

for furnishing spring flowers for small gardens. Even the early-flowering trees are often small and compact. The flowering cherries and crabapples are supreme spring flowers for small places. A feature pertaining to all these flowers is their foresightedness or preparedness. They are all ready to bloom before the winter sets in, in buds wrapped or covered securely by nature, protected against the severe weather, but ready to open when the spring sun begins to warm them. So it is wise to uncover and care for the low plants early. It is even necessary to begin to care for the spring flowers during the previous summer and autumn. Iris growers recognize the summer as the time of preparation for next spring's bloom, and do their planting in early summer. Then too we must prune the trees and shrubs soon after blooming time, in the summer, because they immediately start to put out new flowering wood for next year. Should they be cut during the winter season or early spring, it is the flowers of spring that are being cut. Most of our parks today lack color because the shrubbery was trimmed. Witness the sparse flowering of the magnificent Forsythia in most places.

Of course our bulbs are previous autumn work, so that spring flower results in most cases are from fall preparedness.

Flowers from the collections of the garden were shown at the lecture and excursions made to view the display of daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths, then in full bloom.

KENNETH R. BOYNTON.

BOTANIZING IN THE COLOMBIAN ANDES*

The lecture was an account of an expedition made under the auspices of The New York Botanical Garden with the coöperation of Harvard University, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences as a part of the general botanical exploration of northern South America which is being carried on by these institutions.

The lecturer traced in order the route of the expedition from its entrance into Colombia by the Pacific port, Buenaventura, over

* Abstract of an illustrated lecture given in the Museum Building of The New York Botanical Garden on Saturday afternoon, May 16, 1925.

the western and central ranges of the Andes, and back to the coast. The railroad journey up from the western coast is one of very great interest, with an astonishing variety of picturesque botanical situations and much scenic beauty. Passing up through the dense coastal jungle, one emerges in a cactus and acacia desert which invited repeated visits. At La Cumbre, a summer resort at the summit of the pass over the western Cordillera, at an elevation of 5,250 feet, the well-equipped American hospital, the Smith Clinic, extended its hospitality for important excursions into neighboring subtropical forests. In the great central valley of the River Cauca, one may proceed northward by boat, or by railroad and motorbus, to Zarzal, thence by mule pack-train up through the well-known coffee region of the Quindio to the town of Salento, at an elevation of about 7,000 feet, which was the expedition headquarters for some weeks.

From that town, besides numerous excursions to neighboring valleys for orchids and ferns and other striking plants, one of the most notable, as well as the hardest of trips, was that over the Old Quindio Trail, memorable as the route of the famous Humboldt expedition in 1801, now rarely traveled, where the profusion of passion flowers and fuchsias, orchids and tree ferns, and surpassing all else, the miles of trail through the forest of majestic wax palms, produce an impression never to be forgotten.

From Salento another excursion of greatest interest and joy to the botanist was one made to "Alaska," the high mountain estate of the Tobón family. From a cabin there as a base, expeditions were made up through the fine temperate forest to the high *paramo*, or treeless region at the foot of the Nevado del Quindio, where the camp was surrounded by a great variety of characteristic alpine plants with brilliant-hued flowers usual in similar regions, but dominated by the extraordinary densely-woolly shrubs of the Composite Family, called *Frailejones*, which furnished some of the most notable photographs secured. The hospitality and courtesy of Señor Alfonso Tobón and of other Colombian gentlemen and officials will be long remembered.

The lecture was illustrated by more than eighty lantern slides, many of them colored in accordance with careful employment of standard color charts during the field work.

TRACY E. HAZEN.



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