

Book on English Gardens Reviewed For Azalea Garden Club Members

By Myrtle Hibbard,
Book Shelf Chairman,
Azalea Garden Club

Every year the Azalea Garden Club adds a book or two to its book shelf at our Library. One of the selections for this year is "Old London Gardens" by Gladys Taylor and, as book shelf chairman, I am very happy to turn over to our club members and others this delightful book.

Here is a book unlike most of our garden club books which have to do with garden work—how to fertilize or how to prune, or how to make arrangements, for here is a book for sheer enjoyment of gardens. However you will gain by reading it, a deeper appreciation of your garden for it has to do with much of the background and history of many of our shrubs and flowers. And an English garden will hire for you a rich meaning. Reading it too you will feel a little proud to be interested in gardens and so to feel that de-

lightful bond—that—"one touch of nature which makes the whole world kin."

In this attractive and scholarly volume the author proposes to find out something of the "intangible influence which gardens have had on men and women and through them on history."

Miss Taylor's interest in flowers began in her childhood home in the West Indies and developed to maturity when she moved to England at an early age and became a member of the Royal Horticultural Society. She came under the spell expressed by Sir Francis Bacon expressed in her book—"God Almighty first planted a garden and indeed it is the purest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment to the spirit of man; with out which buildings and palaces are but gross handiworks.

It is in this spirit that she traces the development of the London gardens from its earliest beginnings—nearly a thousand years ago—until today London has irresistibly grown into a wide spread city of parks and gardens. Into these she weaves history, human interest and horticulture in a fascinating way. This knowledge of gardening has been shared by rich and poor alike and has united kings and queens and nobleman, nobles and commons, professional gardeners and amateurs.

Many of the familiar plants of our gardens—the lobelia, holly, primrose pansy (pansy), coronation (carnation,) borage, deandellion, privet, bachelors buttons, and hawthorne, and many others are traced here to the English gardens and to their far findings.

Here you will come to know the prominent place of the herb garden. She tells of it first when it was used for healing and when sugar was too much of a luxury for commoners who used flowers for honey. In fact, the bee garden had an important place in early gardens and a necessary one. Finally the herb garden became the kitchen garden. Excerpts from the diaries of Pepys and of John Evelyn, famous gardener, and of others are used frequently through out the book describing some phase of gardens and with the old English terms and phrases add much charm to the book.

Many of the features of our gardens—the rock garden, hedges, trellis, sunken gardens are traced here to their early beginnings.

She has much to say of the trees which formed such an im-

portant part of the gardens and the story of the mulberry trees in England is a long and interesting story in itself.

The gardens of a number of famous gardeners are described in their development which we note with satisfaction are much like our own small gardens only of course in a far greater scope. They would spare no money in going to the far places of the earth and bringing home specimens of almost every plant known to horticulture; The jasmine, forsythia weigelia, hydrangea, spirea, camillia are among the plants brought to England in the 17th century. Pictures of old engravings of famous gardens are highlights of the book. She concludes with the story of the Royal Botanical gardens of Kew and traces its interesting development from the days when it was a garden of Royalty until today it has the unique position as a treasured possession and resort of the general public. Specimens of 45,000 plants, which include 10,000 trees and shrubs thrive here in this worlds outstanding garden.

As many as ten thousand enquiries are answered from here and 8000 packages of seed are sent out annually. It has become a great scientific center and a botanical advisor for all governments and a university for advanced students of botany. It contains the richest plant collection in the world. Its beauty and rare charm have made it a known Paradise. It is a vast sanctuary for birds, where they are perfectly at home and the air is vibrant with their music. Over 80 specimens of birds live here in perfect freedom.

Miss Taylor's farewell thought finds a response in every gardener's heart as she quotes from Sir William Temple, a 17th century lover of garden making "The use of gardens—as it has been the inclination of Kings and the choice of philosophers, so it has become the common favorite of public and private men; a pleasure of the greatest and the care of the meanest; and indeed an employment and a possession for which no man is too high or too low."

FROM SEATTLE

Mrs. V. R. Tuegel of Seattle, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. O. Robinson, Jr., of Brookings.

Mrs. Tuegel has been here two weeks.

GREYHOUND RUNS ON DAYLITE TIME IN CALIFORNIA

Pacific Greyhound Lines' bus schedules will operate on Daylight Saving Time effective April 25, 1954, in those areas observing the time change according to an announcement made this week by Glen G. Magnuson, general traffic and sales manager of the company.

Arrivals and departures listed in the bus company's time tables, and clocks of Pacific Greyhound depots in the areas affected will coincide with Daylight Saving Time.

No errors of opinion can possibly be dangerous in a country where opinion is left free to grapple with them. — William G. Simms.

HOSTS FOR EASTER PARTY

Mr. J. Zumpf, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wollam, George Hyland, and Mrs. Irene McPherson, with their hosts, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Springer participated in a pot luck Easter dinner Sunday at the Springer home in Harbor.

Following the dinner the group stayed for a party in the evening, and report a wonderful day.

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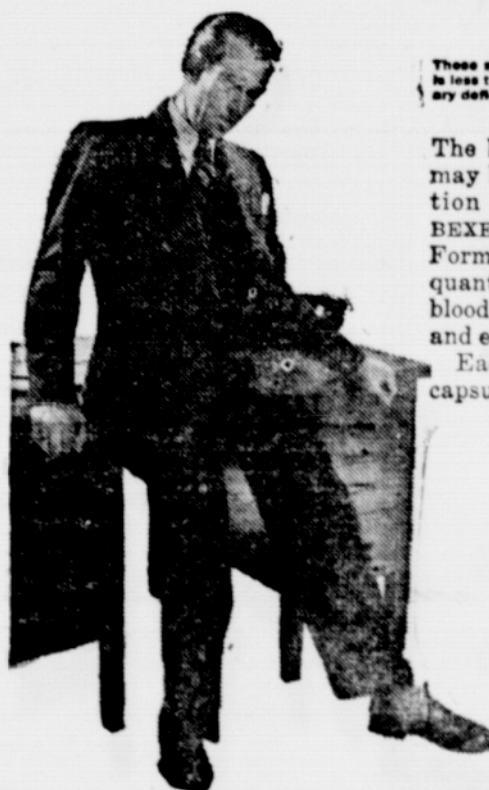
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