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Irish Gardens

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indicated that *Picradenia* may be considered a subgenus of *Hymenoxys*, Cass. If this view be correct the Colorado Rubber plant is therefore a species of *Hymenoxys*.

In July, 1906, Mr. Naylor forwarded to Kew a further supply of material. Accompanying this was the following extract from the letter which Mr. Naylor had received with the specimens:—  
 “I have obtained a sample of crude rubber from the experimental plant at Buena Vista; this is, of course, not vulcanised, and if kept in a warm place will become soft and sticky. The round piece is just as it comes from the plant; the flat piece is after its second trip through the machine, and in this form is shipped east to the refinery. The full size of the pieces as shipped is 10 to 15 feet long and 18 inches wide. The root of the native plant yields about 10 per cent. of rubber.”

From the evidence thus obtained there is hardly room for doubt that this species of *Hymenoxys* yields a rubber-like product. This does not, however, compare favourably with many of the lower grades of rubber already on the market. It is therefore somewhat doubtful whether the expectations which have been formed regarding it in some quarters will be realised.

J. M. H.

### XXXVII.—IRISH GARDENS.

At the invitation of Mr. Moore, of Glasnevin, and at the desire of the Director of Kew, I spent a fortnight in June in visiting some of the more interesting gardens in Ireland. Mr. Moore was fortunately able to accompany me, and, favoured by their proprietors, we inspected the gardens of the following places:—Castlewellan, Kilmacurragh, Mount Usher, Narrow Water, St. Anns, Fota, Belgrove, Darreen, Rossdohan, Ashbourne, near Queens-town, and several other gardens in the neighbourhood of Dublin.

Our special object was to ascertain what had been done in the direction of establishing reputedly tender trees, shrubs, and perennial plants in the more favoured parts of the island. Both Mr. Moore and myself are fairly well acquainted with the gardens of South Cornwall and South Wales, where the climatic conditions are similar to those of the south and west of Ireland. We were therefore in a position to make comparisons and offer suggestions with regard to what might be tried in Ireland. The things we saw, however, far surpassed our most sanguine expectations. Ireland is favoured with a climate and, in many parts, a soil most suitable to gardening; and fortunately a number of people who are in a position to do so are making good use of their gardens and estates by devoting them to what may be termed experimental horticulture.

During the whole fortnight (the latter half of June) it rained daily, usually in the morning, the afternoons being hot and sunny. The vigour and healthy look of plants of all kinds under these conditions were delightful to behold. It might reasonably be said with regard to Irish gardening that the tools most needed are the

saw, pruning hook, and knife. Generally the plants grow too fast for the gardener, and where plants are set at ordinary distances apart this has its disadvantages. The opinion formed after a fortnight's rapid visit to Ireland in June may not be worth much, but I have no hesitation in saying that of all the countries I have seen Ireland is as well provided by nature with conditions favourable to high-class land cultures—including agriculture, horticulture, and forestry—as the best. In the opinion of competent judges long resident in Ireland, the great need is intelligent labour, but so long as America and other countries hold out tempting inducements in the shape of better conditions of employment to the Irish workers, the best of them will go. If the most were made of the land by employing upon it the best of its people—and there are no better gardeners than Irishmen when they are allowed to use their intelligence—Ireland would soon become the richest instead of, as it is now, the poorest division of the United Kingdom.

GLASNEVIN is to Ireland what Kew is to England. The collection of plants cultivated there is remarkably rich, in some departments the richest I know, whilst their condition is most satisfactory. The zeal of the late and present keepers in collecting, growing, and encouraging others to grow plants of all kinds have no doubt largely contributed to the spread of a taste for gardening in Ireland. This influence is now being turned to account by the Irish Board of Agriculture in the promotion of fruit and vegetable culture, Mr. Moore having the control of a training college where gardeners are taught the best methods of cultivation for the best kinds of fruit and vegetables and then sent to different stations in the country where model gardens are formed under Mr. Moore's superintendence. The men are trained gardeners before they enter the college, and in return for good work they are well paid all the time they are there. In this practical way a knowledge of high-class horticulture is being distributed over the country, and if this is only backed up by capital on the one hand and an intelligent treatment of the workers on the other, the effort cannot fail to have far-reaching results. During the time of my visit to the college a party of Scotch farmers were being shown round by Mr. Houston, the horticultural science instructor, who is also editor of an excellent little monthly journal devoted to Irish gardening. Agriculture is also assisted in the Glasnevin Botanic Garden by the cultivation of plots of agricultural plants of all kinds, including grasses, plants yielding dyes, oils, fibres, tobacco, &c. Each plot bears a label showing name and time of sowing. There is also a garden of herbs and other economic plants.

Before leaving Glasnevin, note must be made of the "lions" of the collection, such as *Nepenthes Rajah*, a grand plant over 20 years old; *Gleichenias*, the largest specimens I have ever seen; *Eulophiella peetersiana*, a giant with leaves 4 feet long and 6 inches across; the fine specimens of palms and cycads; the extensive and well-grown collection of orchids; the superb water-gardening, where *Nymphaeas* are magnificent; alpine plants and hardy ferns, all in splendid health. Certainly the national botanic garden of Ireland is one of its most valuable assets.

**CASTLEWELLAN.** The Earl of Annesley has made his garden famous throughout Europe. It is the best proof that Ireland is a great gardeners' country that in the lifetime of one man a hillside should have been turned into a grand "gallery" of trees and shrubs in which giant specimens of many kinds of *Coniferae*, looking at least a century old, of many kinds of New Zealand, Chilian, Californian, Himalayan, and South European trees and shrubs in the rudest health, all testify to the genial character of the climate, the richness of the soil, and the sagacity of the proprietor. A full account of this garden, with photo-illustrations of some of the specimen plants, was recently published by the Earl of Annesley. As an indication of what may be found there I may mention the following:—*Picea morindoides*, a grand specimen tree, unique in Europe; *Fagus cliffortiana*; *Cornus florida*, a big bush in flower; *Fejoia sellowiana*, happy as a privet; *Restio subverticellatus*, three years outside and looking quite happy; *Acer Hookeri*; *Cordyline indivisa*, true, a grand plant with leaves 6 inches across; *Lomatia ferruginea*, a beautiful Protead well set with flower buds and since figured for the *Botanical Magazine*. There was the usual display of *Olearias*, *Tricuspidarias*, *Azalea indica*, Himalayan *Rhododendrons*, &c.

**KILMACURRAGH.** The garden of Mr. Thomas Acton is the most interesting in Ireland. Here there is little evidence of keep, but there has been much judgment in the planting, and generally things look happy. The soil appears to be deep and rich, and there is plenty of water. The great feature at the time of our visit was a tree of *Embothrium coccineum* in full bloom—it was 35 feet high with a spread of 30 feet, the trunk 15 inches through, and covered with flowers: this was planted as a baby about 30 years ago by Mr. Acton. *Desfontainea spinosa*, 12 feet through; *Drimys Winteri*, 30 feet high, in full bloom; *Magnolia Campbelli*, 25 feet high; *Tricuspidaria lanceolata* (*Crinodendron hookerianum*), 18 feet high, 10 feet through, the branches weighed down by the flowers—I never saw such a plant; *Swammerdamia Antennaria*, 10 feet high, 15 feet through, covered with flowers; and the Himalayan *Rhododendrons*—many finer than the finest in Cornwall—*R. Keysii* (9 feet), *R. Delavayi* (8 feet), *R. decorum* (10 feet), *R. lacteum* (6 feet), *R. Roylei* (12 feet), *R. argenteum* (18 feet), and many others—not thin bushes, but fat, mostly wider than high, and in grand health. It was worth the journey to Ireland to see *R. Falconeri* there—such a bush—18 feet high and 21 feet through, with six main branches each over 6 inches in diameter; it bore the remains of hundreds of flower-heads, and was in the midst of making new growth. I noted also the following (the figures in each case indicate height and spread of branches):—*Podocarpus chilina*, 22 feet; *Saxegothea conspicua*, 15 feet by 12 feet; *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, 34 feet; *A. laxifolia*, 20 feet; *A. imbricata*, 15 feet; *Cupressus lusitanica*, with a trunk 3 feet in diameter and a wide-spreading oak-like head; *Prumnopitys elegans*, 25 feet; *Podocarpus nubigenus*, 20 feet; *Libocedrus tetragona*, 12 feet; *Pinus aristata*, 12 feet; *Fagus Moorei*, 14 feet; *F. Cunninghamii*, with a trunk 15 inches through, 40 feet high; *Olea intermedia*, a large tree; *Cunninghamia sinensis*, 25 feet; *Laurelia aromatica*, planted 30 years ago, now 40 feet high and growing with great vigour; *Ilex latifolia*,

12 feet; *Myrtus Luma*, 15 feet by 15 feet; *Fuchsia excorticata*, 15 feet; *Senecio Greyi*, 4 feet by 10 feet, a magnificent mass of yellow flowers. *Ceratonia Siliqua*, a big bush, has stood out for 30 years. The commoner trees are well represented. I noted *Cupressus lawsoniana*, 80 feet high; *Abies Pindrow*, 50 feet; and there is a grand avenue of silver firs leading up to the house. Mr. Acton, now an octogenarian, has been his own gardener all his life.

The only nursery we visited was that of Mr. T. Smith in the town of Newry. This is one of the most interesting gardens in Ireland. The collection is quite botanical in comprehensiveness; I doubt if there is another commercial collection of hardy plants like it anywhere. Not only for Ireland, but for England, the continent, and even America this nursery is the "shop" for the choice and rare among hardy plants. The proprietor, an Englishman, trained in the Chelsea nursery of Messrs J. Veitch and Sons, is a keen collector and cultivator, and his knowledge of plants is quite exceptional. I found many plants there that were not in the Kew collection. The prominent features at the time of our visit were the Verbascums, large beds of them in full flower; *Anchusa italica grandiflora*, *Saxifraga pyramidalis*, *Incarvillea Delavayi* by the thousand, the racemes 2 feet high and the flowers enormous; Primulas, Dianthus, Delphiniums, Helianthemums, and Roses. We spent the greater part of a day in the nursery before proceeding with Mr. Smith to Narrow Water, where there is a fine garden and collection of plants formed by the proprietor, Captain Hall.

MOUNT USHER is the delightful garden retreat of the brothers Walpole of Dublin. Formerly a mill-house on a stream in a sheltered nook it has been transformed into a garden paradise. I have never seen a more lovely garden. Water plants, ferns, herbaceous and alpine plants and flowering trees and shrubs are grown in the greatest luxury and profusion. One part of the garden is almost a wood of *Cordyline australis*, the under growth being formed of such plants as *Mitraria*, *Tricuspidaria*, *Romneya*, *Desfontainea*, *Solanum crispum*, *Salvias*, *Calceolaria violacea*, *Habrothamnus*, *Lavatera assurgentiflora*, etc. *Eremurus robusta* was 9 feet high, *Abutilon vitifolium* 20 feet, and a colony of *Meconopsis Wallichii* as happy as sow thistles. The water plants were most effective—great masses of *Saxifraga peltata*, *Primula sikkimensis*, *Rodgersias*, *Gunneras*, *Nymphaeas*, *Mimulus*, *Ourisia coccinea*, *Orchis foliosa*, Japanese Iris, *Myosotidium nobile*, *Parechites communis*, Gentians, *Senecio macrophylla* and many others were very happily provided for. The stream sides were richly clothed with ferns and other suitable plants.

DARREEN. This is the Irish home of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who adds to his great political reputation that of being a keen amateur gardener and an excellent landlord. His garden of some 30 acres is on the south side of Galway Bay, and here, as in other gardens that we saw, the conditions favour the cultivation in the open air of what are known as sub-tropical plants. The most striking features of the garden are magnificent

masses of Indian Bamboos and gigantic coniferous trees. I have never seen *Abies nordmanniana* so perfect and luxuriant as at Darreen. *Gaultheria Shallon* was 8 feet high, *Griselinia littoralis* planted in 1882 was 30 feet high, *Veronica Traversii* 15 feet, *Acacia dealbata* 50 feet, *Eucalyptus Globulus* 80 feet, *Azara microphylla* 25 feet, *Olearia Forsteri* 20 feet by 20 feet, *Euphorbia mellifera* 10 feet through, *Erica arborea* 10 feet, *Myrtus Luma* 20 feet, *Ilex crenata* 15 feet by 15 feet, *Leptospermum lanigerum* 15 feet; enormous plants of *Cordyline*, one measured had a stem 3 feet in circumference; *Kalmias* like Portugal laurels; *Leptospermums* like Privets; Metake bamboo 12 feet high, and Falconer's bamboo 25 feet high, 40 feet spread, with 1,000 canes, all in flower, a marvellous sight.

ROSSDOHAN. This is also on Galway Bay and is the property of Dr. Heard. It is practically an island and some twenty years ago was almost waste land with scarcely a tree upon it. By planting first shelter trees and then many kinds of Australian, New Zealand, Himalayan, and Californian trees and shrubs it has been turned into a jungle of exotic vegetation. Simon's bamboo 15 yards across, *Aralia Maximowiczii* 20 feet high, *Acacia decurrens* 30 feet, *A. melanoxylon* 20 feet, *A. falcata* 30 feet, *Eucalyptus urnigera* 40 feet, *Olea europaea* 15 feet, *Melaleuca hypericifolia* 10 feet, *Cassinia longifolia* 15 feet, *Hakea saligna* with a 12 inch stem, *Agonis marginata*, great shrubs; *Brugmansia sanguinea*, Pittosporums, Escallonias, Kunzeas, Ozothamnus, Callistemons, Boronias, Camellias, *Daphne indica* and *Asparagus plumosus*. These are a few of the plants noted as being successes in Dr. Heard's garden. It is clear that, with shelter from the strong sea winds, a very large number of plants from sub-tropical regions may be grown on the south-west side of Ireland. We were unable to get to the garden of Lord Dunraven, also in Galway Bay, but we were informed that it is of similar character to those of Lord Lansdowne and Dr. Heard.

FOTA. This, the seat of Lord Barrymore, is famous for its garden, the noblest in Ireland and one of the most delightful in the world. I saw it fifteen years ago and was astonished by the change that had taken place in so short a time. Truly, plants grow rampantly in Ireland. Fota is a place of trees, especially conifers. An evergreen oak with a trunk nearly 7 feet through, a cork-barked tulip-tree and groves of *Cordyline* and *Yucca gloriosa* near the entrance give the note for the whole place. All Falconer's bamboos have flowered and there are hundreds here, the children of those which flowered at Fota thirty years ago. A list of the big trees in this garden would be longer than space will permit. The special things that may be mentioned are *Fagus Cunninghamii*, 50 feet; *Embothrium coccineum*, 30 feet by 30 feet; *Benthamia fragifera*, 40 feet by 50 feet; *Berberis nepalensis*, 12 feet by 20 feet; *Pittosporum Mayi*, 40 feet; *Ilex latifolia*, 40 feet; *Genista racemosa*, 12 feet; *Eriobotrya japonica*, a grand old tree; *Acacia dealbata*, a tree; *Clanthus puniceus*, 30 feet through; *Dusylirion longifolium*; *Asparagus retrofractus*, a great mass against a wall; *Phoenix senegalensis*, two big specimens outside for twelve years. The great trees of *Pinus Ayacahuite*, *P. insignis*, *P. Montezumae*, *Picea Morinda*, *P. alcockiana*, *Abies grandis*, *A. numidica*, *A. bracteata*, *A. religiosa*, *A. webbiana*,

*A. cephalonica*, *Tsuga brunoniana*, and *Cryptomerias* are grand to see, and the groves of bamboos, *Phormiums*, *Cordylines*, *Chamaerops*, *Aralias*, etc., are noble. Water gardening is a special feature, and in swampy situations there are many kinds of flowering and foliage plants that love moisture.

**BELGROVE.** A few miles from Fota is Mr. Gumbleton's garden, the home of many rare and interesting plants, the proprietor being a very keen collector and tester of plants of all kinds. Mr. Gumbleton knows more about garden plants than any amateur that I have ever met, and his knowledge has full play in his own garden. We were unfortunate in having to see the garden on a pouring wet day. Some of the plants noted were *Anemone Fanninii*, a mass 6 feet through, the peltate leaves 2 feet high and 15 inches across, and the scape 6 feet: I had never seen this plant so good, although Kew introduced it about 15 years ago. *Olearia insignis* against a wall bore 9 flowers. *Freylinia cestroides*, 10 feet; *Daphniphyllum glaucescens*, 18 feet by 18 feet; *Pterostyrax hispida*, a tree draped with its lovely white flowers; *Plagianthus Lyallii*, *Xanthoceras sorbifolia*, *Buddleia Colvillei*, *Eucryphia pinnatifolia*, *E. cordata*, *Romneya Coulteri*, *Escallonia langleyensis*, *Veronica Hectori*, and *V. Lindsayi* were seen in fine condition. Mr. Gumbleton also makes a speciality of Begonias, Pelargoniums, Disas, and of course, herbaceous plants.

**ST. ANNS.** The stately home of Lord Ardilaun is more like an English nobleman's residence than any that I saw in Ireland; and this is true of the garden also. The keep of the place is good, the collections of plants are comprehensive and well cared for, and there is an air of cultivation wherever one looks. Lady Ardilaun is a keen gardener and loves to experiment with plants of doubtful hardiness, providing shelter fences and hurdles for those supposed to need it until they are well established. *Buddleia Colvillei*, a bush 12 feet high, was in flower; also big bushes of *Cassia corymbosa*, *Carpenteria californica*, and *Pentstemon coccineum*. Roses and carnations are splendidly grown there.

**ASHBOURNE.** Mr. Beamish has formed here a delightful garden which in a few years will most likely be much talked about. It is partly on a steep slope with the bare rocks showing here and there, a situation that lends itself to rock gardening, and Mr. Beamish has made the most of it. The whole garden is well conceived and the construction of the rockery most picturesque. Plants grow exceptionally well there, and as the proprietor spares neither money nor pains to secure the best, his garden is sure to prosper.

W. W.

### XXXVIII.—MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Mr. HARRY DODD, a member of the gardening staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, has been appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the recommendation of Kew, Curator of the Botanic Station at Onitsha, Southern Nigeria.