

Bartsia grows in marshy places, and the Alpine purple one on the brink of rushing streams. Often in the same districts still blooms the Evening Primrose, not a solar plant, as she expands her yellow petals of paly gold when the evening closes in. If you are fortunate enough, you may see her by moonlight surrounded by such insects as avoid the light of day. Associated with much of poetry and many legends, this favourite flower seems to love the sites haunted by the ancient Britons. Often, too, when the nights are dark and sultry, her petals emit a mild phosphoric light, that renders every part visible, probably kindled as a lamp to guide the insects at a time that all other plants are shut or sleeping. The fragrance also, delicate and peculiar, has the same mission.

The hardier Michaelmas Daisies, too, open their bright blue clustered flowers this month, and very many other September plants, such as the Meadow Saffron, Self-heal and Catchfly, survive. It makes such a difference whether there has been frost or not during the nights, for some wild flowers are nearly as sensitive to frost as their garden congeners. But if we have few blossoms, there are many fruits and berries, some of them beautiful in hue, some of them valuable to the cook. In the woods you may find Nuts, Filberts, and Crab-Apples, so good for game-jelly in spite of the little bitterness that will remain. The black spikes of the Privet, used for making a rose dye and a bland oil; the larger, shiny clusters of the Elder tree, which can be made into jelly or into wine. The delicate rose-pink seeds of the Butcher's Broom may adorn a bouquet, or the bright red and yellow-tinted sprays of the Barberry. The poisonous heads of the Arum and the bright coral-like heads of the Iris seeds gleam on the marshy banks, and the red berries of the Honeysuckle, the wild *Asparagus* brighten the undergrowth, and the deadly Nightshade combines beauty and danger. The better for their lateness, especially in pasturo lands where they have not been picked, are the luscious Blackberries, the hardy rival of the delicate Mulberry. Delicious beyond what town dwellers can imagine is the large ripe Blackberry left to attain its full perfection; and there is no jelly so delicate to the palate, so good for the throat or the voice, as the jelly, made carefully, with good lump sugar (and none of the base beetroot substitutes), from the free fruit of our Wild Bramble. For then the seeds are strained out, which are not wholesome, from their irritating effect on delicate mucous membranes.

The hedges are wreathed with the red clusters of the dog-hips of the beautiful Wild Rose, or the fairy-like filaments of the Clematis seed-wings, or with the Bryonias, black and white, which spread their berries, green, yellow, red, and black, over the roadside leaves. The Pine Cones and the Acorns in the forest have taken shape, the Beech Nuts and the Horse Chestnuts rain down their treasures about your feet, the Alder-berries still cling to their bough, and the Mountain Ash or Rowan tree has ripened its glorious clusters of crimson berries like little red apples. This fruit is bitter, but in Scotland it is considered suitable and appetising through its very bitterness; when made into jelly it is eaten with game.

"Oh, Rowan tree, oh, Rowan tree,
How faithful are thy branches!"

So still from your walks you can bring home treasures, variegated, beautiful, interesting, and encouraging, in the hope that another year will ere long wake the flowers, whose fruit you now have gathered.

Not to be neglected in October walks is the artistic beauty of the late mellowing tints of the autumn woods, in all the shades of yellow, from pale tints to golden red; of russet and crimson, brown and surviving greens, a wonderful combination, to which no artist can do justice, and which you must have seen and felt in order to understand.

WOMEN.

The King has authorised the announcement that he has commanded the publication of selections from the correspondence of Queen Victoria between the years 1837 and 1861. The work will be edited by Mr. Arthur Christopher Benson, M.A., and Viscount Escher, K.C.B., and will be published by Mr. John Murray.

Lady Rosalind Northcote, whose volume, "The Book of Herbs," is being so sincerely praised at present, is the elder daughter of Lord and Lady Iddesleigh, and a niece of Lord Northcote, the new Governor of Australia.

German women, says the *Gentlewoman*, cover themselves, English women clothe themselves, French women dress themselves, and American women array themselves. This was said the other day by one of those rather tiresome men who think they understand women's dress.

An international exhibition, to be called "The Child's World," will be held in the Imperial Palace at St. Petersburg next year, and will form a complete picture of child life from birth to school days. There will be five sections, embracing (1) scientific teaching; (2) the physical education of children, the care of babies, hygiene before school age, children's playgrounds, &c.; (3) the industrial development of the new movement, including exhibits of nursery surroundings, furniture, lighting, heating, beds and bedding, children, clothing, and toys; (4) the art of the nursery, including pictures of children of many nationalities and epochs; and (5) the historio-ethnographical section, illustrative of historic events from the lives of child heroes, discoveries and inventions made by children, works and compositions by young artists and composers, and ethnological peculiarities in the lives of children of different nations. The exhibition should attract many mothers of all nations to study the child-life there depicted.

The subject of infant life protection has been brought before the Chief Secretary of Victoria by a deputation of the Victorian Women's Federation. The members of the deputation urged the necessity of the inspection of boarded-out infants by paid female inspectors, and the prevention of the payment of lump sums to nurses for children instead of weekly amounts. It was pointed out that whereas the death-rate of infants under two years in Victoria was 12.9 per cent. last year, the death-rate of boarded-out children under two years was 17 per cent. The death-rate of boarded-out infants in South Australia, where they had a State Children's Council of Management, was 8 per cent. in 1901, and 4.79 per cent. in 1902.

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