

NEW TREES AND SHRUBS FOR ENGLISH PLANTATIONS*

WITHIN the last twenty years a complete revolution has taken place in the character of our out-of-door planting of ornamental trees and shrubs; trees which twenty years ago were rarities that a lover of arboriculture would go miles to see, are now to be met with in every gentleman's shrubbery or lawn with any pretensions to artistic arrangement. A really good hand-book was greatly wanted, to enable a planter to choose the species best suited to the climate, and best adapted to the special circumstances of his own particular estate. Such a hand-book Mr. Mongredien's "Planter's Guide" proposes to furnish, and to a great extent successfully. The plan of the book is admirable. We first have a list of 621 species of trees and shrubs, "selected from the large multitude

the manner in which this programme is carried out, we certainly find defects, as might be expected in a work which covers so much ground; but the defects are such as the author is sure to have brought under his notice, and which may easily be remedied in a second edition. Thus, although the list seems an extensive one, we miss many species, either old favourites or newly introduced, which ought to have had a place in it for their beauty or their useful properties: such as, among flowering shrubs, the *Berberis aquifolium*, a desideratum in every shrubbery, from its early flowering and the beautiful gloss of its evergreen leaves; *B. vulgaris*, the scarlet fruit of which is one of the most beautiful ornaments for the table; and the butcher's broom, *Ruscus aculeatus*, very easy of cultivation, and striking from the weirdness of its appearance, and the very peculiar growth of its flowers: and among climbing-plants, the common hop, used in some of the



ABIES PINSAPO

BIOTA PENDULA

which from time to time have been introduced from all parts of the world, and of which the vast majority are not worth cultivation for ornamental purposes." A brief description accompanies each name, with instructions as to the best aspect or position, and other needful particulars. These 621 species are then looked at from different points of view, and in the second part are classified accordingly: first, as to their height, then as to their foliage, next as to their flowers, and finally as to their fruit. Furthermore, we have selected lists of species remarkable for singularity of aspect, for rapidity of growth, suitable for hedges, thriving under the drip of trees or in the smoke of cities, adapted for different soils, &c. On looking closer into

London parks in a very graceful manner to cover the stems of the poplar-trees. The list of plants thriving in the smoke of cities might also have been more than doubled by any of the author's friends who happen to have a London suburban garden. The illustrations interspersed here and there are very pretty; the frontispiece, however, a magnificent specimen of *Araucaria imbricata*, is unfortunate. If really taken from that tree, and not from another species of *Araucaria* not mentioned in Mr. Mongredien's list, it is very badly drawn.

The introduction from China, about thirty years since, by Mr. Fortune, of a number of perfectly hardy evergreen conifers, previously unknown in this country, set the fashion among gardeners and planters strongly in that direction; and the proportion of this class, recommended in the "Planter's Guide," is very large. Out of the 621

* "Trees and Shrubs for English Plantations; a selection and description of the most ornamental trees and shrubs, native and foreign, which will flourish in the open air in our climate." By Augustus Mongredien. With Illustrations. (London: Murray, 1870.)

species, 254 are evergreens, 85 of them belonging to the coniferous tribe. As the author remarks, however, there are both advantages and disadvantages connected with the choice of evergreens for ornamental planting; while the persistent leaves of evergreens are generally of a dark and sombre hue, the young leaves put forth by deciduous trees in the spring are of a much brighter livelier tint, and during the summer months add much more to the freshness and beauty of the landscape. It seems probable that the great rage for new conifers is now somewhat going by, and that more attention will in future be paid to shrubs remarkable for the beauty of their flowers or fruit. A great acquisition has been the recent introduction of male plants of the *Aucuba japonica*, or common "variegated laurel," which thrives in every London garden or area. Till recently female plants only had been known in this country, which consequently never bore fruit. The fertilising of these by pollen, or the planting of a male plant, will ensure their being covered in the summer and autumn with a quantity of ornamental red berries.

There is much yet to be learnt with regard to the laws of acclimatisation and naturalisation. It appears by no

pleasure-grounds will present a very different appearance to what they do now. There is little doubt that a considerable number of trees and shrubs which are reckoned by gardeners to be half-hardy will, with a little care, grow very well out of doors in the southern counties of England. Even the *Camellia* requires, according to our author, protection for the first year or two only, to become a permanent and magnificently ornamental denizen of our shrubberies.

As a specimen of the author's style we may quote his description of the elegant *Cupressus Lawsoniana* :—

"California, 1852. Tree 60—80 feet. Leaves in alternate opposite pairs, closely adpressed, of a glaucous green. Branchlets slender, flattened, thickly clothed with leaves, gracefully pendulous, the leading shoots (as in the cedars) drooping until the ensuing season's growth; cones of the size of a large pea, with a glaucous bloom while young. This is one of the most beautiful trees of a beautiful tribe. It is very hardy, a rapid grower, and should find a place in every collection. It is frequently so laden with its beautiful cones (which, however, have more the appearance of berries) that the fruitful branchlets are quite borne down



GLEDITSCHIA TRIACANTHOS

means always to follow that we must look for trees and herbaceous plants suitable for introduction into our own country to those regions of the earth, the climate and soil of which most closely resemble our own. On looking over Mr. Mongredien's list, the countries which seem to have furnished the greatest number of perfectly hardy trees and shrubs are China and Japan, Northern India, Chili, California, and the more southern of the United States. Australia and New Zealand, on the other hand, have sent us very few species. A very large number of new kinds were introduced between 1840 and 1850; and we have therefore had no opportunity yet of knowing whether they will attain with us the size that some of them do in their native forests. An elm-tree eighty feet high is with us a fine tree; a very large number of the conifers are described in this work as attaining a height of from 100 to 140 feet, while the *Wellingtonia gigantea* of California, the monarch of trees, rears its head to the enormous altitude of 350 or 400 feet. Should our descendants witness their growth to their normal size, they will probably in many cases regret the want of forethought in their ancestors who planted them so near their houses; and at all events our parks and

by their weight, like the boughs of a prolific apple-tree. Nothing can be more graceful or attractive."

Mr. Mongredien's book should be in the hands of every one interested in the planting of trees—and who is not who has the money to spend and the space to spare? The man who introduces on an extensive scale a new ornamental tree adapted to our climate performs a service to mankind, not only to his contemporaries, but to his descendants for many generations.

NOTES

HERE is some welcome news from the *London Gazette*—"The Queen has been pleased to appoint the most Noble William, Duke of Devonshire, K.G.; the Most Honourable Henry Charles Keith, Marquis of Lansdowne; Sir John Lubbock, Sir James Phillips Kay-Shuttleworth, Bernard Samuelson, Esq., William Sharpey, Esq., M.D., Thomas Henry Huxley, Esq., Professor of Natural History in the Royal School of Mines; William Allen Miller, Esq., M.D., Professor of Chemistry in King's College, London; and George Gabriel Stokes,