

PARK'S FLORAL MAGAZINE.

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✂ Correspondence solicited on all subjects pertaining to floriculture.

✂ Advertising rates 25 cents per line. We reserve the right to reject any advertisements we prefer not to insert.

SEPTEMBER, 1886.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.—Hardy Rhododendrons will endure the severe winters of Michigan without protection.

Iponioca Bona Nox is an annual vine. It is not the same as *I. Noctiflora*.

Perennial Poppies are hardy in the northern States and rarely suffer except in a damp soil.

PLANTS FOR DRY SOIL.—One who has had experience in growing flowers upon poor, dry soils, recommends Marigolds, Nasturtions, Snapdragons and Wall flowers. The only care required is to start the plants early, or during the season of rainy weather, so that they may become well established.

ROMNEYA COULTERI.—A gentleman who sowed seeds of this plant in March, 1885, reports that they germinated in May of the present year, having been in the ground about fourteen months. Many of our choice perennials have seeds of the same character, and it is well to not disturb the seed bed of such flowers for many months after the seeds are sown.

FERN SPORES.—A good way to start these is to get a soft brick, hollow out one of its sides, place some sifted woods earth in the cavity, press it down smooth, and sow the spores over the surface. Now set the brick in a pan of water in a shady place. When the little plants get large enough they can be transplanted into pots of soil. This is also a good method for starting small seeds.

MILDEW.—The Gardeners Monthly says that a paint composed of sulphur and linseed oil applied to the hot water pipes of the greenhouse is a never-failing remedy for mildew on roses. Its effects are magical. It is neither disagreeable nor dangerous. Its efficacy has been repeatedly tested, with the most satisfactory results in every instance.

WHAT BECAME OF THE NELUMBUM.—In a pond in the Botanic Garden at the Michigan Agricultural College there was, last summer, a large and thrifty bed of the new pink water lily, *Nelumbium speciosum*. Dr. Beal had obtained and planted the roots in the preceding spring, taking special care in preparing the pond, by incorporating a cart load of manure with the soil. He was highly pleased with his success, and in the autumn he felt some pride in the immense tulip-like blossoms and peltate velvety leaves which waved over the surface of the water. He anticipated a glorious display the next season, but to his surprise, only a few spindling stalks appeared, and that at time when the pond ought to have been full of foliage and flowers. Could it be possible the severe weather destroyed the roots? Was the plant not hardy? An investigation revealed the secret. A muskrat had found his way from the river to the lily pond, and wintered in its banks, appropriating the large, juicy roots of the *Nelumbium* for his winter's rations. Moral: Keep the muskrats from your lily pond.

NIGHTSHADE—A plant of the common Nightshade, *Solanum nigrum*, sprang up in the spring in a flower-pot in the writer's window, and was allowed to grow. The plant is now about a foot high, and is rather interesting. It has over 200 berries upon it, and is still growing and blooming, showing fruit in all stages from the flower to the black, ripe berries. Each berry contains about 50 seeds. From these facts we can readily judge of the prolific character of the plant. It has already produced over 10,000 seeds, and as it will continue to grow and bloom till frost it will doubtless produce more than 20,000 seeds during the season. Is it any wonder that weeds appear so abundantly in the gardens of careless cultivators when a single plant will yield enough of seeds to plant half an acre of ground? As this plant bears abundance of foliage, is not troubled with insects, will bear much ill treatment, and is ornamental when loaded with its clusters of berries, it might be used as a decorative window plant in winter. Who will try it?

EXCHANGE NOTICES—These should be brief, and to the point. A notice should not occupy more than two or three lines space, and should be of interest to the readers generally.