

PLANT HUNTERS RISK THEIR LIVES TO GET SPECIMENS

Few people, admiring beautiful new flowers, pause to think of the risks that may have been taken in discovering them. The risks incurred by the plant explorer are some times as great as those attending the big game hunter or Arctic explorer, though only a tiny mauve blossom be his quarry, writes a botanist in "The London Mail."

Some gorgeous rhododendron blooms recently exhibited at the Royal Horticultural Hall cost the life of Farrar, who died of diphtheria in the remote interior of China while collecting them. Frank Meyer, to whom we owe many delicious fruits and vegetables hitherto unknown to the Western world, managed to survive innumerable hazards in out-of-the-way regions of Asia, but was eventually drowned in China.

Orchids Costs Many Lives.

The orchid has taken terrible toll of those who have sought it out in its lair. Orchids generally cling to the steamy, fever-haunted jungles where disease is always a serious menace. The more dangerous a patch of country is reputed the greater its lure to the plant explorer, for unbeaten trails reveal unknown plants.

You will find it very difficult to do business with a life insurance company if you announce that you intend to adopt the career of orchid hunter in Madagascar, that great, mysterious island off southeast Africa; snakes, wild beasts, hostile natives and disease have accounted for too many of your predecessors in that calling. The blacks soaked a German collector in oil and set fire to him. Eight collec-

tors who happened to have arrived at the Town of Tananarivo at about the same time dined together there one night and arranged to hold a reunion dinner the following year. When the time came for the event only one man remained alive—and he was in a hospital.

Women as Explorers.

Some of the most courageous, enterprising and successful of plant explorers have been gently raised women. Miss Lillian Gibbs, for instance, went out from the tranquil gardens of Swanley Horticultural College to the dangerous wilds of Papua and Borneo and made valuable collections there.

In Captain F. Kingdon Ward, F. R. G. S., England has one of the leading plant explorers in the world. He has made expedition after expedition into the wilds of the border country between Tibet, India and Burma, mapping the blank spaces as he journeyed through the mountains. Beautiful blue poppies were one of his latest finds, sent home to Kew Gardens, where they are being cultivated.

Orchids sometimes give a sinister warning, as witness the rare Denrobia which flourishes in mouldering skulls where hill-tribes place their dead. Others droop from mangrove branches overhanging creeks full with crocodiles.

Three of the American plant explorers' latest finds, which will reach us before long, are a giant carrot as big as a human leg; radishes as big as pineapples, from a village in the remote Chinese interior which has been specializing in radishes for centuries; and, also from China, Ming cabbages, as big as an umbrella!

TINY STANDARD PIANO PRESENTED TO QUEEN FOR HER DOLL'S HOUSE

London, July 29—The Queen's collection of doll's house furniture has been augmented by a standard piano on a three-inch scale in the form of an inkstand. It is made of satiniwood and, while it cannot be played, it is outwardly perfect and complete, even to the pedals.

The occasion of the presentation was a visit of the King and Queen to the Broadwood piano factory, in East End, London. They received an enthusiastic demonstration in the decorated streets. Their tour of the factory lasted an hour and a half, and included inspection of instruments manufactured by the firm since 1790, including the Broadwood used by Chopin. Ten employees were introduced to the King and Queen whose collective terms of service totaled 528 years.

Queen Mary's doll's house also

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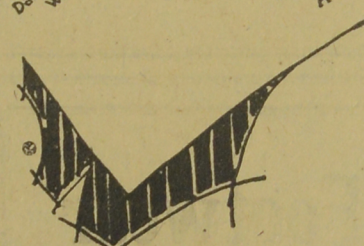
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Of Interest to the Women

SOME EXPERT ADVICE ON THE MAKING OF SLIP COVERS.

The time to correct mistakes in the making of a slip cover is before the material is cut. When the muslin cover pattern fits perfectly cut the chintz to conform with it. Where there is a figure design great care must be taken to center the pattern. All designs in fabrics should point upward. Slip covers can be put on and taken off more easily if they are slit up the back and fastened with snaps.

For the ordinary Lawson type of sofa it takes 11½ yards of 50 inch plain material to make a slip cover. In a figured fabric about 13 yards are required. This includes either a box pleated or gathered ruffle around the bottom. If one prefers to omit the ruffle, three yards less of material will be needed. These valances usually measure 7 inches wide around the bottom. If box pleated the plates are 2 inches wide and the whole ruffle is from 1 inch to 2 inches from the floor. In measuring for a box pleated ruffle, allow three times the length of the space the ruffle is to occupy. For a gathered ruffle about 2 1/2 times. If the seams are corded in a contrasting color ¾ of a yard of 5 inch material are needed and 1 yard of 36 inch.

If you are using a flowered chintz you may cord the seams and bind the edges of the ruffle in a plain chintz to match one of the colors in the design. If a box pleated valance is used it does not need any trimming as it is decorative enough in itself. Narrow fringes of wool or silk can be used in the seams and often give a pleasing gay effect. If the cover is made with a plain fabric at the bottom instead of one pleated or gathered this might be bound with a ¾ inch binding of either taffeta or glazed chintz in a contrasting color. This flounce can be cut straight or scalloped.

GREEN GOSEBERRY JELLY.

Remove the stems and blossom ends from green gooseberries and cook in double boiler until the juice flows freely. Turn into a jelly bag and let drip until the pulp is quite dry, clogging interferes with the flow of juice scrape the inside of the bag occasionally using a wooden spoon or a silver knife. If very clear jelly is desired strain the juice through a second bag. Measure the juice and put an equal number of cups of sugar into the oven to warm. Let the juice boil vigorously about ten minutes. Skim as needed. Then add the hot sugar, and as soon as the jelly stage is reached, turn into sterilized glasses.

The gooseberry jelly is much improved in flavor if one cup of currant juice be added to each three cups of gooseberry juice. Or the gooseberries and currants may be cooked together for the juice. Then drained as described.

GOOSEBERRY AND PINEAPPLE JAM.

Remove the stems and blossom ends of four quarts of gooseberries; pare the pineapple and remove the eyes, then chop or grate the fruit. One large pineapple or two small ones will be required; the large ripe fruit is preferable. Put the sugar into a preserving kettle, allowing one and one half cups of sugar to each two cups of prepared fruit. Dissolve the sugar in just enough water to melt it; about one or two cups. As soon as the sugar begins to boil add the prepared fruit and let boil until thick, stirring frequently.

STRAWBERRY AND GOOSEBERRY PRESERVES.

Remove the stems and blossom ends from one quart of green gooseberries, add one cup of boiling water and heat to the boiling point; let boil rapidly six minutes; add the sugar and when it is dissolved add three quarts of washed and hulled strawberries; let boil vigorously ten to twelve minutes. Weigh the prepared fruit and allow a pound of sugar for each pound of fruit. Turn while hot, into sterilized half pint glass fruit jars, seal and store.

Dr. D. H. McAllister ex-M. P. of Sussex is in the city for the races.

SAYS SHYLOCK WAS COMEDIAN

Washington, July 29—Some answers to questions in a recent examination of candidates for appointments as coast guard cadets:

"Just after the battle of Waterloo there was a gunpowder plot. The purpose was to destroy Congress but it was caught up with and two of the men were hanged.

"Charles Dickens wrote Black Beauty, Christmas Carol and Florence Nightingale.

"Shylock was a kind of fellow that most everybody liked. He was kind to everybody. While he was around everybody was laughing, as he could say funny things."

BIRDS NOT OF A FEATHER.

Sir Oswald Mosley, the millionaire socialist, said at a dinner party in New York:

"In Great Britain's far-flung empire many strange things happen. A Canadian's wife and a South African's wife once met in a London residential hotel.

"It's hard on us poor married women in South Africa" the latter lady said. "I live in with my husband on an ostrich farm and it's nothing at all for him to be away two whole days at a time on an ostrich."

"Humph. What of that?" said the Canadian woman. "My husband is often away two whole weeks at a time on a lark."

"He's as young as anybody in spirit" remarked the Man on the Car "but he could use a younger pair of legs to advantage."

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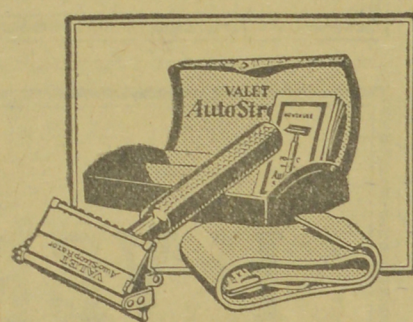
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