NOTES.

THE OCCURRENCE OF A HYBRID GENTIAN IN BRITAIN.—On the celebrated Ridgeway, an ancient road which passes along the edge of the escarpment of the chalk range which looks over the vale of Berkshire, there are several British camps, one of the largest of which is Letcombe Castle, situated on the ridge to the south of Wantage. On this earthwork, and on the road which approaches it, *Gentiana germanica* occurs in considerable quantity and in excellent condition. This is in full flower in normal seasons in September. *G. Amarella* of English authors, = *G. axillaris* (Schmidt), Murbeck, also occurs there. It is usually in flower rather earlier than the former species, but in some seasons the time of flowering is more nearly conterminous. In 1892 I visited the place with Miss Beatrice Taylor, and found *G. germanica* in great abundance, and especially fine on the barer portion of the short turf. *G. Amarella* was more sparingly in flower, but there were some good specimens in the vallum. In this situation a few plants of a distinctly intermediate character were found. These had a longer and more conspicuous corolla than *G. Amarella*. The corolla was more cylindric than that of *G. germanica*, and the tint was nearer the dark purple of *Amarella* than the bluish purple of *germanica*. The pollen was defective, and the plant was in my opinion distinctly a hybrid of the two species with which it occurred. As the occurrence of a hybrid of these two species is only mentioned with a query in Focke's 'Pflanzenmischlinge,' I named it $\times G. Pamplinii$, *G. Amarella* $\times G. germanica$ (after Mr. Pamplin, the reputed discoverer of *G. germanica* in Berkshire) in the Report of the Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles, p. 379, 1892. Specimens were sent in that year to Dr. von Wettstein of

Prague for his opinion. At that time he was engaged on his Monograph of the genus *Euphrasia* (which excellent work is only recently published), so that he did not report on the specimen till this year, when he writes to me saying that he has no doubt from the intermediate characters, from the fact that the two supposed parents were growing together, and from the defective (58 per cent.) pollen, that the plant is a hybrid of the above plants, which he calls *G. Wettsteini*, Murbeck $\times$ *G. axillaris* (Schmidt). These names are synonymous with *G. germanica* and *G. Amarella* respectively. My friend, Mr. A. B. Jackson, has also found a hybrid of the two species at Watership chalk pit, on the north Hampshire chalk escarpment to the south of the Kennet, not far from Newbury.

G. CLARIDGE DRUCE.

Aug. 14.

THE HYBRIDS OF LINARIA REPENS AND L. VULGARIS IN BRITAIN.—The fact of the occurrence of hybrids of the two species above mentioned has been known for many years, but confirmatory evidence (if such were needed) of the strongest possible character has been afforded, during the last few years, in the neighbourhood of Oxford. In the counties of Oxford and Berks the distribution of *L. vulgaris* is fairly general, the plant being especially plentiful in light sandy soils. The occurrence of the second species is of a much more local character. Previous to the construction of railways, it was practically limited to the lower and upper chalk formations of the counties. The Great Western Railway, with its constant traffic, has much increased the area of its distribution, but until 1890 its northern limit may be said to have been at Didcot. On the soil which consists of bare chalk, *L. vulgaris* is practically absent, and there we may study *L. repens* in its natural condition. We shall find that it exhibits considerable variability in the colour of its flowers, which vary from nearly white to the darkest purple; it is rarely found of a coral pink tint; but the size of the flower, its shape, and the shape and direction of its spur, is fairly constant. When the soil is covered with a lighter subsoil, and *L. vulgaris* also grows with it, we shall then rarely search long without finding plants of an intermediate character. These plants are especially suitable for the purpose of observation, since, in the case of *L. vulgaris*, the large yellow flowers with an orange palate, and the much smaller flowers of *L. repens*, which are normally of a bluish or

Druce, George Claridge. 1896. "The occurrence of a hybrid Gentian in Britain." *Annals of botany* 10, 621–622.

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