

# BULLETIN OF PEONY NEWS

No. 12

Edited by the Secretary of the Society  
A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.



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# Officers of the Society

## *President*

LEE R. BONNEWITZ.....Van Wert, Ohio

## *Vice President*

A. H. FEWKES .....Newton Highlands, Mass.

## *Secretary*

A. P. SAUNDERS.....Clinton, N. Y.

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## *Directors*

B. H. FARR.....Wyomissing, Pa.

R. T. BROWN.....Queens, Long Island, N. Y.

T. A. HAVEMEYER (Resigned).....Glen Head, N. Y.

# Conditions of Membership

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 on.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive at once the publications of the Society, so far as they are available.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, but applicants for membership are required to accompany their application, which should be sent to the Treasurer, by a payment of \$5.00 of which \$2.00 is an initiation fee and \$3.00 a payment for their first year's dues. When the application is made before January of any year, the \$3.00 is considered as applying to the current year—June to June—but when the date of application is later than January first the payment is applied to the following year—June to June. Thus anyone making application in May and paying \$5.00 would be clear of dues until after the annual meeting in the next year.

The publications of the Society include the following:

- 1907 A Peony Checklist  
(in co-operation with Cornell University)
- 1908 Descriptive Bulletin No. 259  
(with Cornell University; out of print)
- 1909 Proceedings of the American Peony Society  
for the Years 1903—1908 (out of print)
- 1910 Descriptive Bulletin No. 278 (with Cornell University)
- 1911 Descriptive Bulletin No. 306 (with Cornell University)
- 1914 Proceedings of the American Peony Society  
for the Years 1909-1913
- 1915 Bulletin of Peony News, No. 1 (out of print)
- 1916 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 2 and 3.
- 1917 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 4 and 5.
- 1918 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 6 and 7.
- 1919 Bulletin of Peony News, Nos. 8 and 9.
- 1920 Bulletin of Peony News, No. 10 (Hollis Number),  
No. 11 (Iris Number), No. 12.

It is planned for the future to issue four News Bulletins a year. These contain the proceedings of the Society and articles on different phases of peony culture.

## Report of Directors' Meeting

The annual meeting of the Directors of the Society was held at the Berkshire Hotel, Reading, Penna., on April 8th, 1920.

The meeting was called to order at 4 p. m. Those present were Messrs. Bonnewitz, Saunders, Scott, Farr, and Brown. Mr. Boyd as President of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and past President of the Peony Society was also present throughout, on the invitation of the Directors, and both the President of the Reading Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Klein, the Proprietor of the Berkshire Hotel, came in for a time to discuss certain questions pertaining to the show.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. T. A. Havemeyer expressing his regret at being unable to be at the meeting, and presenting his resignation as a Director of the Society. Mr. Havemeyer finds himself unable to give the time to the af-

fairs of the Society which he feels he should give if he is to retain his office. His resignation was accepted with much regret.

The prize schedule for the coming show was then taken up for consideration, and occupied a large part of the time of the meeting. The suggestion that the show should be a joint exhibition of the Peony Society and of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was warmly welcomed by the Directors, and the generous support of the latter society made it possible to offer a larger and more varied schedule of prizes than ever before.

The Berkshire Hotel in Reading was adopted as the location for the show.

The schedule has already been printed and distributed, and all that is called for here is some comment on a few of the changes made in it as compared with earlier schedules.

Some new classes were added, and the value of the prizes in many of them was considerably increased. The following are the principal new classes or modifications in old ones: In the open classes, in addition to the prizes for 25 varieties, three blooms of each, prizes are this year offered for a class of 10 varieties, three blooms of each, in the hope that an extra select group will thus be brought together. If someone will stage in this class, ten of the grandest varieties we now possess, it will be a sight worth seeing.

The Silver Medal of the Penna. Horticultural Society is offered in class 13, along with a money prize, for a collection of varieties introduced since 1905.

In connection with the recent study of the Hollis seedlings in this Bulletin, it is of interest to have a special class for Hollis varieties; there is also a class for Richardson varieties.

The kind gift received from Mrs. Francis King last spring is offered as a prize for the most artistic arrangement of not more than 25 peonies in vase, bowl, or basket.

In class 18 for seedlings, the money prize is withdrawn in accordance with the suggestion of Mr. Fewkes contained in the letter printed below. The Directors agree with Mr. Fewkes that it is a mistake to offer a money prize for competition in

this class, since no prize at all should be given except to seedlings of unusual quality, but if several such are staged there should be awards for as many as deserve them. Hence the class as it now stands authorizes the judges to give a Certificate of Honorable Mention, a First Class Certificate, a Silver Medal, or a Gold Medal whenever they may consider an exhibit entitled to any of these awards.

A few special classes were made, some for local growers, some for new members of the Peony Society. Two classes were put in to tempt growers from further north to bring something with them; one of these is for a collection of tree peonies, the other for early flowering species or hybrids on them.

Mr. Fewkes, who on account of ill health was not able to attend the Directors' meeting, sent a communication regarding which the Directors decided first that Mr. Fewkes should be thanked for it, and then, that it should be printed in the Bulletin as it stands, so that the valuable suggestions contained in it should be brought to the attention of all who read these pages, and so that their ideas may become clarified as to the steps we should take to put some such proposals into effect. The memorandum is as follows:

#### PROPOSED PLAN FOR REGISTRATION AND JUDGING OF SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETIES OF PEONIES

Believing that our present method of dealing with seedlings is unsystematic and wholly inadequate, I have worked out the following plan with the idea of providing something more practicable. The plan of having a local committee visit and judge seedlings on the ground where they are growing, would seem to be an ideal way, but in practice it is unworkable. There are very few localities where three competent judges could be got together without entailing great expense on the Society and it would be very difficult to make arrangements with the three whereby all could be on hand at some specified time best suited to the flower to be judged.

A thorough study of the matter would seem to divide the question into two distinct divisions: registration of all var-

ieties without reference to quality; and the recognition of excellence by the award of Honorable Mention, Certificate or Medal.

Registration is a very important matter, as it provides an authoritative list with original descriptions of all varieties considered by the originators of sufficient excellence to be worthy of a name and introduction, and also tends to eliminate duplication of names.

As a systematic record of this kind would bring much extra work upon our Secretary, I would propose that a special officer be appointed to attend to this duty, to be known as Registrar of Seedlings or of New Varieties. As the constitution calls for no such officer he would need to be an appointee of the President and presumably would be a member of the Nomenclature Committee.

I would propose that he be furnished with printed blanks to be dealt out to all who wish to enter named seedlings for registration. These blanks should have spaces for the name of raiser, the name of the variety, a detailed description of the various features of the flower, previous awards of recognition, if any, and by whom made; remarks, and any items that would help identify the variety.

These blanks should be kept on file in the Secretary's office and a duplicate list be made by the Registrar and remain in his possession to the end that complete loss by any untoward accident be avoided.

All entries should be published in the Bulletin so that anyone having objections to any proposed name would have a limited time in which to enter a protest. It would serve to keep the peony public posted as to what was likely to be offered later, and undoubtedly the tendency would be to make the growers more critical in the selection of their varieties for naming, and curtail the offering of unworthy kinds.

In one way or another this is already in practice in some of the societies, and it would in no way place the Society in the position of recognizing the quality of any variety, or recommending it.

A department of registration could be established in the

Bulletin, and an invitation extended to all raisers, owners, or disseminators of new seedlings or varieties, to submit for registration the name and description of any variety they may think worthy of general cultivation. I think it is safe to say that this department would form one of the most interesting in the publication.

The form of registration blank would need to be carefully thought out so that it should be concise and easily filled out by any one.

The awarding of suitable recognition to new varieties by the Society is quite another matter and one of the utmost importance. Some systematic plan should be followed in order that when the American Peony Society puts its stamp of quality on the variety there will be no question that the quality is actually there.

Other special societies are using score cards for this purpose and I believe an adaptation of this method is the most practical plan we can adopt. The subject should be approached seriously for it is a matter which affects the introducer and the buyer alike.

The practice of offering prizes for the best seedling is a vicious one and should be abolished. In its place I would establish a perpetual class which would call for the exhibition of seedlings which the owner wishes to submit to the judgment of the awarding committee of the Society. They would be put up, not in competition but each one to be judged according to its own merits and according to an established scale of points. Each judge would be provided with a score card or blank on which he can record his estimate of the number of points each characteristic should have; the final award based on an average of the individual cards. These scores could be filed away for future reference.

I would propose the following scales to be used in judging seedlings or new varieties entered for recognition:



## DOUBLE HERBACEOUS PEONIES

Color .....	25
Form .....	20
Size .....	15
Stem .....	15
Distinctiveness .....	10
Substance .....	10
Odor .....	5
	—
	100

I make color the most important point, for it is the first characteristic that strikes the eye. If the color is poor there is very little excuse for perpetuation of the variety.

Form is next in importance, for good form is needed to display the color to the best advantage.

As to size, a small flower has but little chance of appreciation, no matter how fine the color or form.

Stem should figure largely for the reason that many of the handsomest varieties are deficient in stem and would have to go into the discard if a duplicate variety came along that would carry its flowers on strong stems. In this way stem supplements distinctiveness and at the same time is a sure index of vigor.

Distinctiveness is necessary to prevent duplication.

If a flower is deficient in substance it should have some other extraordinary feature to make it worthy to be continued. A variety with flabby flowers should never receive a certificate.

A sweet odor is always acceptable but not necessary in the makeup of a first class variety.

The general practice is to require an attainment of 85 points to secure the award of a certificate and I would suggest that a flower score 95 points to be awarded a medal. The committee, I think, should be allowed discretion in the award of medals, for the reason that the characteristic which really decides medal quality in a variety is an indescribable one which I call "charm", and one which can not be figured in points.

Scale of points for judging Single Herbaceous Peonies:

Color .....	25
Form of petals .....	20
Substance of petals .....	15
Size .....	15
Distinctiveness .....	15
Stem .....	10
	<hr/>
	100

A first class single peony should have good color, with broad, well rounded and thick petals, flower of good size borne on a good stem.

The narrow, notched and flabby petal should be eliminated.

As a single flower is less heavy than a double one, a less rigid stem would hold it erect.

Scale of points for judging Japanese Herbaceous Peonies:

Color .....	25
Form of guard petals .....	20
Substance of guard petals .....	15
General effect of center .....	10
Size .....	10
Distinctiveness .....	10
Stem .....	10
	<hr/>
	100

A first class Japanese peony should have good color, with thick well rounded guard petals, a center made up of petaloids of good color, effectively arranged.

There seems to be a great need of something in the way of a color chart or list of color comparisons, that is simple and capable of being used by any one in describing a flower in terms that can be comprehended by any one.

The French chart (*Repertoire des Couleurs*) adopted by the Society is of course the best guide for a formal description of a variety, but for ordinary every-day use something more simple is needed. Even if the French chart was now available, the price would always prevent it from being in the hands of all peony growers.

My idea is this, that there is some flower or object, the color of which is familiar to every one, that can be used as a comparative standard for some color found in the peony, particularly the fundamental ones.

It would seem that when rose-pink is mentioned every one sees in their mind's eye, the old pink garden rose in various shades. When we speak of crimson, the color of the Jacqueminot rose comes to mind.

White, ivory white, and blush white are self-evident. Flesh brings to mind the color of the Daybreak pink or Carnation, a name which in the popular mind seems to apply to all varieties of carnations which have the peculiar flesh-pink color of that kind.

To facilitate the filling out of the registration blanks, a printed slip, on which would appear this simple color key and a list of the classes or forms into which the Society divides herbaceous peony flowers, could be sent to applicants who wish to register.

I would suggest the following as a tentative arrangement for a color key that would carry out the above idea:

Rose-pink:—Color of the old pink garden rose.

Flesh-pink:—Color of the Daybreak carnation.

Salmon:—Color of the Tea rose.

White, pure:—Color of White paper, without tint or shade.

White, blush:—Color of Apple blossoms.

White, ivory:—Color of Old ivory.

Crimson:—Color of the Jacqueminot rose.

By the use of modifying terms these colors, used as a foundation, can be made to cover a wide range. Light and dark shades, combinations in the pinks and crimsons with blue, violet or purple, will describe any color to be found in the peony, so as to give a fairly good idea of it.

Suggested registration blank:

## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

### REGISTRATION BLANK

Date .....192.....Index No.....  
Registered by.....Address.....  
Originator..... Owner..... Introducer.....  
Class:—Tree or Moutan .....  
Hybrid..... Parentage.....  
Herbaceous, Chinese or P.albiflora:—  
Form:—Rose... Semi-rose...  
Bomb..... Crown..... Semi-  
double..... Anemone.....  
Japanese..... Single.....  
Size..... Color:—total effect.....  
Habit of Plant .....  
Season of Flowering .....  
Awards made by other societies:—  
Honorable Mention.... Certificate....  
Silver Medal..... Gold Medal.....  
Date of award and name of society.....  
Remarks:

These blanks might take the form of some standard size of loose leaf, perforated to fit standard size covers.

The blanks could be numbered as they come in, so that with an index and cross references any registered variety could be readily looked up.

Some plan for mailing and the return of these blanks, so as to secure their receipt by the Registrar in good condition, would need to be worked out.

Upon this letter, and after considerable debate, the Directors took action recommending that the Society should adopt the following scale of points as a guide to judges in passing on the merits of cut blooms of double seedlings:

Color .....	25
Form .....	15
Size .....	15
Distinctiveness .....	15

Substance .....	10
Stem .....	10
Odor .....	10
(5 for blooms without odor; 0 for blooms with bad odor.)	

It is seen that the scale recommended by Mr. Fewkes was altered so that Form was reduced from 20 to 15, Stem from 15 to 10, while Distinctiveness was raised from 10 to 15, and Odor from 5 to 10.

The first of these changes was made in consideration of the fact that there is no specific form for peonies; we have our various types, as bomb, crown, rose, also semi-rose, semi-double, etc., and who is to decide whether a peony has perfect form or not? An imperfect rose form we call semi-rose; an imperfect double, semi-double; yet semi-rose and semi-double are legitimate forms for a peony. Should then a bloom which approaches the rose type be given part credit only as an imperfect rose form, or score the full number of points as a perfect semi-rose? The Directors were of one mind that the form of a peony is not a matter of more moment than its size or its distinctiveness, and that 15 points was an ample allowance for form, since a shapely bloom of any type, or of no particular type, would always be acceptable. With regard to stem, it was considered that rigidity of stem is difficult to determine in cut blooms, often staged with short stems, and that a grade of 15 over-emphasizes the importance of a stiff stem. Some of us are doubtful whether peonies would be more beautiful if they all had absolutely rigid upright stems.

Distinctiveness was raised from 10 to 15 points in consideration of the fact that we suffer continually from over-production of new varieties too much like those we already possess. It seemed best therefore to put as high a premium as possible on the production of new sorts that shall have something in them to mark them out as advances on the older types.

As for the question of odor, which was set at 5 on Mr. Fewkes' scale, and raised to 10 by the Directors—that is an old bone of contention. The cut-flower growers and the

nurserymen are apt to be indifferent to the odor of peonies, whereas the amateur grower sets usually great store by his fragrant kinds. Most of us, I believe, who do not grow flowers for sale, consider that in the big modern scentless carnations half the attractiveness of the bloom has been sacrificed in favor of mere size. And the same with roses, some of them at least. Is it not a most serious fault in Frau Karl Druschki that it is scentless, that it lacks the very essence of the charm that is in roses? Some such considerations as these were in the minds of the Directors in raising the points for odor from 5 to 10, under the specification that scentless blooms be rated 5, and those with an objectionable odor, 0. It may well be said that opinions differ about the acceptability of odors. So they do. But the same is true of color, form, distinctiveness, or even perhaps adequacy of stem.

Regarding the "color key" proposed in Mr. Fewkes' communication, the Directors were of the opinion that while the idea in itself is excellent, the color standards suggested by Mr. Fewkes were of too vague a character to afford a good working basis for color indications that should be generally comprehensible. There would be no wide agreement as to the kind of color indicated by the "old pink garden rose", "Tea rose", "apple blossoms"; and even in the case of Daybreak carnation many peony growers would be in doubt as to the kind of color indicated.

Mr. Fewkes was advised of the action taken by the Directors, and has sent in a further communication which he asks should be printed here, as containing his remarks in rebuttal.

"In regard to the scale of points for double flowers I had my reasons for making it as I did. To begin with I assumed that 85 would be the number of points necessary for the award of a certificate, and also that no flower is absolutely perfect; that is, when a flower is subjected to cold disinterested judgment, it is quite conceivable that any one of its characteristics, no matter how fine, might be just a little better and therefore at least one point should be allowed for this. This may seem erratic to the over-enthusiastic, but I am speaking from experience, for I have seen a flower, not a peony, which,

in the enthusiasm of the judges, scored 100 points, sink into oblivion within a few years, although the score showed absolute perfection.

It was for this reason I kept odor down to five points. Odor in a peony is either good, bad or indifferent. If in judging a certain flower the odor was found to be bad and the scale called for 10 points for good odor and 0 for poor, the number of points would immediately be reduced to 90. If the other six characteristics fell off but one point each the flower would score only 84 and thereby be deprived of a certificate; and yet in all probability it would be as near perfect as we ever find one, except that it lacked fragrance, a characteristic which counts for nothing for exhibition purposes as prize lists are usually made out.

On the other hand if the flower in question had a sweet odor 10 points would have to be given for it, which would allow it to receive a certificate if all other points scored amounted only to 75, which would mean giving a certificate to a somewhat inferior flower.

In the matter of form my meaning was entirely misunderstood. The criticism refers to the established arbitrary classification of blooms into types. While this is all right and useful in its place, it does not enter into my scale of points at all. When judging a flower for form it makes no difference at all whether it is a rose-form, bomb, semi-double or what not; it is the individual make-up of the flower. It must be pleasing in outline, arrangement of petals and everything that goes to make a flower pleasing to the eye. Referring it to some one of the types is a mere matter of convenience and has no bearing whatever on its beauty.

In chrysanthemums the incurved flower corresponds with the bomb type in peonies and there are certain varieties which are so packed with petals that they have lost all beauty and would never score points enough to receive a certificate, and yet they adhere closely to type.

I mention this to show that consideration of any particular type of bloom in judging the quality of a flower is folly, and that judgment should be made with regard to whether it is

rough and ragged, made so by ill arranged petals, or whether it is well balanced and artistic in appearance. This is covered by the term "petalage" sometimes used. I had this in mind when I made "form" in my scale 20, believing it to be, next to color, the characteristic which makes the peony bloom so supremely fascinating.

As to stem, I do not agree with the statement that emphasis on stem belongs to the peony plant, rather than to the cut bloom, for I believe that a stem should be strong enough to carry the bloom sufficiently erect to look one in the face so there will be no need of stuffing a lot of extra foliage into the neck of the bottle to keep it from lopping over the side.

We already have a large number of varieties which are very fine and beautiful in every way but stem; in this they are badly lacking and it would seem that the wise thing to do would be to encourage the production of flowers with good stems. They need not be of the cart stake type to be good but they should be sufficiently strong to carry the flower gracefully and keep it from burying its face in the mud. I think I need refer only to such varieties as Mont Blanc, Jubilee, Grandiflora, and old Festiva, not Festiva Maxima, to explain my meaning. What possessor of these varieties has not fervently wished that nature when evolving them had not neglected to put good strength into their stems?

Distinctiveness should be high, but the extra 5 placed on this I consider provided for in my 15 points on stem, for who would have the courage to pronounce either of the above varieties anything but distinct if it had a good stem instead of the weak ones they now have?

Referring again to fragrance, I do not wish it to be understood that I do not appreciate good fragrance in a peony, but I believe it should be a gratuitous characteristic and have little weight in deciding the actual merit of a variety.

The color types were offered in an effort to arouse interest in the matter of providing some scheme of color designation that will be of every-day usefulness and that can be comprehended by every one interested in the peony. The types I mentioned are full of meaning to me but if they mean nothing



to others, something else would have to be used. The use of certain varieties of peonies would not do for it would be next to impossible to select a list, the names and color of which would be familiar to every one, particularly to beginners.

If it were possible to secure an abridged form of color chart that could be placed in the hands of every member at a cost which would not be prohibitive, it would be by far the best thing, but until something of the kind is produced, it seems as though it ought to be possible to select a list of flowers or objects, the color of which would be familiar to all and which could be used in a comparative way. The necessity is with us and awaits a practical solution.

As the Directors considered my suggestions of sufficient value to warrant publication in the bulletin, and as I suppose the criticisms also, it seems to me my answer to the latter or a summary of it should be published also, perhaps as a foot note, so that there may be no misunderstanding of the matter and a fair judgment formed."

In connection with scales of points, the following was brought to the attention of the Directors by Mr. Boyd, as constituting a carefully considered plan for judging seedlings in the field:

Plant .....	25
divided thus:	
Growth .....	10
Foliage .....	5
Stalk (length and strength).....	10
Flower .....	55
Color .....	15
Shape .....	10
Size .....	15
Substance .....	10
Fragrance .....	5
Extra Qualities .....	20
Blooming quality .....	10
Value as cut bloom .....	5
Mass effect in garden .....	5

Comment on scales of points would be gladly received by the Editor of the Bulletin from any of our members, with a view to publication; but with the proviso that no one may hope to present a scale of points that will be satisfactory to all!

For my own part, I believe we have gone mad on the subject of size, and think far more emphasis should be put on quality of bloom. I recall blooms of Laura Dessert and of Alsace Lorraine in our recent shows, both varieties shown in quite small examples, but as it seemed to me, coming much nearer the ideal peony than many blooms of twice their area and avoirdupois. An undersized bloom could hardly hope to score 85 points on our scale though it might be of better real quality and of greater intrinsic beauty than anything we have.

It may be worth mentioning that at the Directors' meeting in 1916 the following scale of points was adopted for recommendation to the Society, though the Society never accepted it:

Color .....	20
Size .....	20
Stem (including length, strength and foliage) .....	20
Form .....	15
Substance .....	15
Fragrance .....	10

We had not at that time discovered, or perhaps had not realized the importance of Distinctiveness.

With regard to Mr. Fewkes' suggestions covering the registration of new varieties, Mr. Farr was authorized to have a complete card catalogue prepared of all existing varieties, some such catalogue being a prerequisite of any plan for registering new names. So far as standard names are concerned, no great difficulty would be encountered, but trouble arises in connection with firms like the Kelways who have used a very large number of new names, most of which are not generally known to growers at all, at least in this country.

On the application of Garden Clubs for admission into the Society the following action was had: Where Garden Clubs so desire, they may take a membership in the Peony Society

for either their President or their Secretary, as they prefer. This will be at the usual cost of our individual memberships, and will entitle the club to receive one copy of our publications. This does not make the other members of the club in any way members of the Peony Society, but it does constitute the holder of the office of President, or Secretary, in the Garden Club a member of the Peony Society.

It was decided to have membership cards printed before the show, with the names of our members typewritten on them; these will be given out at the show, and it is desired that they be worn as identification badges.

In order to expedite the judging, two committees of judges were constituted. Their personnel will be found on the prize schedules. One committee to take care of the open classes, the other of the amateurs' classes; and the understanding is that in case a member of one of the judging committees is also an exhibitor, any class in which he enters shall be judged by the other committee.

Mr. Boyd showed the new medal of the Society, which impressed all who saw it as a most successful production.

The Treasurer reported further success in adjusting our accounts with members in arrears for dues, and handed in a report showing the net worth of the Society at the present time to be \$2,079.59, estimating the \$1,700 of Government bonds at par.

After the consideration of some minor matters of administration, and a few communications, of which record will be made in the minutes of the meeting, the Directors adjourned.

## **Authentic List of the Lemoine Varieties**

Through the kindness of Mr. L. R. Bonnewitz, the bulletin is allowed to transcribe the substance of a letter from M. Lemoine written under date March 6, 1917, giving a list of the varieties of peonies introduced by his firm from 1898 to 1916. Certain points in the letter seemed doubtful and the matters in question were referred back to M. Lemoine. The dates as given in the list below are now stated by him to be exact.

All of us who are putting peony seedlings on the market may well give this list something more than a casual reading. It may be true that not all of the forty varieties in the Chinese section have proved their permanent worth under the stern test of time; but the proportion that have done so is very large; and what is most remarkable is the grand quality of the best among them. The year that saw the introduction of Le Cygne, Primevère, and Solange, not to mention the Wittmanniana hybrid Avant Garde, was surely a banner year in the history of peony culture. The high average quality shows how rigorously M. Lemoine must have culled out his seedlings before deciding to place any of them on sale. Yet even of such a list he writes: "Many of these varieties are now lost, or were discarded; and we do not know where those which we have not in stock may be found."

The list follows:

1898	Volcan	1906	La Fée
	La Flancée		Alsace Lorraine
1899	Orphée		E. G. Hill
	Sultane		Sarah Bernhardt
	Mme. Emile Lemoine	1907	Le Cygne
	Amazonne		Primevère
	Mont Blanc		Solange
1900	Héroïne	1908	Gisèle
	Galathée		Lamartine
	Sapho		Mignon
1901	La Lorraine	1909	Bertrade
	La France		Eucharis
	Pavillon	1910	Bayadère
	Belisaire		Evangeline
1903	Enchanteresse	1911	Laurence
	Belle Mauve	1914	Coquette
1904	La Fontaine		Fraicheur
	Mirabeau	1916	Isoline
	Rachel		Othello
	Claude Gellée		

#### Hybrids of P. Wittmanniana

1905	Le Printemps	1909	Messagère
	Mai Fleuri		Russii major
1907	Avant Garde	1916	Venusta

Most, if not quite all, of the above are certainly grown in

America. All but eight of the Chinese sorts received votes in our Symposium of 1919; and of these eight, three, namely Heroine, Isoline, and Othello, were not in the list sent out. Isoline and Othello are both grown here, as several of our members can testify; and four of the remaining five, Orphée, Pavillon, Mirabeau, and Laurence are in commercial lists. That leaves only Heroine and Sultane to be accounted for. It would be interesting to know whether any of our members possess these two varieties.

## Experiments In Hastening the Germination of Peony Seed

by PROF. L. C. GLENN, Vanderbilt Univ., Nashville, Tenn.

As is well known, peony seeds when once thoroughly mature and dry are very slow to germinate, most of them taking two years or longer. This delayed germination is due, not to loss of vitality in the seeds themselves, but rather to the hard seed coat being impermeable to moisture, after it has once become thoroughly dry.

To hasten germination in such cases various expedients have been tried. In some cases the hard coat is filed, nicked or removed. In the peony this results,—as pointed out by our Secretary in Bulletin of Peony News, No. 6, p. 19,—in the seed moulding and rotting. Freezing is useful in some cases but is evidently not effective with the peony. Soaking in solutions of enzymes is not effective because of lack of penetration of the hard seed coat. Soaking for an hour or longer in water heated up even to boiling point is effective with some hard coated seeds. The heat treatment, especially at the higher temperatures, would seem dangerous by decreasing or destroying the seed's vitality and in my experiments was not tried.

Weak acids and alkalies are sometimes used to soften or partly eat away the hard seed coat. Strong acids seem dangerous and have rarely been used and yet our Secretary has reported, in the article above referred to, on some successful experiments in the treatment of peony seed with strong sul-

phuric acid. The writer took some peony seeds on October 24, 1918, that had been kept at living room temperature since August, 1917, and were, of course, entirely dry, and treated them in lots of fifty seeds each in concentrated hydrochloric, sulphuric, and nitric acids for periods varying from a half hour to three and a half hours, as given in the table below.

The seeds were then thoroughly washed and soaked in dilute ammonia a few minutes until the acid was neutralized. They were then planted in a sand bed in the greenhouse and kept at a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees F. When first examined, twenty-four days after planting, a number were already found to be sprouting. On January 24th, three months after planting, all were taken up, the count recorded in the table below was made, and the seed and young plants were carefully planted in the open ground. At that time no leaves had begun to appear, but from the main root numerous slender rootlets had already sprung. By March 24th they had begun peeping through the ground and have since grown satisfactorily.

In addition a few seeds were treated for a half hour with concentrated caustic potash solution, but it did not perceptibly soften the seed coat and the number so treated was so small that the test was not carried further. The sulphuric and nitric acids removed an outer dark part of the hard seed coat and left apparently intact an inner brown part of the hard coat. Wherever either of these acids gained entrance to the germ itself through some chance crack or, more probably, through the micropyle, they quickly destroyed the vitality of the seed. The hydrochloric acid did not remove the outer hard coat nor seemingly soften it, though it undoubtedly hastened germination in a good number of seeds.

The results of the experiments may be tabulated as follows:

Acid	Time	Length of Radicle			Just Sprout- ing	Just about ly sound	Rotten	Condition of Sprouted Seed
		3"-4"	1"-3"	0"-1"				
Hydrochloric	1 hour	0	6	2	4	38	0	Not very vigorous
Sulphuric....	1 "	3	24	4	7	11	1	Very vigorous
"	....1½ "	0	18	6	9	12	5	Not so vigorous
"	....1¾ "	0	22	2	3	19	4	Vigorous
"	....2 "	0	19	3	6	18	4	Very vigorous
"	....3½ "	0	16	3	4	19	8	Not vigorous
Nitric.....	½ "	0	4	2	5	30	9	Not vigorous
"	.....1¾ "	0	1	0	2	22	26	Very weak

From the data tabulated above it seems that sulphuric acid gives better results than hydrochloric or nitric, at least for the periods of treatment here used. The nitric was especially corrosive and when used for half an hour gave only a low germinative percentage, while when used for the longer period killed a very high percentage. The hydrochloric acid gave about 30 percent of the efficiency of sulphuric acid for the same period of treatment. Possibly treatment for two hours with hydrochloric might give more satisfactory results than the one hour treatment.

With the sulphuric acid the best results were obtained with treatment for from one to two hours, with a slightly higher percentage in favor of the one hour treatment. The  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hour treatment was evidently too long, judging not only from the lower percentage of germination, but from the higher percentage of killed, and the lower vitality of the sprouted seed.

It is, of course, recognized that with the small number of fifty seeds used in each experiment, a chance poor seed or a shift of only two or three from one column to another would materially change the percentages, so that the results obtained hardly fall under the law of averages—for which at least one hundred seeds should be provided in each test. The results, however, are believed to indicate within reasonable limits that treatment of perfectly dry peony seed with strong sulphuric acid for an hour or somewhat more is an efficient and practical means of hastening germination, and that it is practicable to have young plants appearing above ground in five months after planting dry, treated seed.

If seeds are planted while somewhat immature, or at least are still moist with plant juices and their seed coat not yet dry and hard, they probably never become dry but the moisture of the ground penetrates readily and germination soon follows. Such planting would be in July, August or September, according to latitude, and during the fall root growth would amount to several inches, and when spring comes the young plant appears above ground. When thus planted before becoming dry, treatment with acid is not necessary, and indeed treatment with sulphuric acid then would probably

result in the killing of the seed, since its strong affinity for moisture would probably let it rapidly penetrate the seed coat and reach the germ. Only dry seed should be treated.

It appears important furthermore to plant the treated seed early in the fall so that as much root growth as possible may occur before winter. Otherwise, the plant that comes up next spring will have a poorly developed root system and make unsatisfactory growth.

In the tabulation given above certain apparently sound seed had not germinated when planted out in the ground last January, (1919). Many of these seeds have now in December, 1919, developed radicles two to four inches long and are ready to come up next spring. It is probable that they were not affected at all by the acid treatment.

A recent examination of the sprouted seeds that were removed last January from the sand in greenhouse and planted in the open garden and that came up on time last spring, shows that the root growth in them is not as great as it should have been. The writer believes this is probably due to the shock through loss of rootlets from the removal of the sprouted seedlings and not to any devitalizing action of the acid treatment.

If we begin with the immature seed there evidently is a time in its development before which it is too immature to grow, or in other words, it has not yet become viable. With increasing maturity viability is finally reached. At some period thereafter the seeds have their maximum viability, and after this their viability decreases and in time they may become incapable of germination. The writer hopes he may be able next year to inaugurate experiments to determine when the growing seeds first become viable and also to gain some light on when they have maximum viability. It does seem to the writer that their viability is increased by keeping them dry for a year or two. Such seeds would when planted, if still viable, require a couple of years in the ground, he believes, before they would come up. The year or two of drying would not count as part of the period required for their germination.



# Another Method of Hastening Germination

by EVERETT P. WHEELER

(The following very interesting note on hastening the germination of peony seed, has recently been received in a letter from Mr. Wheeler dated April 5; it is of so much interest to all growers of seedlings that I print it here so that its suggestions may be available without delay.)

I want to tell you about my success in planting peony seeds this season. I gathered them last fall as soon as they were ripe, and planted them in a cold frame, about one inch deep in good mellow soil. I then gave the earth a good watering, covered it with burlap, then wet that, and finally put on the sash and covered it with canvas. The idea was to keep the atmosphere moist. We had very cold weather up to about December 20th; in fact it was so cold that the ice on the ponds was 14 to 18 inches thick, and there must have been at least 12 inches of frost in the ground. Snow came at this time and lasted until about March 20th. On March 26th I uncovered the frames and found over 50 per cent of the seeds above ground, some of them over an inch high. I think the percentage of germination was remarkable. I hope others will try this way next fall and report their results. I shall plant all of my seed this way. None of those that were planted in the open garden have shown up yet, although they were covered with snow all winter, and were never dry. I am convinced it is the moist atmosphere that they want.

## The Lure of the Peony

by DR. F. G. BRETHOUR, Toronto, Canada.

(This interesting article has unfortunately been held over for some time waiting for space in the Bulletin. Its glow and enthusiasm have not grown less with the lapse of a year or so, and it is printed here just as it was sent in.)

As I have not seen any communication to the Bulletin from this side of the line, I thought it would not be out of place to let you know that there are several peony enthusiasts in Canada, and the number is increasing all the time. One gentle-

man I know who lives in a small village, but a picturesque country spot, a few miles from Toronto, has all kinds of peonies,—Chinese, Japanese, European and American, as well as seedlings. He has them as specimen plants on the lawn and in the border; in hedges, in beds, in rows, and all over. He must have six or seven hundred varieties. I asked him whether he was putting in any new ones this year. “Well, if I do, I should be put in a lunatic asylum.” I venture to say that he did put in some new ones, just the same. There are three other gardens near, where you can see from three to four hundred varieties, and numerous gardens of fifty to one hundred.

My peony experience has only been of about six years duration, and I started with officinalis both pink and red, and Festiva maxima. The next year I somehow got a Dessert catalogue and I imported some from him the next fall. Since then I have added quite a goodly number. To make room I had a gang of men cut down a maple tree, which took a whole day. Then I cut down two apple trees, and this fall I cut down a huge English cherry tree, and all I have left now are two large oak trees; and when my wife sees me with the axe in my hand her heart is in her mouth, for between the oak trees she swings her hammock.

I am glad to say I have some choice varieties; in fact I have seventy or eighty choice varieties, with full-grown plants of Le Cygne, Thérèse, Tourangelle, Mont Blanc, and that class, as leaders.

As I said, the enthusiasm for the peony is growing fast. A friend of mine, who lives a few miles out, took his attack in rather a violent form, and his experience is quite interesting, so I will repeat it in his own words. “I ordered two hundred varieties from Dessert, and they were shipped to me by freight, the beginning of October, 1916; and I received them on the 14th of January, 1917. They were planted the next day, and I only lost one. They were packed in two large cases in moss, and got lost in transit between New York and Toronto. When they did not arrive by the middle of November, which is about the time it freezes up here, I placed

about six inches of manure on the ground, to keep the frost out, as I thought they would come any day. But by the 15th of January the frost was so severe that there was some three or four inches of it below the manure, and about a foot of snow on top. So I shovelled off the snow, and picked through the frozen manure and ground to soft earth, and planted the roots when there was 22 degrees of frost. I had to dig one hole at a time and plant at once, as the earth I threw out would freeze almost before I could get it back again around the roots. Immediately after planting, I placed the frozen clods on top, and covered back the manure and snow. In spring, on removing the covering I found every root but one making fine growth; and about seventy per cent bloomed that year (1917). They were one and two year roots, about twenty of the former."

This is another experience by the same gentleman: "I received ten roots from Holland this spring (1918), which were shipped in the beginning of November, 1917, but by mistake, were not loaded on the boat at Rotterdam; they lay on the dock there till the end of February, when they were forwarded to England; from there they were reshipped to me and I received them on the 17th of March, all dried up and frozen hard as bullets. So I placed them in the cellar to thaw out, and planted them about the first of April. I never lost any, and one bloomed this summer. They were supposed to be one-year-old roots, but they were very small."

I might say that I saw the first lot of these peonies last June, in their second year of growth, and I never saw a finer and healthier lot anywhere. There were almost perfect blooms of Thérèse, Tourangelle, Raoul Dessert, and others.

This fall I and a friend ordered a small lot of those "positively the first appearance" ones from a certain French grower. They were shipped early in October by express, and arrived here on the 17th of December. They were packed in a small box with a few handfuls of moss, and evidently they came over in an incubator, for you never saw anything so dried out. The customs agent wouldn't even take the duties on them, and that is saying something. You could take your

knife and scrape the root and it felt like horn, while the little eyes, (and these roots were about the size of your little finger) looked like little colored putty cones,—hard putty, that would rattle off if you shook them. I put them in a pail of water and left them in it for two days, and then put them in wet moss for two days more, and you would be surprised to see what a change had taken place. I planted one outdoors, and the other four I have planted in pasteboard boxes, and will keep them at about the freezing point till spring, when I shall plant them out.

Is there any really sure and reliable way to kill a peony root? I know of one; or at least it will make it so sick that it will not bloom; and that is to have any quantity of manure, fresh or rotted, in close proximity to the fleshy roots. How then can peonies be fertilized and humus added after they are once planted? Peonies are gross feeders, and a great deal of nitrogenous matter is used up in a short time. I have been digging in, each fall, some well rotted manure and bone meal, at some distance from the crowns, following it in spring with wood ashes. A grower whose garden I visited this year has tried sowing clover and digging it in, in the fall; so I intend to try it this summer. It is all well enough to use liquid manure, but there must be humus added from time to time to retain moisture.

There is some information I want to get, and a suggestion or two I want to make. In the first place, what is the best way to stake up your plants? I put in three stakes about two and a half feet long, and tie a galvanized wire high enough to support the first two feet of growth; following this by three other stakes from three and a half to four feet high with another wire to support the stalks full grown. Even with this, after a severe rain and wind storm I came home to find all my best bloom broken over, some a few inches from the flower, and others at different distances down the stalk. It was very discouraging, and I should be glad to find out a better method.

Has anyone had success in grafting a bud on to a piece of root? I did that with an Alsace Lorraine last fall, and it

grew a fine stalk this year. What chance is there of the piece of root developing another eye, and giving two different flowers on the same plant?

Now as to a suggestion or two. Isn't it true that nearly every peony grower grows also choice perennials and shrubs? In my garden I have a sufficient variety of perennials and shrubs, so that I can go out any time from the end of March to the first of November and cut a bouquet for the table. How would it be then to have a magazine called "Peonies and Other Choice Perennials and Shrubs", which would come every month, instead of the Bulletin every blue moon?

I would also like to find out how long you have to wait for Mignon to throw a bloom. With me it sends up all kinds of stalks, and this last summer I cut off early all but the most robust. My neighbor has had a Mignon six years, and no bloom yet.

I hope that in the not distant future a small party of us Canadians will go over to one of your shows, to compete in some of the amateur classes at least.

## Cutting and Packing Blooms for Exhibition

1. Do not use flowers that are too fully expanded; take them too young rather than too old.
2. Do not let the petals get wet at any time, least of all when packing.
3. Pack the blooms, each one individually, in paper, and lay them into boxes fairly tight, so that they shall not rub together.

All that I have to say about cutting and packing is summarized in these three rules. Those who are not experienced exhibitors may however welcome some further discussion of details.

*When to cut.* The common error is to take blooms that are too far along. They are then very likely to come out of the box spotted, or else to lose their petals within a few hours after they are staged, and they never look really fresh.

Blooms that have any distance to go, should be cut when

they are just intermediate between bud and bloom. Do not cut in the hard bud stage, and do not leave them until the flower is fully developed. Of course, if you are near enough to the show so that you can get your blooms there within a few hours, you may take fully expanded blooms; but in that case it is important to put them into a cool dark place for a few hours before they are packed, so that they may furl together as much as possible. Probably they will be cut the night before, placed in a cool cellar over night, and packed in the morning.

When blooms have to travel for some distance, they may be cut at any time two or three days in advance of the show, and kept in a cool dark dry cellar until it is time to pack. They can be held back very nicely in this way. It is most important that the cellar should be dry, for if the air is damp, blooms kept in it for any length of time are almost sure to develop brown spots. Also the sunlight must not be allowed to reach them in the cellar; if it does, they will rush at once into full bloom.

*Boxing.* Mr. Farr's method of preparing blooms for packing into boxes is as follows: He strips off the lower and larger leaves from the stem, tears across the bottom end of a small paper bag, slips it, mouth upward, over the stem, beginning at the lower end, brings the bag past the leaves and so over the flower; he then twists the top of the bag together. This, Mr. Farr says, is an easy, effective, and very quick method.

My own procedure is to cut strips of tissue paper about 3 or 4 inches wide, and 12 to 15 inches long, fold the bloom together bringing the lower petals up and around the upper ones, and roll it up in the tissue paper. So wound together it can be laid into a box, and a lot of blooms can be packed into quite a small space. But beware of drops of water either on the tissue paper or on the petals. They mean *ruin*.

In any case rather shallow boxes should be used in which to pack the blooms, for if more than two or three layers are laid into one box the pressure on the bottom layer becomes too heavy.

*Length of stem.* We have unfortunately got into a way of

staging our individual blooms that is really very ugly. They are simply set one by one into milk bottles, the flower resting on the neck of the bottle, and the short stem hanging down into the water. For classes in which blooms are to be staged individually therefore an 8-inch stem is quite ample. In those classes that call for three of a kind it is possible to set the flowers up with something a little more approaching grace, and longer stems should be left here—say a foot or 15 inches. Then in the classes for a vase of 15 or 20 blooms still longer stems are necessary. So you should guide yourself in the matter of length of stem by the character of the classes which you are preparing to enter. In any case the lower leaves may always be removed. They bring water into the box, add to its weight, and if carried to the exhibition hall, will only have to be cut off there.

One word to those living quite near the show. It is in my opinion always a mistake to carry blooms loose in the hand to an exhibition. The flowers should not be kept in the air when their stems are out of water. Even if you are travelling only a few miles, lay the blooms into boxes, if you expect them to look fresh when they are set up on the tables.

## Two Communications from France

In response to a request sent to M. Lemoine, and a similar one sent to M. Dessert, asking for their opinions on the feasibility of shortening such names as Monsieur Jules Elie, Monsieur Martin Cahuzac, Mademoiselle Léonie Calot, etc., by dropping the "Monsieur", or the "Mademoiselle", M. Lemoine sends a letter of which the following is the substance. The references in that part of the letter which deals with other subjects will be readily understood:

"I reply in order to the different questions you set before me. Suppression of the terms "Monsieur" and "Mademoiselle". So far as we are concerned, you will notice that none of the varieties which we have introduced into commerce carry such designations, and I am personally strongly opposed to their use, finding them cumbersome and useless. But I do not believe that we have the right to suppress these terms now,

in the case of varieties introduced to commerce long ago, and now widely known and cultivated. You cite for example the case of M. Jules Elie. Now there is a variety Madame Jules Elie, put on the market by M. Crousse in 1878. A confusion might arise between these two names if the "Monsieur" should be omitted from the first of them. You mention also M. Martin Cahuzac. Here we could not omit the "Monsieur"; for Martin Cahuzac is a compound family name, Martin not being a first name; and the bearer of this name, though he was a distinguished amateur was not of such fame as would justify us in speaking of him as we speak of Lamartine, Meissonier, and other great men.

"And then, the number of varieties of peonies in cultivation is not very large compared with the number of roses, dahlias, chrysanthemums, etc., and hence the terms "Monsieur" and "Mademoiselle" are not sufficiently numerous to make them a serious burden in catalogues or in books. The main trouble is for those who have the writing of labels for the plants they sell. And what difference there does a M. or a Mlle. make in comparison with "Souvenir de l'Exposition Universelle" or "Triomphe de l'Exposition de Lille"?

"In this connection I may mention that you seem to number M. Crousse as among those no longer living. You will be glad to learn that he is still with us here in Nancy, living in the Rue Jeanne d'Arc at No. 23. He is now about 80 years of age, having outlived his three children, Albert Crousse, Marie Crousse, and Alice Crousse. There remains now of his family only a son-in-law and the grandchildren.

"You will have noticed that the yellow-flowered tree peonies, La Lorraine, L'Esperance, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, have so far always proved absolutely sterile. I have recommenced the original crossing of P.lutea, female, by P.moutan, male (the inverse cross never has given seed). A certain number of varieties resulting from this cross have already bloomed. One of them has large double flowers of a crimson red, shaded with coral red.

"P. Wittmanniana sometimes produces black seeds, which are fertile. The red grains are only unfertilized ovules, such



as are frequently found in peony species, particularly, for example, in *P. Corsica*, where they produce quite a remarkable decorative effect.

"We received some years ago under the name *P. Wittmanniana*, a plant which was manifestly a hybrid resulting from a chance cross on *P. Wittmanniana* as seed parent. This variety was a handsome one, and we put it on the market under the name *P. venusta*.

"Our hybrids, *Avant Garde*, etc., were in every case the result of a cross of *P. Wittmanniana* on Chinese peonies as seed parents."

From M. Dessert came these interesting remarks on some of the same subjects:

"I have read with much interest the suggestions in your bulletin on the simplification of names of peonies; and you will have noticed that I have been actuated by the same general principle in giving very brief names to the majority of my recent introductions, *Ginette*, *Jeannot*, *Rosette*.

"So far as the older names are concerned, I do not think it would be possible to bring about a general adoption in French catalogues, of the suggested alterations; and some confusion might thus be brought about; for example, an American wishing to order in France the varieties *Juliette Dessert* and *Renée Dessert* would search in vain in French catalogues for these names under J and R. We could however avoid this slight inconvenience by making a special edition of our catalogues for America, in accordance with the decisions of the American Peony Society.

"Also, so far as I am personally concerned, I shall willingly accept such simplifications as your committee may consider necessary."

## Notes from the Secretary's Office

### Human Nature Still Imperfect

Complaints come in to this office from time to time about the imperfections of human beings, and suggestions are offered as to methods—violent methods, usually—by which individuals might be reformed. I always feel shy about trying to re-

form the other fellow, for fear he may turn on me and say "Very well, why don't you get out the Bulletins on time?" or "Why don't you answer your letters more promptly?" So I lay these two cases before our readers in an impersonal way, hoping that the right man may perhaps say to himself "Is it I?" or, as he would be much more likely to say, "Is it me?" and when he finds it is "him", may reform his ways.

Case No. 1. One of our members who started to collect photographs of peonies, reports two professional growers as using the same cuts in a number of cases, but affixing different names to them. They probably buy their photographs from a professional photographer; and what would such as he care for a matter of names, if he found a market for his pictures? Anyway, perhaps the varieties are correctly named in one of the lists, and if I should publish the names of both, the innocent would suffer with the guilty.

Case No. 2. A large grower sends in a list of peonies recently offered to him for sale. There are about one hundred names in the list; many of them are almost unrecognisable through careless writing—Corionne de Orr, Laterlira Rosea, Latnetale Rosea, Plamsimma, and the like; and then apparently the neighbors' children have been called in to help where labels were lost, and so we get Alfred, Bertha, Carrie, Lizzie, Maude Smith, Nellie, Winnifred!

This sort of thing was common enough in the old days, and perhaps we should be satisfied to remember how rare it now is; but it is a pity it has not been reformed out of existence altogether. Such practices are deplorable, condemnable (you may even omit the "con") and no nurseryman who has the welfare of peony culture anywhere near his heart should let himself fall into such bad ways.

### Leave Peony Foliage Till Frost Gets It

"In Bulletin No. 9, remarks were made about cutting peony foliage immediately after blooming without damage to the plants.

"My sad experience is that it almost ruins the plants. In

the spring of 1918, I was absent in Europe and those in charge of my garden cut the tops off 48 peony plants as soon as the blooms had been gathered, and planted vegetables between the rows. In the spring of 1919 they bloomed about the same as plants that were set only the previous autumn. That is, though they were five year old plants, they gave practically no bloom. They were in 30 inches of good soil, with water available; all 48 varieties acted alike.

"A stem rot, spore bearing disease attacked the weakened plants in 1919. I cut the stems below the ground last October, and put four inches of soft coal ashes over them in hopes that the sulphur in the ashes would kill the fungus growths as the young stems came through.

"So my advice is: Leave the tops on till October."

FRANK W. CAMPBELL.

### An Appreciation of Avant Garde

"I want to sing the praises of Avant Garde, the Wittmaniana hybrid. We do not hear much about it, but is it not wonderful? Last spring when it bloomed, I took a specimen into the house and actually I went and worshipped at its shrine every time I came home. And each time I looked at it the colors seemed more delicate and beautiful. Such a lovely blending of translucent white with shell pink shadings I had never realized before. Surely I want more of it, and my sympathy goes out to any member who is still without it. The crinkled character of the substance of the petals adds to its beauty, and makes the pink shadings more elusive. What a pity the English language does not seem able to express my admiration of this most beautiful flower."

W. E. SAUNDERS.

### Celestial Species

Speaking of Astronomy, do not fail to notice Mars in the sky on favorable nights. Jupiter now dominates the western sky as soon as it is dark, and Mars is well up a little to the east of south. He is deep yellow in color and the brightest thing in that quarter of the heavens. Midway between them is Saturn, a good deal less bright. But they are a grand trio

judged by any scale of points. Jupiter's four largest moons you can see with a good field glass, but to see Saturn or Mars to advantage you need your telescope. You have none? Go then and have a look through your neighbor's; and if he has none, come and take a peep through mine. But you should have one of your own, for our universe is worth looking at. It is the only one we have, and it is full of wonders.

How did I happen to know you would be interested in astronomy? By a simple process of logic, to wit: All men of sense are interested in astronomy; all peony men have sense; therefore—

### Peony Seed

It is good news that some of our large growers are beginning to offer select peony seed for sale.

Two advertisements have recently appeared in *The Flower Grower*; the first in the February number from Mrs. Wm. Crawford, offering seed of *Primevère*; and the second in the issue for March from Mr. G. B. Babcock, who offers mixed seed.

There has long been need of some good source of peony seed, and we may be sure that either of these stocks would yield interesting progeny.

### Proceedings 1903-1908 Wanted

Prof. L. C. Glenn would be grateful for a copy of the proceedings of the Society for 1903-8. They are out of print. If you have a copy you do not want, please send it to him. Or I think he would be glad to buy it if anyone has a copy he would sell.

### Bulletins Lost in the Mails

There is a distressingly large number of copies of each bulletin lost in the mails. Every possible care is taken to cover the full list of our membership when the bulletins are sent out; yet with each issue an increasing number of "Where's my copy?" cards are received at this office. Between half a dozen and a dozen have come in since the issue of Bulletin 10. Please do not blame the poor editor, but

console yourself with the thought that perhaps the postal clerks are developing an interest in peonies.

### Our Next Symposium

This being 1920, a voting year, the time has come round for a new symposium. As soon as may be, you will receive a copy of the same old list of varieties which was sent out two years ago, along with a supplementary list bringing the catalogue up to date and remedying some omissions in the older list. Then in the autumn number of the Bulletin, we shall have a new tabulation of votes. There should be many more of them on the newer sorts by this time, and it will be interesting to see whether the old favorites are still in the lead.

<p><b>KANSAS CITY PEONY GARDENS</b></p> <p>Kansas City, Mo.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Standard &amp; Rare Peonies and Iris</b></p>	<p><b>Babcock Peony Gardens</b></p> <p>R. D. No. 79, Jamestown, N. Y.</p> <hr/> <p>We offer a large stock of the new Brand varieties, also the best of the French and English sorts.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Send for our descriptive catalogue</i></p>
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