

Miss Butler will conduct parties through the wild botanical garden in Glenwood park. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, meeting them at the terminus of the Fourth and Sixth avenue north street railway, Sixth avenue and Russell avenue, at 10 o'clock; also Saturday and Sunday afternoons, meeting them at 2:30 o'clock at the same place. One hour later, on the same days, those coming by automobile or carriage, will be met near the entrance of the garden, on the boulevard, at a point northeast of Birch pond, in Glenwood park. To reach Birch pond turn in at the left on Western avenue, where the park boulevard intersects the avenue. Phones—T. S. Calhoun 1021, N. W. Main 4295.

**Q**URTLESS every one would select as the crowning wild flower for the calendar months of the coming season in Minneapolis the same flower for April, violets for May, roses for June and lilies for July. Of our three native lilies the Turk's-cap, although not the lily of Palestine, is, he said to surpass the glory of Homer, as it is arrayed in recurved sage red petals flecked with spots of purple and in buds like fingers of lace. Sometimes as many as 40 blossoms are borne on a single plant.

Beautiful, also, are the yellow swamp lily, with broad leaves spotted with green and less recurved than those of a Turk's-cap, and the wood lily, *Lilium philadelphicum*, with an erect, spike-like flower of deep, glowing red. In vivid colors of all these lilies were developed in crissles fired by summer's fiercest noon-tide heat.

Troops of black-eyed Susans boldly face at roamers over the hillsides. As a return Susan's unblinking gaze we see that her eyes are a velvety, purish brown instead of black. This red-flower, *Rudbeckia hirta*, is a composite. The "eye" is made up of tiny small, tubular flowers, and each yellow eyelash is also a flower.

Another composite adorned with yellow petals and towering in splendor above its competitors in rich, alluvial soil, is the cup plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*. The large leaves, arranged in pairs along the stem, are united at the base to form a deep cup for holding water. This may serve the double purpose of tiding the plant over a dry spell and of keeping unwelcome, crawling insects from the flowers. People in the tropics use a similar means, to keep the ants from the food by setting the legs of the dining tables and dishes of water.

The interesting rosin or compass plant of the prairie is of the same genus as the cup plant. Its leaves are arranged edgewise and point due north and south. Persons lost on a trackless, uninhabited prairie might find their bearings by this vegetable compass. An eye witness stationed on the Western plains, the first observer of the plant, thought the leaves must have the properties of the magnetic needle. Failing to prove his theory by experiments, he forwarded specimens of the *Silphium* to Dr. Asa Gray, the American Darwin, who suggested that the peculiar action of the leaves was for the purpose of avoiding the direct rays of the sun in order to check too great a loss of water by transpiration.

Since that time "polarity" has been observed in the leaves of many other plants growing in drought regions in exposed situations, as the eucalyptus trees of Australia. Such trees, of course, afford no shade. The habit may be noted in the roadside weed, prickly lettuce and to some degree even in the garden lettuce.

To subdue the brilliant orange and reds of the lilies and composites, Mother Nature has planted among them the judicious and generous hand among white flowers, as *Veronica virginica*, with feathery spikes of bloom, the branched like candelabras, topping slender stems, clothed at intervals in whorls of narrow, pointed leaves, as popularly called Culver's root,

or Culver's physic, because one of that name extracted a specific from the root.

The shrublike *Ceanothus*, or New Jersey tea, seemingly covered with sea foam and mist, has drifted from the Atlantic to the valley of the Mississippi. This plant has historic interest as well as refined beauty. It is well that it grows in prodigal masses in wide distribution. For, after the Boston tea party, a brew of the leaves of the *Ceanothus* plenshed the teapots of our revolutionary forebears.

Who pictures a swamp without the familiar cattails and red-winged blackbirds flying in and out piping their

cheerful notes? In an aesthetic craze a few years ago the cattails, or flags, were the popular decoration of the home, filling large jardineres or embroidered or painted on screens and lambrequins. Though of inherent decorative value they have fallen into "innocuous desuetude" by reason of overuse. It is a warning to "avoid the obvious." Individuality, not too pronounced or extreme, should be expressed. Why, for instance, because a neighbor has a beautiful plant on his premises should every one in the vicinity straightway fill his grounds with the same in monotonous reiteration? Among the hosts of ornamental plants

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that are something else to be selected inside hydrangea, scarlet rambler, canna and golden glow to prevent satiety? If a plant is "all the rage" it is the very best reason why one should fall out of line and imitate nature in her endless variety.

The flower cluster of the cattail is made up of innumerable blossoms of two sorts, without nectar, fragrance or bright color, because they are pollinated by the wind. The slender spike at the top bears the pollen-producing flowers. These after doing their work wither away and disappear, while the flowers of the stouter body below ripen into tiny, seedlike fruits that are converted by tufts of fine hairs into aeroplanes that will take a long flight through the air before they settle down to propagate new plants.

Cattails are still in fashion with children, who carefully store them for a gala time, when they are dipped in kerosene to use for torches in Halloween processions.

ELOISE BUTLER.

Lily Declared Crowning Wild Flower Near Minneapolis in July; Miss Butler Describes, Also, the Blossoms That Kept It Company

