the same as the conditions favorable for the growth of the delphinium. This is true of the snapdragon, violet, rose and other plants.

AIR DRAINAGE

Air drainage is an important factor. If we have conditions favorable for the plant, we set up conditions unfavorable for the growth of the so-called diseases of that plant. If you would get another angle of this idea, approach any good orchard man, mention air drainage to him and see him start off on an idea which orchardists consider important. This was new to me, for I had hardly considered that air could "drain" when it is outdoors, subject to air currents. I had thought it must be thoroughly mixed and "drained" at all times.

Minnesota grows the most perfect apples that have ever been produced. I am informed that an orchardist happened to put out an orchard on some hills where the air drainage was good, and the most perfect apple grown is the result. Imagine his look, if you had informed that grower years ago that he had good air drainage where he planted his orchard. But if the drainage of air is important in the production of good apples, we as flower growers must give the subject some thought if we would grow better flowers.

In closing, the thought I want to leave with you is that the grower of flowers is carrying on an intricate chemical experiment. If by accident or by intention the four or five essentials are made right, he does well; if not, he fails to do so well, to say the least.

A. J. WILKUS,
St. Paul

YELLOWNESS IN FLOWERS

The deep golden yellow of tulips, narcissi and of all other flowers, so far as we know, is due to plastid pigments. These yellow pigments are present as undissolved opaque particles within the cells and are so numerous that they have an area exposed to our view which, for practical purposes, is equivalent to that of the petals themselves. It is like dusting a white flower with intense yellow powder, except that in the case of the true yellow flower the pigment is actually within the cells of the petals.

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There is another yellow, however, the flavone or flavonol yellow. This is a weak, washed out or dilute yellow, due to the fact that the yellow shade is weak to begin with as well as only a little being present. It is in solution in the cell sap and not undissolved as the plastid yellow is. It stands in the same relation to plastid yellow as a yellow stain does to a yellow paint. In fact many so-called whites have traces of this dilute washed out yellow.

Some yellow flowers have both, but owe their color to the value of the plastid (pansy). I do not find any data on the cause of the beautiful yellow of some yellow roses. The so-called yellow albiflora peonies are presumably only of the flavonol or flavone types. If any plastid yellow exists in significant amounts in peony petals, the information to this effect has not been available to me. The systematic botanists should clear up this point. It would be interesting to know what *P. Lutea* possesses. Bronze, wine and orange in some dahlias are due to the mixture of plastids and the intense dark colored stains called anthocyanins. The anthocyanins are usually in solution and when present alone produce the pinks, reds, magentas, blues and purples. Any flavone or flavonol yellow present has no appreciable effect to speak of. The lack of any bronzes in Chinese peonies also speaks against the existence of plastid or pure pigmentary yellow.

In writing the above I have taken as best as I could the opinions of numerous authorities and drawn certain inferences as to peonies. I doubt if these inferences be in error, but if they need modification, this communication will have at least served in bringing out facts which so far as I am aware are either hidden or as yet undiscovered.

The securing of a yellow peony of merit is not a hopeless task, although it is apparently a fruitless one by present methods of attack. I would say that the chances are perhaps better than for securing a green peony. Even this is possible and it will be recalled that we have a green rose. The plastid yellow peony would be a desirable addition. A flavonol or flavone yellow peony would also be desirable if it were intense enough, but so far we have no proof of such a yellow in any flower. Chemists who work with colors are somewhat skeptical. However, there are all sorts of anomalies in work with colors, and it cannot be positively predicted that the flavonols will not work. The appearance of pure dye, of its solutions in water and of both cotton and of wool when dyed with it are sometimes vastly different. It may be stated therefore that the chances

are merely infinitely great against the securing of a good flavonol colored peony, as well as presumably the same for a plastid yellow peony. The time is ripe for other methods of attack, than those of cross-breeding with yellow tree peonies.

E. W. SCHWARTZE,
Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh

A PARTIAL ANALYSIS OF THE 1925 SYMPOSIUM

I do not remember that I have read anything in criticism of the results of the latest Symposium of the American Peony Society except in the case of individual varieties. An analysis of the ratings in this Symposium presents some interesting features even to one who, like myself, is not an expert grower. The results of this Symposium, however, are not given in sufficient detail to permit more than a superficial analysis but even this is worth while.

Not much can be said of the varieties voted on for the first time except that the ratings given are uniformly higher than they should be, showing the natural tendency to exaggerate the merits of a variety because it is new. It would be folly to claim that many of the new varieties are not excellent but the fact that many varieties in the 1921 Symposium do not show as well in the 1925 Symposium by from one to eleven points proves that the first rating of a variety is anything but reliable.

In this analysis only the varieties where marked changes in their rating occurred, will be discussed. I have arbitrarily decided that unless the rating of a variety has been changed four or more points no attempt to discuss its merits or demerits will be made. I realize that this will eliminate some varieties worthy of discussion but a limit has to be set somewhere and I have selected a four point change as the minimum.

The first variety that attracts my attention is *Alba Sulfurea*. This variety jumped from 65 with 17 voting to 76 with 5 voting. An eleven point increase is remarkable and I am inclined to believe is not justified in this case. *Alba Sulfurea* is a good cut flower variety, not particularly beautiful, not very large as a general rule, and its cream-white center is its redeeming feature. An increase to about 72 would have been more in keeping with the merits of this variety.

Alfred De Musset went up five points with only six voting. The increase in its rating was undoubtedly justified as this variety cer-

tainly is a beautiful peony. I cannot understand, however, why only six votes were cast as this variety should be more widely distributed.

Amanda Yale seems to be coming into its own. Its new rating of 82, a four point jump, is nearer its true worth, to my way of thinking. A white variety has to show exceptional value, as a rule, to obtain any marked increase in its rating and this is one that has done this. I doubt, however, whether there ever will be a further increase.

A. P. Saunders suffered a reverse of five points with twelve voting. This was to be expected as, even though this is a beautiful variety, a rating in the nineties is reserved for varieties of superlative quality only and *A. P. Saunders* does not quite answer this requirement. I believe that it will eventually go back to about 88, however.

The advance of five points of *Ben Franklin*, with fifteen voting, is personally pleasing to me as I have always thought this variety deserved a higher rating than 76. While not as large as might be desired, its color and habit of growth are mighty good and its general characteristics excellent.

Bertrade, apparently, was not very well known at the time of the 1921 Symposium as its rating of 81 was lower than it deserved. This low rating also may have been caused by the fact that it is rather slow at establishing itself so had not had time to show its true worth at that time. I think its present rating of 76 is about all that it deserves.

Brand's Magnificent dropped five points to 82. I confess that, had I been voting on this variety, I should not have given it more than 80 as I dislike, very much, the bluish cast in its color. The form and general excellent growing habits are all that keep it from the 70 class.

In my garden *Bunch of Perfume* does not do very well. However, I have only one plant of this variety and as this plant is seven years old it may not be doing itself justice. With me it is a small red of no particular fragrance. I cannot believe it deserving of a higher rating than 75.

I believe that *Cavalleria Rusticana* should have dropped back to 70 instead of to 73. With me the blooms are small and it is a very erratic bloomer. It is all very well to say that reds are needed but that does not justify a rating above 70 just because it is a red.

Chas. Sedgwick Minot took a jump which is hard to explain, although fewer voted on it in 1925 than in 1921. I cannot be made to

believe that this variety is worthy of the same rating as *Alfred De Musset* or *Welcome Guest*. 75 would have been a generous mark for it.

I know nothing about *Clara Barton*, never having seen this variety in the garden or the show room.

To my mind, one of the most beautiful peonies in existence is *Cornelia Shaylor*. I simply cannot agree that it deserves a lower rating than 95 as it has wonderful color, size, and ideal growing habits. I feel sure that it will go higher in some future symposium.

It is hard to say just what happened to *Daybreak*. While this variety is not of any particular value I scarcely believe it deserves the slam it got. 72 or 73 would have been nearer its worth.

Edmond About is a stranger to me so no comments are offered.

Faribault dropped as was to be expected. The washed-out color of this variety marks it for a low rating and I expect to see it go as low as 75.

Francois Rousseau took a well deserved jump of nine points. It always was a mystery to me why *Eugene Bigot* rated a mark of 83 while *Francois Rousseau*, its counterpart, stood ten points lower. I believe that this variety is even better than *Eugene Bigot* by at least three points and expect, some day, to see it so rated.

Gisele dropped five points with but six voting. This is a variety that is very erratic in its behavior. It is very slow growing and when it does get its growth cannot be relied on to bloom regularly. Its drop was undoubtedly justified.

In spite of the increase in rating given *Golden Wedding*, it is still rated so low as to crowd it out from further consideration.

Graziella came up four points to a rating of 74 with five voting. I wonder at the low rating of this variety yet do not believe I could put up much of an argument for its further increase.

Good deep pinks are scarce. *H. A. Hagen* is a fine deep pink and well deserves its five point jump. It has many desirable characteristics in addition to its color and should go to 85, at least. The older varieties have to show real merit to get an increased rating so the increase granted this variety is all the more gratifying.

James R. Mann is one of my favorites so I am not particularly pleased to see it drop nine points. I think the principal trouble is that it was rated unreasonably high in the 1921 Symposium and suffered because of this fact in this Symposium. 89 or 90 would be about its true rating.

Jenny Lind is a good cut-flower for commercial flower growers and has a sufficient number of good points to justify its rating of 78 although I doubt if it is taken seriously by any grower of peonies. If the truth were told, there are too many light pinks with a rating round 78. I will not go so far as to say that *Jenny Lind* could be obliterated without causing sorrow to many but I do not look for any further increase in its popularity.

To my way of thinking the ratings of the next two varieties, *Lady Beresford* and *Lady Carrington*, should be reversed. *Lady Carrington* is more beautiful, flowers more freely and in every way is more desirable than *Lady Beresford*. The voting indicates that *Lady Carrington* has not been as widely distributed as *Lady Beresford* and this may account for the 1925 vote.

La Fiancee (Lem.) evidently had one of its bad seasons while the voting for the 1925 Symposium was in progress. This erratic variety, while probably not deserving its old rating of 86, surely did not deserve the slashing it got. However, there are so many good whites that are reliable bloomers that an erratic bloomer deserves but scant consideration.

As a novelty *Little Sweetheart* very likely deserves its increase of five points. Six voting in this Symposium against eighteen in the 1921 Symposium indicates that this variety may have gotten into the hands of its friends and is being treated over-generously.

I know nothing about *Mme. Breon*.

When a variety jumps ten points as did *Mme. Emile Dupraz*, somebody slipped. The answer is that in the 1921 Symposium the votes were probably cast for the white variety of this name and not for the true rose colored peony. I think its rating of 84 might have been a little higher had it not been for the natural aversion of all voting to increase it too much at one time. May go as high as 87 eventually.

Mme. Fould must have enjoyed a wet season the year the 1925 Symposium was held. Had it bloomed during a dry hot spell its blasted buds certainly would have prevented any increase in its rating. Mention is made of this variety simply because of its increase of five points and not because it deserves any particular consideration.

The fact that *Mme. Gaudichau* is a shy bloomer and a poor grower with many of us, probably accounts for its loss of six points. I should like to be the one, however, who introduces a large, profuse

bloomer of its color. Had *Mons. M. Cahuzac* been voted on in this symposium I am afraid it would have suffered an equal decline.

Had it not been for the yellow in its make-up, *Mme. Guyot* would never have been rated at 84 as it was in the 1921 Symposium. I have never yet seen a bloom of this variety that was fit to be displayed.

I do not believe that *Mme. Joanne Sallier* got a square deal in this Symposium. Only six votes were cast and, while I do not know where the voters were located, I believe there must have been something wrong about the location, soil or condition of the plants that prevented a fair judgment of its quality.

It seems strange that any variety whose buds are inclined to burst and ruin the bloom, as do those of *Mme. Loise Mere*, should be rated above its 1921 standing of 72. I will grant that when it does open right it is very good but it is so uncertain in its actions that I do not believe it deserved any increase.

Practically all of the rose-pink varieties voted on in the 1925 Symposium received an increase in their rating and *Mme. Manchot* ran true to this rule. It undoubtedly deserved this increase as a well-grown bloom of this variety is very beautiful. Its lateness, together with its beauty, ought to make it a good cut-flower.

It is hard for me to understand how a variety at least twenty years old could have been rated at 81 in the 1921 Symposium and only four years later find its place alongside of *Frances Shaylor* as does *Marchioness of Lansdowne*. I do not believe any increase in its rating was justified.

Three of Millet's varieties were voted on in the 1925 Symposium; two of the three suffered a reverse of five and six points while one remained stationary. It scarcely seems just to increase the rating of *Marchioness of Lansdowne* from 81 to 86 and to decrease that of *Marguerite Gaudichau* from 86 to 81 as these two varieties are, to me, of about equal value. I am willing to grant that both should be rated at 81 but cannot agree that *Marchioness of Lansdowne* is five points better than *Marguerite Gaudichau*.

I feel just like cussing when I think of what was done to *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* in the 1925 Symposium. To take three points away from this variety is inexcusable. If the plant were a little less dwarf I should want to rate it at 98 at least and I certainly do not believe its dwarf growing habits justify a penalty of more than one or two points at the outside. It is likely that many voting on this variety based their judgment on blooms from immature plants.

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I do not remember ever having seen *Mons. Barral* either in the garden or in the show room so am in no position to offer any comment.

The late Mr. Henry Cooper, by his persistency, forced *Mons. Chas. Leveque* to the front. Its increase of four points is well justified as this variety is very beautiful and altogether desirable. One does not kick when he has to furnish support for the blossoms.

Mrs. Edward Harding flashed into the public eye at the Cleveland Show in 1918 and was received with enthusiasm. It shortly afterward all but lost its standing due to too small and too frequent division and it is only recently that this variety has had the opportunity to show its true worth. It is a variety of very great beauty and well deserves its rating of 93. This rating, however, is as high as it should be as it is not a competitor with *Le Cygne* for highest honors.

No comment is offered on *Multiflora* as I am not familiar with this variety nor do I remember ever seeing *Odette*.

At about the time that *Pallas* suffered a four point decline in its rating, one of the largest growers in the country discovered that it "deserved a rating of 90 or more" basing his statement on its behavior during the 1927 season. It is quite evident that *Pallas* is not widely distributed and did not receive the consideration due it. Personally I think its old rating of 86 should have been left alone.

In the 1921 Symposium *Pasteur* evidently suffered from the fact that many of those voting had diseased stock. With proper propagation this unfortunate condition was remedied and, with clean stock, it received a four point increase, which it certainly deserved.

I do not take seriously the four point increase granted *Purpurea Superba*. This increase merely serves to take this variety out of the class of undesirables. There is but little that can be said for it except that it is probably worth propagating in a small way.

Queen Victoria certainly deserved its jump into the 70 class, if for no more than its wonderful keeping qualities. A variety as old as this one, still grown extensively for cut flowers, certainly is deserving of tender treatment. Had the commercial cut-flower growers voted on this variety I have no doubt its rating would have been much higher.

Rosy Dawn is a stranger to me so no criticism is offered.

Many flower lovers do not like the color of *Ruy Blas* so its five point increase comes more or less as a surprise. I do not remember seeing this variety in more than one or two plantings in this vicinity. Personally I see nothing about it to rave over.

Practically all of Shaylor's originations suffered a loss in this Symposium and *Secretary Fewkes* was no exception. Much as I admire all of Shaylor's peonies I am content, as a general rule, to acknowledge that the ratings in the 1925 Symposium more truly represent the true worth of these varieties than did those on the 1921 Symposium. I am satisfied that a rating of 86 is about right for *Secretary Fewkes*.

More than sixty years ago, the peony *Souv. De Gaspard Calot* was originated by Calot. In 1921 this fifty-six year old peony was given a rating of 74 and four years later this rating was increased by five points. Strange, isn't it! The voting would indicate that this variety was more widely distributed in 1921 than in 1925 but I do think this is so. I really think that peony lovers will eventually become reconciled to its new rating.

My knowledge of *Sully Prudhomme* is so vague I do not dare to comment on its qualifications. I note, however, that but few voted on it.

Thurlow's originations along with those of Shaylor, suffered a setback in nearly every case voted on. This should, in no way, be construed as a reflection on the uniformly high grade of all of these varieties but should bring about a realization that the grading of a few enthusiasts was unreasonably high. *Thos. C. Thurlow*, with its new rating of 91 still is among the elect and is there from exceptional merit.

If *Felix Crousse* deserves a rating of 84, *Victor Hugo* deserves an equally high one. Were it not for the color of the blooms, my garden specimens of these varieties would not deserve a rating of more than 75 as the blooms are small, the growth of the plants is poor, and they are both only fairly satisfactory. As I have seen many beautiful blooms of both of these varieties I am convinced that there is something the matter with my soil, it probably being too light for these varieties.

I do not remember ever seeing a bloom of *Virgo Maria* so have nothing to say about it.

What a fine lot of reds Brand has produced! By no means the least valuable is *Winnifred Domme*. Its five point increase was well justified and I look for it to go to 85 eventually. As a landscape peony it is hard to beat.

Comparatively few of the Japanese type peonies were voted on in the 1921 Symposium. I suppose this is explained by the lack of interest in this type at that time. The interest in this type has in-

creased by leaps and bounds so that, at the present time, a rating for a Jap means a lot more than it did in 1921. For this reason, all of the increases in the 1925 Symposium are more interesting than they otherwise would have been.

Altar Candles is the first of the Japs that was granted an increase of five points. I think that no one can complain at this increase when this variety is compared with the other Japs. It must be borne in mind that a rating of 80 as a Jap does not mean that the variety is equally as valuable as a double peony of the same rating.

Attraction jumped seven points to 82 and *Flashlight* took a six point jump to the same rating. Both of these Japs are attractive in the garden but not of much value in the show room. As more Japs are put on the market I look to see both of these varieties drop back two or three points as they are where they are solely because of the scarcity of good Japs.

Gypsy seems to be in many of the winning displays of Japs at all of the shows. It holds its color better than *Attraction*. I do not think, however, that its color is as good as that of *Attraction* so am content to agree to the two point difference in the rating of these two varieties.

The main bloom of *Petite Renee* is a true anemone type bloom while the laterals are of the Japanese type. Personally I do not like its magenta shade but I suppose it deserves a rating of 76.

I do not understand why *White Lady* is not classed as a single variety. All of the blooms of this variety I have ever seen were single. It is a beautiful peony and as a single certainly deserves a high rating. *White Swan* is also a single and not a Jap if the blooms I have seen were true to name. With its combination of white, yellow and green it is very attractive and deserves its rating of 85. I cannot see enough difference, however, between *White Lady* and *White Swan* to justify a difference of five points in their ratings.

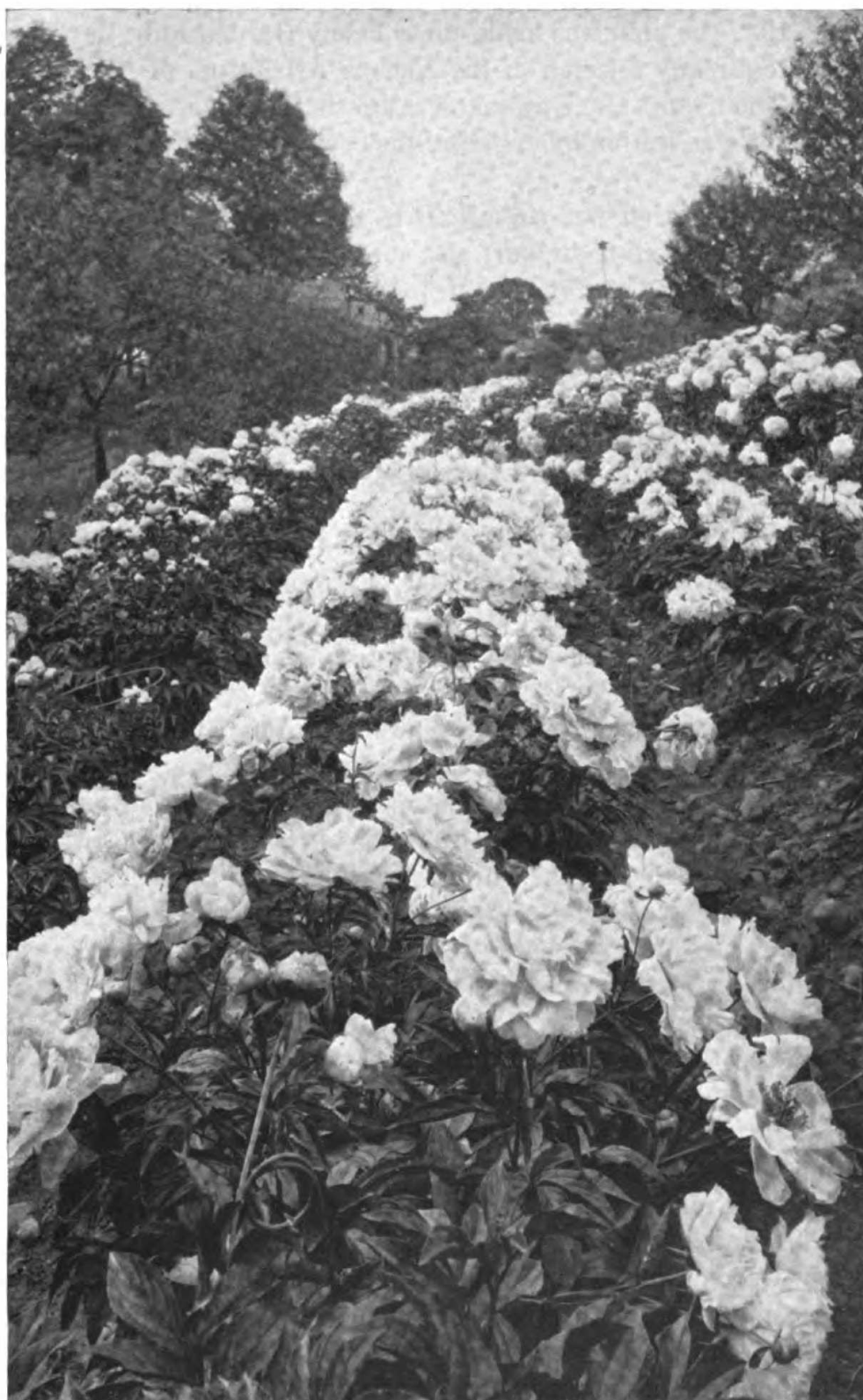
I shall have to confess that I have paid but little attention to the singles and know enough only about one or two to justify any comments. *Le Jour*, as grown in the originator's garden, is very pretty and, as a single, deserves its rating of 86. *Wild Rose* (Kelway) is also a very pretty single pink resembling our own wild rose. The bloom is comparatively small and I look to see it drop in its rating as more attention is paid to the development of the single varieties.

Now friends and fellow members of the American Peony Society, get out your six shooters and go after me. If you do not believe my judgment is correct even on any one variety, write to Mr. Christman and tell him about it and I am sure he will be mighty glad to print your letter in some future bulletin. It only takes a few minutes and a two cent stamp to do this. Even a word or two from each of the members of the Society would fill up several good sized bulletins and would make mighty interesting reading. I am not vain enough to believe that my article will be entertaining enough to call forth any particular applause but I do have hopes that it may urge others to write. I have criticised previous bulletins so am trying to do what I can to furnish material for better ones and I strongly urge other members to do the same.

It is not right to expect the commercial growers of peonies to furnish all of the articles for the Bulletins. Their connection with the peony is a business proposition and they have enough to do in propagating and selling without bothering about writing articles. It is up to the rank and file to do the writing and, perchance, we may have the good luck to get an occasional article from an expert. We will never get anywhere if we sit back and wait for the other fellow to do the writing. I have no doubt that many of my remarks will be questioned. Don't say to yourself, "I am not sure I agree with the statement about such and such a variety" and then forget all about it. Make a note of it and next Spring take special notice of the variety in question. Then take a pen and tell Mr. Christman wherein you disagree with me, if you do. I shall not feel a bit peeved if my judgment in every case is shown to be poor for I shall have the satisfaction of knowing that I made you write.

There is no excuse for a lack of articles for the Bulletin. Everyone who grows even a dozen peony plants can find something interesting to write about them. We in the East are interested in knowing how the different varieties grow in the West, Northwest, South, etc., and, of course, people in these localities want to know how they grow in the East. The possibilities of interesting articles are infinite. *Wake up, use your eyes and write.*

W. C. OTIS.



Georgiana Shaylor, a splendid landscape variety.

PEONY TEST GARDEN AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.

In 1922 the plan was made for a Peony Garden to be developed on a site already selected in the Nichols Arboretum of the University of Michigan. Dr. Upjohn, of Augusta, Mich., offered to secure plants for a collection by enlisting the cooperation of leading peony growers.

The proposition was submitted to the Board of Regents of the University requesting support and specifically

- (1) appropriation for lay-out, preparing of ground, and suitable fencing of the site
- (2) definite yearly appropriation for maintenance.

The Board acted promptly and generously in the matter.

Work was begun right away and by the fall of 1923 the garden was ready for planting and thoroughly fenced. This first planting consisted of generous contributions of roots from Mr. Brand of Faribault, Minn. Mr. Shaw, of Akron, Ohio, Messrs. Thurlow of the Cherry Hill Nurseries, and Dr. Upjohn. Later contributions from these same gentlemen and from Mr. Bonnewitz have brought the number of varieties now planted to about two hundred and eighty.

The garden was opened to the public in June 1927.

In the planting an attempt has been made to group the varieties according to season in three divisions—early, midseason, and late, each division being arranged according to color beginning with the whites through the cream whites, flesh, pinks to reds.

Space for specimens of each variety is provided in the beds which are in three rows separated by eight foot grass walks each bed allowing for fifteen varieties.

At each corner of each bed are concrete markers showing the number of the bed to correspond with the numbers shown in the identification chart. The garden is not disfigured by any labels, and the usual label troubles are obviated by providing each visitor with a copy of this chart.

There is room provided for about four hundred varieties.

The project when completed will include another section of the Peony Garden where landscape varieties will be planted in groups and combinations with other garden plants to show their effect in garden design. This section is a continuation of the site of the collection and should be ready for planting in 1929.

AUBREY TEALDI,

Director

FERTILIZING PEONIES

I have greatly enjoyed Mr. Otis's fine article in Bulletin 32. I have long been interested in the question of fertilizing peonies without animal manure. I have tried some experiments, one of which seems very successful, judging by the fine flowers, and still more healthy foliage. Several horticulturists in this locality have expressed interest in the following. It is, however, only suited to small plantings.

Yearly I have a small piece of land marked off and covered with ashes from the regular bonfire. The ashes are spread as much as three inches thick and ploughed under. They are ashes of all sorts of vegetable matter and are mixed with charcoal soot and burned earth. This ploughed piece of land is leveled up and sowed to *Melilotus Indica* (little sweet clover). It makes a wonderful growth, some stems three feet high. In about six months, just before blooming, it is mowed, watered and ploughed under. After five or six weeks of this rotting, it is dug eight to ten inches deep, and thrown up in a big pile. Another four or five weeks and it is ready to use. It feels like velvet, and is, I think, very full of humus and nitrogen.

I use it as required for my peonies: thirty inches deep for new plants, and two inches over some old ones, to replace two inches of old top soil. This evidently helps old plants that have shown wilt or any feebleness. I quite agree that sick plants should go to the "dump," only I would say a hot fire! If *Melilotus Indica* is not suited to a cold climate, I should think any green manure could be treated in the same way. The points to observe are, to have the green matter thoroughly rotted, and to use a plant which draws nitrogen to itself.

MRS. FRANCIS H. McCULLAGH

ROSE BUGS

Here in California we have not the "rose bug" of the East. (I touch wood!). "Constant cultivation" and a "dust mulch" are necessary in California to preserve moisture in the soil. Mr. Otis says this is the practice with the growers he visited. He also says "none of them had ever been bothered with rose-bugs."

I suspect a direct connection between these statements. I think the hoe, or fork, that kills the weeds, and loosens the soil, destroys

the eggs of the pest. Query? I hope some one will answer this.

MRS. F. H. McCULLAGH,
Los Gatos, Cal.

LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF

I have occasionally seen inquiries in the BULLETINS as to the name "Lady Alexandra Duff." Possibly some one may be interested in the following.

Lady Alexandra Duff was the daughter of Princess Louise of Wales, and the Duke of Fife, whose family name was Duff. She is the granddaughter of Edward VII of England, and was named "Alexandra" for her beautiful grandmother, Queen Alexandra.

She was born in 1891, and was a child of eleven years when Kelway named his famous peony. She is now "Princess Arthur of Connaught, sister-in-law of the well-loved "Princess Pat." It is very incorrect to call the peony "Lady Duff"; still worse Alexander!

MRS. F. H. McCULLAGH,
Los Gatos, Cal.

QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

It is the purpose of this department to present questions and answers that arise covering various phases of peony growing and handling. We are presenting a number of questions from our members seeking information, and while a number of these queries are not new, they will furnish food for thought. Questions and answers will have to be brief. New theories are being constantly developed and worked out, that are in advance of existing practices in many respects, and with the desire of attaining these opinions and theories we present the following questions:

- (1) Why is it not practical to replant peonies in the same location without removing and replacing soil?
- (2) What is there in the growth of peony roots that prevents them from being grown again in the same place without a lapse of five or six years?
- (3) We know what constitutes a rating of ten, but what goes to make up a rating of eight or nine?
- (4) What is it that Rosa Bonheur lacks, for instance, that it has a rating of nine only?
- (5) Why isn't it possible to have a description of a peony so written up that it will be apparent what the variety lacks to keep it from rating ten?

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- (6) Have you discovered any definite remedy or effective treatment for eel worm?
- (7) Have you experienced any trouble with rose bugs on your peonies? If so, what methods of elimination have you practiced?
- (8) Is the color of peonies greatly affected by soil conditions?
- (9) Will the checking of growth by heavy mulch materially affect the quality of bloom?
- (10) How long can peony bloom be held back in the spring by mulching?
- (11) When is the proper time to apply mulch for the purpose of holding back growth in the spring?
- (12) Would you like this department continued?

We hope to get a generous response to these dozen questions so we can present replies in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

It is proposed in this department to provide an opportunity for all growers to register the names of their new varieties which are being put in the market. The Society takes no responsibility as to the quality of the varieties registered here. A system by which new varieties can be officially rated and approved by the Society has been established and it is hoped that the difficulties inherent in dealing with the peony can be overcome.

Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Ill., registers the following new Japanese seedling.

Nippon Beauty. (Edw. Auten, Jr., 1927.) A deep red Jap, practically free from any objectionable cast. The petals, petaloids and tips of carpels all the same shade. Tips of petaloids flushed and edged yellow. Tips sharply incurved, giving an especial finish to the flower. This is the variety that won the Brand Peony Farms special \$100 prize for a new Japanese variety of special merit and worthy of introduction.

Mr. H. P. Sass, of Washington, Neb., registers the following variety.

GRACE BATSON (Sass 1927.) Large flowers of full rose type on tall, strong stem. Color, medium pink. Midseason to late.

Mr. A. M. Brand, of Faribault, Minn., wishes to register the following names of varieties he will introduce in 1928. Descriptions of each will be supplied later. *President Lincoln, President Coolidge, Gen. Robert E. Lee, Oliver F. Brand.*

TRANSPLANTING PEONIES

The question of how long a peony can stand without transplanting is answered in the following news item. With some attention, one can safely say they will last a lifetime. It would be interesting to know the name of this variety. Perhaps some of our Illinois members who have seen it can tell us.

136-YEAR-OLD PEONY IS TRANSPLANTED

For 136 years a peony in Edwardsville, Ill., has thrived and borne its crimson blossoms. It was transplanted to the home of its fifth owner, four generations removed from the original planter.

George F. J. Barnsback, one of the first white settlers in the vicinity of Edwardsville, in 1790 sent to his home in Germany for the plant. Upon his death it was turned over to his son, John Barnsback. At his death it was transferred to John Barnsback's daughter, Mrs. George Shaffer.

When Mrs. Shaffer, several years ago, removed to Phoenix, Ariz., she turned the peony over to her brother, W. W. Barnsback, and it continued to thrive in the Barnsback yard until after his death. The house was sold recently, and the aged plant was transferred to the yard of Mrs. C. H. Stilman, daughter of W. W. Barnsback and wife of the Edwardsville postmaster.

This is undoubtedly old *Officinalis rubra* as the earliest *Chinensis* variety, according to the findings of the old nomenclature committee, is *Fragrans* which was introduced from China in 1805.

LITTLE

Mr. Nathaniel Bacon, of Talcott, West Virginia, reports that he has an old plant of *Officinalis rubra* that has stood in the same location for 129 years.—*Editor*.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We have received many compliments on the appearance of the last Bulletin. Many have expressed themselves as especially pleased with the illustrations. It is our desire to have illustrations of peony plantings showing landscape effects; possibilities to be secured by judicious planting, either in massed or group effects, also individual planting and specimen bloom. If any of our members

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have photographs from which desirable cuts can be obtained, we will appreciate your sending them in to this office. I am hopeful that many splendid pictures may be taken this coming season from which can be selected a large number for this purpose. Write your name and address, as well as the name of variety or varieties, if known, with any comments you may wish to make, on the back of the photograph. We will return all such photos, if desired, after they have served our purpose. Let us have your criticisms for the betterment of the Bulletin.

We had a substantial increase in new members last year over the former season. From present prospects we feel that we will make a still further gain this year. Through the efforts of Mr. Sam Carpenter, of Oswego, Kans., a number of new members were added to our membership roll. Several others also added one or more members. This is the spirit I would like to instil in each member. May I suggest this slogan?—"I will add a new member this year." You surely have a friend who is deeply interested in peonies who is not now a member. The privilege of securing the new peony manual, now in preparation, is going to be worth a great deal, I can assure you; and members of the Society will have preference over others in securing this splendid work, both in cost and priority in orders. I am counting on your support.

Since the Directors' meeting we have received advice that Mr. Thurlow has completed arrangements for the 1928 annual peony show to be held in Boston, Mass., in connection with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Exhibition, June 22 to 24 inclusive. This early selection of dates will enable each member to prepare accordingly to make this exhibition one of the best.

The matter of regional shows will doubtless be of much interest to our members, and we hope to have a report from the Regional Show Committee for our next Bulletin, showing the progress they have made in establishing a definite plan for procedure.

The question of a complete check list of peonies has been satisfactorily arranged by the Directors and this office will soon have a list of all peonies now in commerce, as a basis for checking names and avoiding undesirable duplication. The Department of Registration should be utilized more freely by originators, in fact we urge that all new originations with full descriptions, be registered. It should be to the advantage of every grower to make full use of this service that has been established in the Bulletin.

Your particular attention is called to report of the Directors wherein the commercial dues of members were considered. Owing to the fact that the response for commercial dues had not generally met with approval, the dues have been reduced to \$5.00 per year instead of \$10.00. Any advertiser in the Bulletin will appear in heavy type in the membership list. Others desiring that privilege may remit \$5.00 to the Secretary. This should build up our advertising considerably, as a one-inch advertisement in the Bulletin only costs \$5.00 and also entitles you to special listing in the membership record. As membership list appears in this issue, we will make a special listing in future Bulletins of any additions to this list.

A question and answer department has long been one of my thoughts for bettering the Bulletin. We are inaugurating such a department in this issue and trust that the response may be generous, and that this feature will prove intensely interesting. Let us have your replies on the questions presented.

We want to again emphasize the fact that **MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE**. A number of our members have already complied and sent in their dues for 1928. Don't wait for a statement from the Secretary.

With reference to the trial gardens at Arlington Farm, we wish to acknowledge receipt from the Rolandhurst Nursery, Hebron, Md., one root of each of the following varieties: President Wilson, Thos. S. Thurlow, Lady Alexandra Duff, Therese, Solange, Mme. Jules Dessert, Mons. Martin Cahuzac and Tourangelle. From the Walnut Hill Stock Farm, Talcott, Va., one each of Le Cygne, Kelway's Glorious, Therese, Solange, Gismonda and Lady Iris. These splendid contributions will add materially to the planting and we hope this generous response may be emulated by many other growers this coming fall. In a report from Mr. D. Victor Lumsden, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C., he stated that considerable progress has been made with the work in connection with test gardens. All varieties have been weeded out that have a lower rating than 8. The balance were divided and transplanted to a new location far superior to where the old roots grew. In addition to establishing the new garden, tests have been started to determine the effect upon roots planted at various depths and in various types of soil. They are also propagating roots with the idea of conducting additional experiments which will be of value to all persons interested in peonies.

We have mentioned in a former Bulletin the matter of correct labeling of your plants. There are a number of very good labels on the market for this purpose. Send to the Aquiproof Products Company, 2172 East 76th St., Cleveland, Ohio, for a sample of a most satisfactory label.

Of the peony supports we have seen, the ones manufactured by the Adams Co., Dubuque, Iowa, rank among the best. They are sturdy and most effective. They can be used to advantage with a great variety of plants.

A splendid calendar has been received from the Tingle Printing Co., Pittsville, Maryland, and any one desiring to send out an appropriate calendar in colors, featuring peonies, will do well to write them for particulars.

We wish to call attention to the colored pictures of peonies advertised in this issue by L. Van Leeuwen & Son. While it is very difficult to get absolutely accurate color prints of peonies, we have seen this set and think they will fill a long felt need. We feel assured, with the progress already made, that it will soon be possible to secure colored prints of any variety of peony that will faithfully portray their real beauty.

A rather amusing incident illustrating how names of peonies may be considerably confused is summed up in the following true episode. A peony admirer, whose knowledge of peony names was somewhat vague, was a great admirer of the variety Pierre Dessert. As was his custom, he visited one of the largest peony plantings in the country each season. After reflecting upon their beauty in silent meditation for a considerable period of time he approached the proprietor with this comment: "Mr. B. your fields of peonies are very beautiful, but there is one variety I do not see that I think is the finest of them all." Upon being asked the name of the variety he promptly and proudly answered, "pyorrhoea desert."

THE FARR MEMORIAL MEDAL

Among those who have labored to make the peony more widely known and appreciated by the American gardening public there is no one who better merits the gratitude of peony growers and peony lovers than Bertrand H. Farr. He was the one of the first to gather together a representative collection of peonies including both European and American varieties. Beginning as an amateur in a very

small way he gradually raised himself through his enthusiasm and devotion to being the foremost authority on the peony in this country and the possessor of the greatest collection of peonies that had anywhere existed up to that time.

The American Peony Society owes him a peculiar debt of gratitude, for in the arduous work on nomenclature which was carried on in the fields at Cornell University in the years preceding 1912, Mr. Farr unselfishly devoted his time, his energy, and his intelligence to bringing the results of that work as near perfection as was humanly possible. We are too apt to forget nowadays that there was a time, and not so far back, when it was impossible to count on getting peonies true to name from any source in this country; and, worse than that, impossible to ascertain whether one's own plants were true or not. For the change that has taken place in the last fifteen years Mr. Farr is entitled to most of the credit.

He was for eight years (1909-1916) President of the Society and from 1917 until his death in 1924 he was continuously on the Board of Directors. He served the Society well, and made lasting friendships with those who were associated with him.

It is fitting that the American Peony Society should perpetuate Mr. Farr's memory in some tangible form, and it has been decided to create a Farr Memorial Medal to be awarded for some exhibit of distinction at our exhibitions, or in such other ways as may seem best.

Your help is asked towards the realization of this project. A maximum limit for individual contributions has been set at \$5.00 but smaller sums will be gratefully received, and a form is appended hereto which may be detached and sent with your check to the Secretary of the Society, Mr. W. F. Christman, Robbinsdale, Minnesota.

A. P. SAUNDERS
JAMES BOYD
A. M. BRAND
Committee

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I enclose herewith my check (or money order) for \$ as a
contribution to the Farr Memorial Medal.
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