CONTENTS

Notes on the Sections of the Genus Primula
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - Donald Neil O'Connell 49

Old World Primroses, Captain C. Hawkes, M.B.E., M.C.,
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - Nantwich, England 55

Brief Notes on the Use of Polyanthus in the Landscape 56

Blue Primroses, Angelo Patri 57

Sixth Annual Primrose Show, April 9 and 10 58

Preparing Primroses for the Show, Mrs. R. P. McHenry 59

How Polyanthus Are Judged, Florence Levy 60

It's Our Favorite Genus, Too, Robert H. Argle 62

Polinanthus in Northern California, Mrs. J. C. Williamson 65

Primroses at the Foot of Pikes Peak, Mrs. Florence Arnett 66

Year Book, 1946 70

Reports of the Officers 70-71

Roster 72-83

Advertising 83-88

Index of Volume 4, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 88

Published for the AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY, Portland, Oregon, for its members
Society membership $1.50 a year; price to non-members 50c a copy
NOTES ON THE SECTIONS OF THE GENUS PRIMULA

Donald Neil O'Connell

The genus Primula contains some six hundred species, whose unusually wide distribution—covering the temperate floral regions of Europe, Asia, and North America, with outlying species in several subtropical regions and South America—has given rise to a diversity in form and habit of growth that is rarely met with in other genera. The various species occur in natural groups related both morphologically and geographically which have suggested the subdivision of the genus into more or less discrete Sections. Early Sectional arrangements, such as those of Pax and Balfour, were necessarily based upon inadequate material, since only a few of the Asiatic members of the genus were at that time known; and, with the tremendous influx of Asiatic species which began toward the latter part of the nineteenth century—an influx which was enjoyed as well by the genera Lilium and Rhododendron—it became apparent that here was the true heart of the genus. A more accurate taxonomic arrangement became at once both possible and necessary. The first such adequate grouping was made in 1928 by Sir William Wright Smith and George Forrest. Further introductions, the re-collection of then poorly represented species, and more detailed studies of the known material have suggested modifications of this arrangement; to which end, a complete revision of the genus was begun by Sir William Wright Smith and Dr. H. R. Fletcher, now nearing completion.

The notes on the various Sections to follow will, as nearly as possible with the information now available, adhere to this new revision. The characteristics of the Sections will be briefly given, and any species known to the author to be in cultivation in this country or in Canada will be described.* Where no species of that Section are in cultivation, some representative species or those species likely to be introduced here in the near future will be substituted. Cultural suggestions are mainly based on the author's observations on his own collection, and comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

The Sections of the genus as it now stands are:

- Amethystina
- Auricula
- Bullatae
- Candelabra
- Capitatae
- Carolinella
- Curtisoideae
- Cuneifolia
- Denticulata
- Dryadifolia
- Farinosae
- Grandis
- Malacoides
- Malvacea
- Megaseaefolia
- Minutissimae
- Muscarioideae
- Nivalis
- Obconica
- Parryi
- Petiolaris
- Pinnatae
- Pycnoloba
- Reini
- Rotundifolia
- Skylimensis
- Sinensis
- Soldanellioideae
- Souliei
- Vernales
- Verteillata

* Brief descriptions of those members not in cultivation will be found in the complete list of species appended to the article.
This list differs from the enumeration of Sections as of the 1928 arrangement in three respects: the deletion in the present list of the former Sections Bella and Obtusifolia now included as Subsections of Sections Minutissimae and Nivalis, respectively, and the addition of Section Parryi.

The genus may be easily divided by placing together those Sections containing species whose young, developing leaves unfold inward and those whose leaves unfold outward. The former comprise the group Involutae and the latter the group Revolutae. The 1928 arrangement included only the Sections Auricula and Verticillata among the Involutae. Further investigations have shown that the Sections Cuneifolia and Parryi also fall into this group. Histological studies have borne out the validity of such a grouping, and it is indeed one of the most clear-cut diagnostic marks in the genus. The remaining twenty-seven Sections of the genus comprise the group Revolutae. We shall consider the Sections of the group Involutae first.

The Section Auricula—along with Sections Vernales and Candelabra—is one of the three most widely cultivated Sections in our gardens. It is immediately distinguishable from the other members of the group Involutae and indeed from all other Sections of the genus by the distinctly leathery leaves exhibited by all of its members. These are borne on woody rhizomes and tend to remain attached upon withering, forming a loose covering to the rhizome which aids it in holding moisture against the heat of summer and the drying winds of fall. The leaves are mostly broadly oblanceolate to obovate, narrowing toward the base to broad, short petioles. They often bear a cartilaginous margin and, in some species, are sticky to the touch and odorous. All save three of the twenty-four species are without farina. P. Auricula bearing dense white farina in most of its forms, the closely related P. Palinuri bearing similar farina on its scape, and P. marginata with dense yellow meal on its leaves. About half the species exhibit dentation on their foliage. The flowers are borne in umbels, the scape varying in length from eight inches or better to the almost absent scape of P. Allioni but generally exceeding the leaves. The umbels are single-to many-flowered. Two species bear yellow corollas, the remaining members varying from shades of pink or rose to lavender, blue-violet, or purple. The petals are often toothed or cleft, the corolla-limb flat or slightly cupped. The flowers of all species are large—often an inch or better across—and showy. The species are of moderate size, generally from six to ten inches high and seldom with a spread of over one foot. Several small species occur seldom exceeding three inches, such as PP. minima, tyroensis, and Kitaibeliana.

The Section is limited to continental Europe, extending from the Pyrenees throughout the Alps to the Carpathians, the Apennines, and the Balkans. The species are all alpines and occur often in quite limited stations, generally at altitudes of from three to eight thousand feet. They are long-lived plants and perfectly hardy. In their native habitats they grow among the rocks and crevices, occasionally in scree situations or in alpine meadows. The species are evergreen to some extent, retaining a tuft of leaves throughout the winter months, and grow in sunny or lightly shaded situations. In winter, a protective layer of snow covers them which melts in spring, providing moisture for the growth spurt which then occurs. The plant blooms after the leaves have unfolded, using the stored food synthesized by them the previous season. Concurrent with the development of the flower buds and the unfolding leaves, root growth is initiated. Food for the following season is then rapidly synthesized while the moisture of the thawing snows and spring rainfalls is available. During the hot summer, moisture must be obtained by the roots—which may be a foot or more in length—from deep in the furrows and cracks in the rock formations on which the plants grow, and the plant is protected from dehydration by the sheath of dead, dry leaves surrounding its rhizome. The seeds are dropped during this period and do not germinate until the following spring, when the thaws and freezes crack the hard protective coating of the seed and allow moisture to penetrate to the embryo and initiate germination.

The species of this Section present few cultural difficulties, and seventeen of the twenty-four species are in cultivation in this country. They require a porous, preferably somewhat gritty soil which is neutral or only slightly acidic for maximal development. In nature, they grow in calcareous soils, but lime is not essential to their cultivation. Being alpines, they do not want too rich a soil, particularly the smaller members of the Section. They grow well in light shade but do not flower satisfactorily, preferring a sunnier aspect. However, P. Allionii and possibly a few others are best grown away from strong sunlight. They should never be allowed to become parched in summer but require less watering than most members of the genus. PP. giutinoso and deorum are said to need moisture throughout the summer without break. During the winter months, they must be kept dry and should be watered only once every two weeks or so. A good practice is to feel the leaves and water only when they begin to show signs of limpness. The species may be propagated easily from cuttings, which should be taken with a heel and placed in moist sand to which has been added a little good leafmold, or from divisions. They are not difficult from seed but germinate very irregularly—germination after three years is not unusual. If fresh seed can be obtained in summer, it can be sown immediately rather than in the spring; this gives very good and even germination, but the seed pans must be kept both moist and cool—often a difficult accomplishment in the heat of summer.

Hybrids among the species occur commonly in nature, and there may be few species which will not cross with one another. The naturally occurring hybrids have been greatly augmented by hybridizers in the genus. The hybrid Auricula of garcens is too well known to need further comment, and many other forms have been developed. Because of the occurrence in the flowers of the various species of both yellow and anthocyanin pigments, the Section Auricula offers an opportunity for obtaining a diversity of color range in its hybrids which is not possible in the majority of the other Sections of the genus. However, only in the hybrid Auricula has this opportunity been taken. Of the 276 possible bispecific hybrids, not more than fifty are known. The number of different hybrid forms grown is probably around twice this number. Yet this is the Section most highly developed by hybridizers in the genus.
The species of the Section Auricula in cultivation in this country are:


P. Auricula L. Var. albo-cineta Widmer. The true species, in only a few collections. Leaves 3-6", broadly oblanceolate, densely farinose with white margins, slightly dentate. Flowers borne in umbels on 4-5" scapes, intense yellow with a dense, mealy annulus at the throat, fragrant. The form in cultivation here was collected in the Italian Alps some years ago and has been increased slowly by divisions. Resembles the yellow Auricula hybrids of gardens except that the corolla is somewhat more bell-shaped and the umbel rather one-sided.

P. carniolica Jacq. Leaves efarinose, pointed, oblong to obovate, entire and glossy, dark green, to 4" long. The white-eyed, rose flowers are carried in one-sided umbels on 6" scapes. Scented. Rare in cultivation.

P. Clusiana Tausch. Leaves 2-3 1/2" long, smooth and entire, oblong to ovate, with a distinctive cartilaginous margin, which serves to distinguish it from P. glaucescens, with which it is sometimes confused. Flowers rose to rose-magenta, or pink, on 2-4" scapes, the lobes deeply divided in two. A very easy and free-blooming species.

P. glaucescens Moretti. Leaves smooth and shiny with the margins thinly cartilaginous, pointed, bluish-green, 2-4" long. Scape stained purple, bearing an umbel of lilac or rose-purple blooms 5" above the foliage. A free-flowering species if given sun.

P. hirsuta All. Leaves sticky, to 5" long, deeply toothed, obovate with a narrow petiole, covered with fine reddish hairs. Flowers borne on short scapes, very variable as to color, pink to red, rose, or white, generally with a distinct white eye, rather cupped. A very easy and satisfactory species which has many named garden forms. These forms, crossed with forms of P. Auricula, have resulted in the well-known P. x pubescens hybrids, which were the precursors of our modern hybrid Auriculas. Propagates very easily indeed from cuttings.

P. integrifolia L. Leaves 1-1 1/2", broad, entire, somewhat sticky and covered with tiny hairs, oblong, the petioles nearly absent. The reddish scape is 1-2" high, bearing a few red-lilac flowers. This reminds one of a smaller P. Allioni.

P. Kitalbelliana Schott. Leaves yellow-green, 1 1/2-3" in length, oblong to oblanceolate, entire, sticky, with a goat-like smell. Scape shorter than the leaves. Corolla large, lilacose, throat clear white and contrasting sharply, corolla limbs entire. A rare species both in nature and in gardens. Not easy, best grown as a scree plant, but well worth the trouble as it is one of the finest gems of the Section.

P. marginata Curtis. A very rhizomaceous plant bearing narrow, deeply serrate leaves 2-4" long and covered with bright yellow farina, particularly along the margins, which are also cartilaginous. Scape 3-5", farinose. Corolla variable as to color, pink to dark rose, lilac to pale blue-lilac, purple, or rarely white. Many fine named color varieties are available. The celebrated Linda Pope form is undoubtedly a hybrid between this species and a garden Auricula; it bears large, flat flowers of a delicate lavender blue. This has the further merit of being a very easy species in all its forms, with the exception of the albino form, which is dwarfer, pale and difficult to keep.

P. mimina L. As the name indicates, a very dwarf species. Leaves wedge-shaped, apically toothed, a dark, shiny green, stiff, and borne in tight rosettes on tiny, woody stems, which rarely exceed an inch in length. Flowers occur singly or in pairs on very short scapes. The deep, clear pink corolla is surprisingly large for so minute a plant and often deeply cleft or fringed. White and bluish forms are known. An easy plant if given a poor mixture but very shy of bloom.

P. Palinuri Petagna. The largest species in this Section. Leaves 6-8", broadly oblanceolate, completely efarinose, marginally serrate, the petiole narrow and long. Rhizome woody and quite stout. Scape 4-10", erect, slightly farinose. Flowers funnel-shaped, bright yellow, borne in a one-sided, drooping umbel, the eye densely white-farinose, scented. Closely related to P. Auricula, but the stouter basal rhizomes, the drooping umbels, more cupped and smaller flowers, and greater size mark it as distinct. This is a rare species and a very vigorous one. It is indigenous to a limited portion of the Apennines above Cape Palinuro, Italy. An effective species which delights in full sun and a good soil.

P. pedemontana Thomas. Leaves smooth and shiny, oblanceolate, with a narrow petiole, entire or dentate, with small russet hairs along the margins, 2-4" long. Scape 4-6", carrying an umbel of rose-colored flowers. A rather difficult species, appreciates sunlight.

P. spectabilis Tratt. Leaves 2-4" long, glossy, entire, with a cartilaginous margin, oblong, borne in a flat rosette, the upper surfaces of the leaves minutely pitted. Scape 2-4". Corolla somewhat cupped, clear pink or rose, large. Easily grown but at times a shy bloomer.

P. tyroensis Schott. An intriguing little species with glossy green, odorous leaves, finely toothed, round, and about an inch long. The scape is nearly absent and bears a few large lilac-red flowers with a sharply contrasting white eye. This will form tiny clumps in time and appreciates scree conditions. Propagates better by layers made by holding the rhizome to the soil with a small wire or hairpin than by cuttings, which are often hard to root.

P. villosa Jacq. subsp. commutata Schott. Leaves oblong, dentate, 4-6" in length, glandular and sticky. Scape reddish, bearing clear rose flowers in a loose umbel, their eyes snow white. Does not do well in a lime soil.

P. viscosa All. Leaves yellow-green and with a sharp odor, entire or toothed, oval to oblanceolate, 3-6" long. Scape 3-8". Corolla deep violet. A variable species, reminding one of P. hirsuta.

P. Wulflinan Schott. Leaves dark green, shiny, stiff, sharply pointed, with a broadly membranous margin, 1-2 1/2" long, in a close tuft. Scapes seldom exceeding 2". Flowers large, rose-purple. A very showy species, literally covered with blooms when well grown. Easy of cultivation.

(To be continued)
To bring out the charm of Marie Crousse, a ruddy native Saxifrage leaf was used. Sprigs of indigenous deciduous Huckleberry, beginning to show green and pink, serve as contrast. The bow is a deeper pink.

Corsages and arrangement in this issue are by Mrs. Philip Hart who is well-known to northwestern followers of the art. Photography by Mr. Frederick G. Wessinger. All Primrose material grown and furnished by Marguerite R. Clarke and gathered February 23rd. Several corsages and arrangements are yet to be published.

"For, lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone,
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come."

Song of Solomon.

English Auricula Book May Be Purchased in U.S.A.
To facilitate the purchase of the National Auricula Society (of England) 1947 Year Book, orders may be mailed to Florence Levy, Gresham, Oregon. Book containing colored plates of prize-winning Auriculas and articles of note is priced at $1.25 each copy.

OLD WORLD PRIMROSES
Captain C. Hawkes, M.B.E., M.C., Nantwich, Cheshire, England
Old-fashioned flowers are not merely old, but typical of certain periods of taste, just as fashion changes in pictures, furniture and dress. The "Rose Columbine" (Aquilegia vulgaris flore plena) was characteristic of Mediaeval times and is often seen in illustrated manuscripts of that period, "Double Nonsuch" (Lychnis chalcedonica fl. pl.), "Good Bye to Summer" (Saponaria officinalis fl. pl.), the "Double Red", "Yellow Rose" and "Pale Yellow" Wallflowers (Cheiranthus cherub fl. pl.) of Elizabethan times, while Dianthus "Painted Lady", Double and Jack-in-the-Green Primroses are of the 17th century. Some of these flowers have the quality of "antique pieces" and a character and beauty of their own in addition to a restful charm we associate with the old world gardens.

There is always an unfailing demand for the newest thing in flowers, yet, there also exists one for plants which were grown and loved by our ancestors. Fortunately some of our Primroses touch both these extremes. A few of these old Primroses have an ancient history as Parkinson (1610) mentions the Double Green Primrose in his Paradisus while both John Gerard (1590) and Rae (1665) mention double kinds. Thomas Mawe, gardener to the Duke of Leeds, in his book "Every Man His Own Gardener" published in 1773, describes three doubles: Yellow, Scarlet and White, while Philip Miller (1731) speaks of two double kinds: Yellow and Pale Red, which he says were accidentally produced from seeds, but the history of many varieties is rather like the birth of Jeems "wropt in mystery".

Early in the nineteenth century there were about a dozen kinds grown in England which included Madame Pompadour, Marie Crousse, and Arthur de Moleyns (Du moulin, du Moulin) of which the two former were, probably, of continental origin, while the latter, most likely English, as it is the family name of Lord Ventry.

There is, however, little doubt that the Double White and Yellow are the double forms of our Common English Primrose and the Lilac of Primula Sibthorpii of Eastern Europe.

Fifty or sixty years ago many of these old Primroses were to be found in almost every cottage garden yet now they are very scarce. One wonders sometimes whether a disease has taken hold of them in the same way as some of the coloured races have been affected by the invading white races.

It is generally thought that the culture of double Primroses is difficult but it is the writer's firm conviction that given the right conditions they are not such "milks", as had they been, they would not have survived so long. They grow well in Scotland and Ireland, which would suggest that they like a fair amount of moisture yet, on the other hand, they will not tolerate a boggy or badly drained site. They like a fairly fat heavy loamy soil to which has been added a liberal supply of leaf mould, but if this is not available a good quality peat will do just as well. The position they like best is one where they can get filtered sunshine such as is obtained under fruit trees whose leaves protect them from the scorching rays of the sun in the summer.

Perhaps the most essential thing of all is to split up the clumps at least every two years or the crowns get congested. In dry weather the plants should be given plenty of water and not just sprinkled.
These plants certainly appear to have a preference to some districts and while some kinds are reputed to be difficult, yet the trouble is often more imaginary than real. If you have never grown these plants don't start with the more expensive kinds but try the old White, Yellow and Mauve and thus gain experience.

Some sort of classification is perhaps necessary.

1. The common kinds: White, Sulphur, Lilac, Yellow.

2. The less common: Arthur de Moleyns, purple; Marie Crousse, rosy purple with white edge; Cloth of Gold (lutea plena) yellow; Old Blush, blush; Crimson King, dark crimson; and Paddy, crimson.

3. The rarer kinds: Madame Pompadour, velvety crimson (ala now very scarce); Rose du Barri (Vieux Rose) rose; Burgundy, purple; Salmonia, pink; Double Blue, deep blue; Green (verdilfores), green.

4. The very rare: This class has the very rare and interesting old sorts but they are really only collectors' "pieces"—Rex Theodore, deep red edged andtickede white and red; Harlequin, dark red and yellow.

5. The Polyanthus kinds: Curiosity, cherry pink laced with gold; Prince Silverwings, purple edged with white; Tortolleshell, darkish yellow and terra-cotta; Crimson Emperor, deep red.

There is another class, viz., Cocker's Bon Accord Doubles, but as these were only introduced by Mr. Cocker of Aberdeen in the early years of the present century they cannot be called old.

Finally, if you can grow ordinary Primroses successfully, there is no reason why the same should not be done with "doubles".

In old world single Primroses we have that interesting type Jack-in-the-Green which the Irish call Galligaskins. These are single Primroses with an Elizabethan "ruff" of green leaves round the flower which looks as though it is sitting on a nest of green. When the flower fades the "ruff" remains and continues to grow larger and the writer has one plant on which the fading flower transmits a part of the colour to the "ruff". These can be obtained in a number of shades and one of special interest is "Jackanapes" or Frantic Cowslip which grow in Shakespeare's day.

**Brief Notes on the Use of Polyanthus in the Landscape**

Mrs. Robert O. Boyd reporting Mrs. Florence Gerke's lecture

"Landscape architecture is the arrangement of the land for use and enjoyment." With this introduction, Mrs. Florence Holmes Gerke, noted landscape designer, opened her discussion of the uses of Polyanthus in landscape gardening before the regular meeting of the Society last May.

Mrs. Gerke emphasized the beauty of contrast between the dark bark of deciduous trees, the blackness of the earth in spring, and the delicacy of bloom and color brilliance of our most sparkling spring-time flower—the Polyanthus type of Primula. She urged her listeners to plan a complete picture before arranging a Polyanthus planting. (Background: shrubbery and trees, companion planting of a small type, and the over-all picture of color harmony taking into consideration the background of shrubs and trees, the leaf texture of plantings in close proximity to the Polyanthus and the contour of the ground itself.)

(Continued on page 67)

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**BLUE PRIMROSES**

*Angelo Patri*

I planted the Blue Primroses in the glen to make it complete, perfect in mood and time. I found the place one late full afternoon when a sudden swirl of snow sent me scurrying for shelter. It lies between the brook and the old stone wall that stops the cold blasts from the north. The moment I entered, I felt I was in a place secret and sacred.

There was a shining silence that told of a Presence warm and serene and gay. The snow fell softly on the hemlocks, caressing the great gray rock at their roots and the moss that covered the floor. No threat of the storm outside, no sound of its battle and bluster, intruded here; only the soft hush of snow falling on welcoming softness.

The ancient witchhazel bush, gnarled and blackened with the years, was in full bloom, filling the dimness with a golden glow softer than sunlight. Here was peace and beauty and inner joy, sanctuary for the soul. I would keep it hidden for myself alone. And yes, I would bring to it some of my precious Blue Primroses. They belonged here.

I love Primroses. They come early. Just as one begins to sicken of the long, cold, dark and stillness, they spring up, bringing warmth and light and gaiety. They look up with knowing eyes, sparkling with color. Their fragrance is the breath of that unutterable beauty that lies beyond our horizon, the spirit that dwells in hidden groves and gardens.

Primroses are Spring in person and like all excellent things, are hard to come by, and to keep. They must be enticed to sprout their seeds by every art the gardener knows of leaf mold and sand, of water-not-too-much and mystic ministrations that are akin to prayer. To win them is a rare triumph.

After many months I had my Primroses. With almost reverent care I set them in their velvety black bed of earth, cool, sweet-smelling, rare earth. Gloatingly, I watched them bloom. Yes, they belonged. The glen welcomed them. But—

The slugs found the plants and ate them like so many cabbages. I warned on the slugs. My neighbor's old hen, red-eyed, iron-beaked, steel-clawed, discovered the bed of earth so much to her liking, the tender leaves so luscious, and the slugs so juicy, and had her will with them. I stoned the hen, but my heart was heavier than the stone, and my aim was bad.

Worst of all, our donkey left his paddock and made his way to the hidden glen—and ate what he found there, with the same appreciation he accords to winter hay. I led him back to the stall and fervently wished him thistles as his lifelong portion. Then I set a gate at the entrance to the glen, and bade Sandy guard it with his life.

The Primroses will grow in the glen again, and the Spirit will return and abide there. I am prepared to defend them, come slugs, come hens, come donkeys. Sadly, reluctantly, I have accepted what I already knew by the book, that what a man loves, he must defend. What a man would preserve, he must stand ready to fight for to the death. At the entrance of every Eden there must stand the Angel with the flaming sword.

*Reprinted from Redbook Magazine, January 1939 issue, by special permission of McCaill Corporation.*
SIXTH ANNUAL PRIMROSE SHOW, APRIL 9 AND 10

The Sixth Annual Primrose Show is to be staged in the grand manner April 9th and 10th in the spacious and beautiful sunken ballroom of the Masonic Temple, S. W. Park and Main S.s., Portland. Entries in the amateur, professional and garden club horticultural exhibits and the amateur, garden club and florists' artistic arrangements have approximately doubled with each successive show and are expected to more than double again this year in view of the intense Primrose concentration and enthusiasm not only in the immediate vicinity but throughout the country.

The lectures, demonstrations and colored slides so keenly appreciated last year will again be a major attraction for those interested in the latest cultural practices, hybridizing, genetics, the use of Primroses in corsages and arrangements and the viewing of rare species and varieties. The program is scheduled on the hour, afternoons and evenings of both days, with time being allowed for questions following each lecture and demonstration. Objects of Primrose art and old books will again be on display.

The show will open at 10 a.m. and close 10 p.m. both days. Entries will be received April 8th, the day before official opening, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., judging to begin at 8 p.m. immediately after entries close. For Show Rules and Classifications send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. S. R. Smith, Route 16, Box 102, Portland 2, Oregon.

Sweepstakes trophy, silver cups, bowls, books, paintings as well as first, second and third prize ribbons will be awarded winners in the amateur and garden club divisions. All awards, other than ribbons, will be on display throughout the show until 9 p.m., April 10th, when presentations will be made. Professional exhibits will again be complimentary.

Committee Chairmen follow: Co-chairmen of show, Mrs. John M. Young, Carl Maskey, Claude W. Mills; Financial, R. M. Brown; Properties, Allen W. Davis; Publicity, Mrs. John M. Young; Hospitality and Information, Mrs. Joyce B. Neilan; Classification, Mrs. Lou B. Roberts; Membership, Mrs. S. R. Smith; Entries Mrs. M. A. Lawrence; Placing, Mrs. T. W. Blakeney; Commercial Entries, Mrs. John Reutter; Garden Clubs, Mrs. H. A. Hartsborn; Complimentary Arrangements, Mrs. Audra Link; Special Features, Mrs. Leander Anderson; Judges and Clerks, M. A. Lawrence; Ribbons and Awards, Mrs. John H. Holmes; Registering Out-of-town Guests, R. W. Ewell.

An admission fee of 25c will be charged to all except members of the Society who will be admitted upon presentation of 1947 membership card. All children under 12 will be admitted without charge. Any proceeds over and above expenses incurred will be set aside for the Horticultural Hall Fund.

A complimentary Daffodil Exhibition in memorial to Charles Bailey, an outstanding amateur Narcissi hybridizer, is being staged in conjunction with the Sixth Annual Primrose Show. Massed displays and many of the latest originals of two of the country's most famous growers, Jan de Graaff and Grant Mitsch, are expected to attract wide attention. Mr. Mitsch will show slides of Narcissi. The Exhibition is being sponsored by the Men's Garden Club of Portland.

PREPARING PRIMROSES FOR THE SHOW
Mrs. R. P. McHenry, Portland

The first step is to walk around the garden and choose your most perfect plants. My preference is for those with a neat, compact habit of growth and dark green foliage with an interesting veining. I like stalks in proportion to the size of the plant, and blooms that hold the eye because of the beauty of color and form. It is advisable to choose plants just coming into bloom, those with several freshly opened florets rather than a fully opened umbel. While such plants would be beautiful for many days in the garden they would probably partially collapse when brought into a warm room.

White Acaulis in several sizes are combined with white Heather and tied with a gold metallic ribbon.

Hoist an umbrella over the chosen plants in the form of a piece of glass or covering of cellophane. Choose the containers to fit the plants. Remove all ragged and spotted leaves and wash remaining foliage. Mark circle around each plant large enough to avoid severing too many feeding roots. The day before the show, take up the plants by cutting down carefully around each circle. Lift carefully so as not to disturb the roots and ease into respective containers. A little wet peat moss in the bottom of each container is necessary and air pockets between container and plant should be filled with peat.

A thorough watering with a weak solution of manure is not amiss. Place plants in a protected position until you are ready to proudly enter them in the show.
HOW POLYANTHUS ARE JUDGED
Florence Levy

A series of lectures was given last year in the Central Library, Portland, on the history, development and properties of Show and Garden Polyanthus, Show, Alpine and Garden Auriculas, Acaulis, and Juliana hybrids designed as a course in Primrose appreciation and as a school for accrediting judges. Until now, requests for the publication of examination questions and answers have had to be set aside. As a means, however, of acquainting exhibitors in the forthcoming shows with the results on which their Polyanthus will be judged, and simultaneously providing a guide in the choice of such entries, fifteen of the twenty questions comprising the examination on Garden Polyanthus are given herewith. Future issues will carry Garden Auricula, Acaulis and Juliana examinations.

The Society’s Standard of Excellence for Garden Polyanthus, based on a score of 100 points, follows:

Form of Flower, 50 Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Color (clear, unclouded, rich)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texture (substantial, not flimsy)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size (must be over one inch)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Eye</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florets fully open when mature</td>
<td>2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrum-eye</td>
<td>2½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plant Habit and Foliage, 50 Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form of umbel (full, compact and symmetrical)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem (sturdy, round and tall in proportion to plant)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foliage (free from disease and pests and generally well grown)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The examination adhered closely to this score, and the following ten questions pertain to the form of flower:

1. Why are color and texture of greatest importance? Because color and quality of color attract and hold the attention both in the garden and at close range; texture gives character and endurance, and adds quality and depth to color.

2. Why do color and texture take precedence over size? Size without refinement is coarse and vulgar.

3. When is size a desirable characteristic? Size when natural, not forced, and when in proportion to entire plant, adds immeasurably to the beauty provided color, texture and form are present.

4. When is size unattractive? When not an inherent factor in the plant but forced by over-fertilizing. What are some of the results of over-fertilizing? Color appears diluted, texture thin, stalk weak, lengthened pedicel cause loose, gangly umbel, foliage excessively large and watery.

5. When is the eye clear? When no other color than its adopted shade of yellow or orange is present. When clouded, or muddy? When ground color appears to drain or wash back thereby causing discoloration.

6. What two shapes may florets be? Ruffled or flat. From a judging viewpoint is one preferred to another? No, not in Garden Polyanthus. Whereas florets of Show Polyanthus must be flat, shape of Garden type may be either and any preference would be purely personal.

7. There is a shape which is demerited because florets are not shown to advantage, what is it? Cup-shaped, one that never entirely opens.

8. Describe thrum-eye and pin-eye. Thrum-eyed form displays anthers in mouth of tube while in the pin-eyed form the stigma is visible in the mouth of the tube, anthers being invisible below. Which is the preferred form? Thrum-eye.

9. Why are so few points given to the thrum-eyed form in Garden Polyanthus when Show Polyanthus (none of which exists in America) are not admitted to entry in English shows unless thrum-eyed? Because Garden Polyanthus are developed primarily for garden use and this detail is of no consequence in bedding and border material. Show Polyanthus were developed exclusively for close-range scrutiny on the show table and the point fixed by early florists, in time became a dictum.

10. What part of anatomy governs pin and thrum forms? The style. A long style projects the stigma above the anthers, the short style confines the stigma within the tube and below the anthers. When is the pin-eyed form objectionable? When the style is of such great length as to project the stigma beyond the mouth of the tube.

The following five questions apply to plant habit and foliage:

11. In habit of growth what is of paramount importance? A stout, sturdy stalk to hold the umbel erect, firm, and well above the foliage.

12. If you were judging a Polyanthus of exceptional color, texture and size but this particular point was noticeably weak, how should it be considered from a garden and a show table point of view? If a truss of florets, no matter how fine, cannot be held erect there is little value either at close or long range.

13. In a Polyanthus, what is the characteristic which gives neatness and symmetry? A compact truss with pedicel short enough to bring individual florets in close, yet uncrowded, position. Which would you consider the better Polyanthus, one with a few exceptionally large blossoms or one with many of lesser size? The latter.

14. What part of the plant largely indicates the care given it? The foliage. How should this part appear? Pest and disease free, well nourished but not highly stimulated, neat and compact.

15. When several plants are in close competition and the score ties, what are some additional characteristics to be observed? Rose crown (embossed fluting circling the mouth of tube), the most unusual color which is the most difficult to obtain, greatest depth of color, most beautiful or unusual eye, fragrance, floriferousness, comparative strength of stalk, condition of umbel, most perfect foliage.

It was pointed out that the judge greatly influences the destiny of a flower, especially when that flower is in its ascendancy. He guides public opinion and public opinion in great measure governs the trend of development so that the show table, instead of being an end in itself, is a means to a better end.
IT'S OUR FAVORITE GENUS, TOO

Robert H. Argle, Kelso, Wash.

“Twas but in accordance with the usual trend of things that among the many and varied families of plants that claimed a fair share of my affections one particular flower should finally woo and win my special love, becoming the favoured among favourites. That flower is the Primula.” (From John MacWatt’s “The Primulas of Europe.”)

I have borrowed the above paragraph from Dr. MacWatt because he, in these few words, describes the average Primrose enthusiast. Once under their spell there is no escaping—and who wants to?

In no other flower family is there to be found such a large diversity of plants. By building up a collection, at least one species may be had in bloom the year around, that is when snow permits. Some grow best in a woodland situation, some in the rock garden and others by a pool or stream, but most of them can be grown in the border with a reasonable amount of care. Sometimes in a planting of even the hardiest types there will be some plants that no matter how hard one tries to please them they just seem to grow smaller and smaller and finally they're gone, while plants all around them grow and flourish.

The following is not intended as a general growing practice in the Pacific Northwest, only how we are attempting to grow them.

The best way to build up a collection is to grow your plants from seed. Some types are a little slow to germinate unless they are pre-treated. This can be either freezing, scarifying or—the method we prefer—hot water. Fill a small seed pan, flower pot, or other suitable container with peat moss. Scatter seed on the moss, spray with hot water (hot but not scalding) two or three consecutive evenings, cover with a piece of glass and keep in a dark place until seeds start to germinate. (P. Auricula does exceptionally well with this method.) As seed germinates, plant in standard flats about two inches apart using a mixture of 1/3 each peat, sand and good garden soil. We sow our seed in our small greenhouse about the first of November and, as the seedlings stay in these flats until spring, a small amount of sheep guano is added to the above mixture. Seedlings are then planted directly into the garden where many produce summer and late fall bloom. From the November 1945 planting of Auricula seed we have one plant that, eleven months later, is showing promise of being fairly double, anyway we have our fingers crossed. This is one of the “it isn’t possible” seedlings, those of the one-day germination.

When transplanting seedlings or divisions, we use a solution of Volck, about a cup to a plant poured in the hole around the roots. It makes for healthier plants as it goes a long way toward discouraging the strawberry root weevil. Transplanting of divisions may be done almost any time, but we prefer to do it in summer directly after seed harvest. A cloudy day is chosen but if the weather turns hot fah frames are used for shade. Polyanthus and the Juliae are divided about every three years, or whenever plants become crowded, but the Asiatics are divided every year as they seem particularly susceptible to crown rot if left in a crowded condition.

As we have no woodland situation—in fact no situation naturally pleasing to Primroses—summer shade is our biggest problem. Some plants are placed in the shade of tall shrubs, others are provided with lath frames placed on 4’ posts above the beds. Our soil, being fairly heavy, holds moisture well. Acaulis, Polyanthus, Juventus hybrids, Acidula, Pulvifolia, Bulleyana, Helodoxa, Cashmeriana, Microdonta, and Floribunda—the never-to-be-accepted Floribunda in a mixed, shaded corner, with wild Columbine and ferns and nectar-hunting humming birds—all are given approximately the same culture as us, soil as it is, plenty of moisture, shade during the heat of the day and good drainage.

All of the foregoing Primroses are hardy with the average care given any perennial. No set rule can be laid down as every garden presents a different problem, but if the three main rules are followed—shade and moisture and drainage—any one can have Primroses in their garden. P. capitata Mooreana with its pagoda-shaped heads of violet bloom, fragrance of Heliotrope, and silvered stems is one of the easiest to raise from seed but has a bad habit of growing smaller and smaller, once it has bloomed, until finally it is gone. We do have some plants in a coldframe protected from winter wet and in a soil mixture of sand, peat and loam that are four years old.

Primulas cortusoides and Sieboldii do best in a fairly light soil, although Sieboldii will grow under conditions that would discourage most any of the others—in sun-baked locations, in deep shade or, as I like it, in a crevice of the rock garden. The white and pink are my favorites, and I take issue with any one who says Sieboldii is a weed. Sieboldii goes dormant in the summer, about the first of July with us, and care must be taken not to dig it up when working. It multiplies very rapidly by creeping rootstocks and comes readily from root cuttings.

P. rosea grandiflora and P. frondosa increase quite rapidly and are planted in the rock garden which, in our case, is a small corner of the garden built up about three feet above ground level with rocks and soil. It isn’t very big but anything planted there grows by leaps and bounds. A small plant of Frondosa is soon a large clump and makes a nice display among the bottom of a small rockery, while Rosea, with its carmine blooms, is one of the brightest and earliest.

P. scapigera is one of the newer additions to our collection, having had it only a couple of years, and is quite easy of culture grown in a light, loose soil with good drainage. It blooms early in February here and the delicate pink blooms almost completely hide the foliage. It is easily propagated by leaf cuttings in the spring.

P. vialii is an oddity even in a flower family where oddities are no rarity. The brick-red buds on the conical flower heads, which resemble miniature Tritomas, open into lavender flowers that circle the cone like stripes on a barber pole. P. vialii, along with P. Forrestii and P. chionantha, is doing nicely in a coldframe in a mixture of sand, peat, loam and compost. All are new additions and will be given their first trial in the garden next year. Whenever we are in doubt about a plant, or acquire a new one with which we are inexperienced, it is grown in a coldframe until sufficient number is on hand to risk some in the open ground.

Our plants of P. Parryi were grown from seed collected by Mr. and Mrs. Chester K. Strong in the Colorado Rockies and distributed by the Society. These plants will soon be three years old and, while the roots
go eight or ten inches underground, the leaves have never exceeded three inches. Planted in a coarse, gritty mixture for fast drainage, they are never allowed to want for water. They are slow doers but we have hopes they will bloom in another year or two—if they last that long. A tough plant to satisfy away from its chosen surroundings.

P. malacoides is primarily a plant for greenhouse culture, although it does well here planted in the border like any annual.

Primulas Auricula, hirsuta, Clusiana, minima and marginata are planted in the rock garden with plenty of rock chips to provide quick drainage. Minima is still reluctant to reward us with a bloom, but we keep trying.

Most of the Asiatic Primulas, if given half a chance, self seed all over our garden. It is a simple matter to transplant as many as we want into a coldframe where they keep on growing most of the winter so that by spring they are ready for permanent positions. All seedlings are protected from slugs by baiting with any of the standard slug baits and from aphids by using a 3% DDT dust.

And that pretty well covers the Primulas we are attempting to grow—some fairly successfully, other not quite so well. With the experience we expect to collect in another twenty years perhaps we can grow all of these and the many we hope to acquire equally well.

**POLYANTHUS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Mrs. J. C. Williamson, Santa Rosa

After more than twenty years of trial we find the Polyanthus Primrose by far our most valuable spring-flowering perennial and certainly the loveliest. Growing in parts of the garden where many plants requiring sun refuse to blossom, the Polyanthus gives color over a period from February to April. Its needs in our climate are shade, at least in the afternoon, and a fairly rich soil retentive of moisture. We have no summer rains so that irrigation is necessary, but high ocean fogs are frequent which makes for a suitable atmosphere for Primroses.

Our largest beds are planted beneath Laburnums and European cut-leaved weeping birches. This gives winter sun, which is good, and shade during the hot months, but the birch roots are a nuisance and have to be cut back about every second year. This has not damaged the trees and affords an opportunity for dividing the Primroses and renewing the soil. We use some commercial fertilizers, also cow manure, and allow all the falling leaves to remain on the beds. Since the birches are tall there is a heavy carpet of leaves each year.

However, I think that many nooks in the garden where a dozen or so plants can be combined with other plants are delightful. A few Blue Primroses near a rose-colored Camellia which is flanked by Anchusa myosotidiflora make a charming picture. Some pink Polyanthus clumps beneath an early flowering white rose are always pleasing. And the yellows and bronzes combine well in any shady corner and need no further color. I have several clumps of the Lenten Rose (Helleborus orientalis) which suggest a foreground of Polyanthus in American Beauty, Fuschia and rich vineyard shades. These Helleboruses are in whites and pink-to-crimson shades so that no salmony-pinks can be used. But pastels and white could make a very good combination and I hope to try this next season.

Almost all of our Primroses have been grown from seeds, home grown and hand-pollinated. Seeds planted from January to March in boxes bring on fine plants for the next year's flowering. I have grown plants from July sown seeds and flowered them outdoors the next spring. This, however, requires very favorable weather. Our current winter has not been a good one, almost all of January was frosty with morning temperatures of 26 to 28 degrees, above of course, but too cold for growing. The outdoor plants were uninjured but almost stood still, while a few July seedlings carried over in boxes indoors are in bud and showing color (early February). The older plants outdoors have shown a few blooms all winter and are now coming on rapidly with warm February rains.

Mrs. Ward Cyrus

At the time of her sudden and unexpected passing last fall, Mrs. Ward Cyrus of Albany, Oregon and one of the Society's most enthusiastic members, was working toward an enlarged program of hybridizing for double Primroses and Polyanthus by collecting all the semi-double and pollen-bearing double plants available. Her memory will always be linked with her love for Primroses.
PRIMROSES AT THE FOOT OF PIKES PEAK
Mrs. Florence Arnett, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ours is not the ideal climate for growing Primroses. As we are near the mountains our seasons, as well as our days, are short and the air is very dry. Clara Norton of Denver, in an article in Flower Grower said, "A dry, sunny rock garden in Oregon or in England we would consider moist in Colorado." The first snow to cover the ground in our city this winter (1943) fell the 25th of January. We never have rain in winter and it is too cold most of the time to use the hose so a growing uneasiness sends me out, pioneer fashion, with buckets of water.

You will see that to have any success with these treasures they need "to be looked at often, or they will not thrive." This means daily watering during the growing season and working leafmold, peat and old manure between the plants. Slugs have been my worst pest but poison baits and hunting them out in early morning are both effective. Evergreen boughs I find the best winter protection.

Until I bought a packet of mixed Polyanthus and grew them I had never seen a Primrose, although I had visited many gardens with the local garden club. I knew them only through poetry and song. That was many years ago and even now I know of but two persons who have any luck with them. Many divisions have gone to friends from this little garden, but almost without exception they have died, but recently I am inclined to believe I have interested several gardeners to the point of Polyanthus culture.

My first efforts were discouraging. Seed seemed so slow to germinate and seedlings even slower of growth. I doubted their ability to survive the winter, but now I know cold seldom kills them. Shortly after these first Polyanthus bloomed I read Mrs. Wilder's "Advances in My Garden and Rock Garden." I not only learned the needs of my plants but became interested in other varieties as well. All I have tried seem equally hardy if given plenty of moisture and protected from our almost constant sunshine.

Auriculas have been most exciting as they vary so from seed. When a new batch of seedlings are opening their lovely flowers for the first time I hover over them hourly for the first possible glimpse after unfolding. This year Auricula seeds were frozen in the refrigerator and planted indoors instead of leaving the flats outdoors to freeze. A few sprouted in five days.

Last spring the Denticulatas sent up fine stems of bloom but before they were quite open a heavy snow beat them to the ground and they never raised their heads again. Deep blue Acanthus were especially lovely but the Florinias, though fine big year-old plants, made no effort to bloom. Julias, too, refused to flower. Maybe this spring.

I have never had the fall bloom I read of in other parts of the country and as I should so love to have. There have been buds but winter comes before they have a chance to open. Spring bloom begins the middle or end of April making a really grand display and during this season when the garden is gay with all the Primrose colors and the blue of Grape Hyacinth—a favorite combination—there seems always to be an appreciative audience looking over my fence and the question is always the same, "What are these lovely flowers?"

I have had, for a number of years, the white and lavender (pink with me) double Primroses which grow and multiply moderately but bear so few of their lovely blooms. I read in Gertrude Jekyll's "A Gardener's Testament" that the Doubles need a heavy or chalky soil. Perhaps this is my trouble. They shall have this as soon as possible.

Some day I hope to obtain the lovely P. Parryi which grows wild in our mountains in light shade with its toes in the water. I have not seen it but friends who have say it is quite showy. Probably it would not live away from its wet home but I should like to try it.

One of the joys of going to Denver in spring is visiting the nurseries and private gardens of friends in the hope of discovering some new Primrose—possibly a Jack-in-the-green or a Hose-in-hose. Before the war these nurseries grew thousands of Polyanthus and Auriculas, mostly under glass. I always returned home in a glow.

Many kinds of flowers grow in this little garden, but none are so anxiously looked forward to as the precious Primrose. I grow some on the south of a high fence. These bloom first. Others are on the north of a picket fence and shrubs. These begin when the others are past their peak and I enjoy them for a longer time but, oh, I envy those of you who live in damper climates where Primroses are happier.

(From page 56)

If Mrs. Gerke could make only one planting of Polyanthus in her life-time as a landscape architect or as an individual lover of beauty, she would choose a clump of vine maples on a slightly rolling slope and there she would plant Polyanthus by the thousands. In drifts, perhaps, beginning with the light shades and working as close to the trees as possible with the color tone growing deeper and more intense. This is a beautiful picture to contemplate on a sunny day or during spring showers, one which whets the desire to find a gently sloping space, some vine maples, and then plant and plant—and plant.

As companion material for Polyanthus Mrs. Gerke made many suggestions. Among the first were spring bulbs: the water-lily Tulip, Tulipa Kaufmanniana; Tulipa persica, a self-seeding species; Muscari or Grape Hyacinth, the new azure shade especially good; single early Tulip; early double, Mr. Vanderhoof (yellow) lovely with yellow Polyanthus. Double white Arabis, white Bleeding Heart, 'Sweethurt' and Anemone pulsatilla are all excellent plant material. Among suggested shrubs were Forsythia with yellow; red flowering Currant; deciduous Magnolia. Polyanthus are perfect with ferns and, in complete contrast, they are particularly good at the base of any large boulder. Mrs. Gerke suggested that one color scheme of many shades would be the safest for a beginner and very effective.
An old light-colored bronze Ming dish is used to hold Polyanthus in shades of yellow and orange. Blue Grape Hyacinths make an attractive line pattern and Primrose leaves give needed weight to the arrangement.
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Viewed from every angle, 1946 was another banner year for our Society. Membership showed another tremendous increase, our financial position became more secure, and our expanding program and educational activities were but an indication of what may be expected in the years to come. Although I am a charter member of the Society and served as a member of the board this past year, I have had little to do with the splendid records of the past few years. All credit should go to the loyal officers, directors and committee members who have served so efficiently and faithfully.

Fortunately, many of these officers and directors continue in office for the year 1947. With the assurance of their enthusiasm and loyal cooperation, we can look forward with confidence to an even greater year.

Knowing, as we do, that our Quarterly is the only connecting link between the large majority of our members and the Society, we are hoping to make it even more interesting and educational than in the past. No words can express the depth of our appreciation of Florence Levy for her devoted and intelligent work as Editor of the Quarterly. We trust she may be able to carry on to finer achievements for the American Primrose Society.

The love of nature contributes to a finer, fuller life. Many of us feel that growing beautiful flowers is definitely a spiritual experience in addition to the pleasure it affords. As we learn more about the many types of Primulas which bring so much beauty and happiness into the world, may all of our lives be enriched through these expanding and continuing experiences.—Allen W. Davis.

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Another year has gone but the pleasant memories occasioned by the friendly messages from our now widespread membership will remain with me always. I have come to feel a genuine friendship for all and should like to thank each of you individually for the pleasure your correspondence has given. But since this is not possible, please know how much your friendly notes and letters have meant to the Society and to me.—Mrs. S. R. Smith.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

An editor's happiness is gauged by the size of the articles-pending file, the quality and diversity of those articles, and how seldom he must take up the pen to supplement material on hand. My happiness continues undiminished. The spirit prompting the voluntary sending of articles and the unfailing willingness with which requests for articles are always filled have immeasurably eased the work and provided the keystone for the Quarterly's success.

Perhaps our greatest good fortune of the year was the establishment of friendly relations between the National Auricula Society (Northern Section) of England and the American Primrose Society. Members of the American Society now belong to the English Society and we are proud to claim as members some of England's most outstanding men in their chosen fields of endeavor. Because of the mutual interest, cooperation and genial exchange we are entering into a vastly widened sphere which will at once increase our knowledge and capacity for achievement and give us an insight into the joys and problems of our friends abroad thereby forging a Primrose link in the chain of international relations.—Florence Levy.

ANNUAL MEETING, DECEMBER 17, 1946

The regular election of officers and directors was quickly disposed of inasmuch as nominees proposed by the nominating committee in October were unopposed. All were elected by unanimous vote. Officers: Mr. Allen W. Davis, President; Mrs. John M. Young, Vice President; Mrs. S. R. Smith, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Boyd Myers, Recording Secretary; Mrs. John H. Holmes, Treasurer. Directors: Three year term, Mrs. L. M. Buoy and Mrs. O. J. Zach; one year term, Mr. Henry Wessinger, elected to complete the term of Mr. Allen W. Davis. Directors with unfinished terms: Two years, Mrs. John L. Karnopp and Mr. Carl Maskey; one year term, Mrs. A. W. House.

The Society honored Mr. R. W. Ewell, the retiring President, with gifts and speeches in appreciation of his years of faithful service. Mrs. John L. Karnopp was likewise honored by members of the Study Group.

A jolly Christmas party, cleverly arranged by Mrs. Joyce B. Neilan, followed with gifts for all, and closed with the joining of hands and voices in Auld Lang Syne.

CHAI RMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1947


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INDEX OF VOLUME 4, NUMBERS 1, 2, 3 AND 4

An Early Book on the Auricula, Walter C. Blasdale ........ 1, 17
Blue Primroses, Angelo Patri .................................. 57
Brief Notes on the Use of Polyanthus in the Landscape .... 56
Excerpts from the International, New York, Mrs. Ernest L. Scott 24
Experiences with the Primula in Maryland, Mrs. W. H. Haydon 27
Growing Asiatics: Mistakes Nos. 2 and 3, Helen Garrett 12
How Polyanthus Are Judged, Florence Levy 60
Ice—A Successful Winter Mulch ................................ 30
It's Our Favorite Genus, Too, Robert H. Argle ......... 62
More About Primula Allionii, Clara W. Regan ........... 26
Notes on Botanical Nomenclature, Donald Neil O'Connell 22
Notes on Primulas in New Hampshire, Caroline Morse Lord 13
Notes on the Sections of the Genus Primula, Donald Neil O'Connell 49
Old World Primroses, Captain C. Hawkes, M.B.E., M.C. 55
Polyanthus in Northern California, Mrs. J. C. Williamson 65
Preparing Primroses for the Show, Mrs. R. P. McHenry 59
Primroses at the Foot of Pikes Peak, Mrs. Florence Arnett 66
Polyanthus Intercedens, Frank F. Beattie 7
Primula Intercedens, Chester K. Strong 8
Review of the 5th Annual Show, April 10th and 11th ... 9
Review of English Auricula Society Year Book ............ 15
Site and the Part It Plays in Plant Survival, A. H. MacAndrews 5
Sixth Annual Primrose Show, April 9 and 10 ............... 58
The Auricula Chart of Mr. G. H. Dalrymple ................. 14
The Auricula in England, R. H. Briggs ....................... 24
The Bremerton Show ........................................... 29
The Origin of the Alpine Auricula, Walter C. Blasdale 33
Year Book, 1946 ................................................. 70-83

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