

has probably valuable common rights. Good bog-earth and fairly good peat are to be found on Wisley Common, and the extent of these rights should be ascertained.

Although the soil is rather light for Apples, the trees that Mr. Wilson, V.M.H., planted are bearing well; but the land near the river Wey is not suitable for fruit-growing, although the soil is good, as there would be danger from spring frosts. It would, however, be an admirable position for a pinetum, the formation of which has, I believe, been discussed.

#### THE WILD-GARDEN

was the great attraction to me, as it will doubtless be to others. It is unique. Nature has done much for it by furnishing Oak and other timber trees, that have enriched the soil with leaves, and furnished sufficient shade to encourage

choice British Ferns recently presented to the Society by Mr. C. T. Drury, V.M.H., were succeeding well in congenial quarters.

All who visit the new gardens should allow themselves a day's holiday for this purpose, as there is so much to see. Wisley is a charming place for a week-end visit, and good quarters can be found at the "Hut" Hotel. The Superintendent and his assistant are eager to point out everything of interest under their care in the gardens, and to make the visit as agreeable as possible. *W. Roupell.*

#### SINNINGIA REGINA.

The subject of our illustration at fig. 78 was one of the new plants exhibited by M. de Smet-Duvivier at the Ghent Quinquennial Show of 1903 under the name of "*Gesneria Regina*." A plant was subsequently sent to Kew, where it was

close together on the stem, the effect therefore is that of two many-flowered whorls, and is very fine. The duration of the flowering period is about six weeks. We are indebted for our illustration to Mr. Ernest Benary, of Erfurt, Germany, who has acquired the stock of this pretty plant, that is so likely to become a favourite in gardens.

#### THE HOUSING OF PLANTS.

The time is approaching when half-hardy plants must be afforded protection under glass, for towards the end of September frosts may appear at any time that would occasion much loss. Although our decorative houses may be particularly bright at the present time with their summer occupants, space must be prepared for those plants needed to furnish a display throughout the autumn and early winter months.



FIG. 78.—*SINNINGIA REGINA*: COLOUR OF FLOWERS PALE LILAC.

Ferns, Mosses, and other shade-loving plants to grow luxuriantly. But the hand of Geo. Wilson is evident everywhere, and his spirit seems to pervade the place. The nesting-boxes that he placed for the birds are still where he put them, and his feathered friends use them. Rare shrubs, Bamboos, Camellias, Japanese Lilies, Irises, and countless other choice plants arrest the eye. There are masses of *Pernettyas* profusely covered with delicately-tinted berries that look like large Heather-bells. *Rosa rugosa* is laden with berries, and glows in the autumn sun. Vistas between the shrubs are made enchanting beyond conception by long, drooping sheaves of *Gentian Asclepiadea*, both purple and white; Irish Heath, blooming as I have never seen it before; Water-Lilies growing up above the water with healthy vigour. Everything appears to be in perfect health, and I was glad to see that the

found to be a species of *Sinningia* ("*Gloxinia*" of gardens), allied to *S. discolor* and *S. Menziesiana*. *S. Regina* is reported to have been introduced with a *Cattleya* from Brazil, but until this is confirmed by properly authenticated wild specimens, the possibility of a hybrid origin cannot be excluded. A botanical description of this plant, together with much information upon the relation of *S. speciosa* to our modern *Gloxinias*, was published upon pp. 87 and 88 of the issue of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for August 6 last. The plants grow about 9 inches high, and have dark green, velvety leaves, which are purple-coloured on the under surface. The flowers are of pale violet colour and drooping, and are borne on long flower-stalks, four to six together in the axil of each leaf. The writer of the article already mentioned stated that two successive pairs of leaves are usually

Before removing the plants into their winter quarters, thoroughly wash the houses inside and outside, including all glass and woodwork, and if it is necessary lime-wash the walls afresh; also wash all flower-pots; clean the surface of the soil in the pots, and see that the drainage is clear. Plants that have been subjected to night dews as well as rain, when housed in a close, dry atmosphere, often lose much of their foliage. This can be averted to a great extent by lightly syringing the plants overhead in the morning and early afternoon, and maintaining plenty of ventilation throughout the day, with a lesser amount during the night.

Bouvardias, Carnations, *Salvias*, *Richardias*, *Libonias*, *Marguerites*, and *Eupatoriums* may be injured by only a few degrees of frost, consequently these plants must be the first to receive attention, but *Zonal Pelargoniums*, *Coronillas*