north of their native home. *R. glutinosa* and *R. hispida* grow naturally only in the southern Alleghany Mountains, at the same altitude, and nearly at the same elevation, as *Magnolia Fraseri*, but are hardy several degrees farther north than that tree.

The nature of the buds of Cladrastis, which appear to have escaped the attention of botanists, also enables this tree to flourish many degrees north of the somewhat restricted region west of the southern Alleghany Mountains, which is its home. The buds are sub-petiolar, but I do not find that it has been explained that, instead of a single bud, there are under each leaf-stalk four, superposed and closely compressed together, forming by mutual pressure a rather thick cone, each bud being covered with thin lustrous scales. The lowest one is minute and rudimentary, and probably it is only the upper one which develops into a branch. If this should be injured, then perhaps the next one takes its place. The four sub-petiolar buds of Cladrastis serve to keep it separate from the Asiatic Maackia (united by Mr. Bentham with Cladrastis), which has solitary supra-petiolar buds, besides differing in habit, in inflorescence, in its accrescent persistent bud-scales, and in some floral particulars from the American tree, as has already been pointed out by Maximowicz.

The Jamaica Dogwood, a fine tropical tree which occurs on the keys of southern Florida, was described by Linnæus in the first edition of the "Species Plantarum" as *Erythrina Piscipula*. Later he recognized it was not an Erythrina, and made a new genus, Piscidia, to receive it, changing, however, the specific name in the second edition of the "Species Plantarum" from Piscidia to Erythrina. The successors of Linnæus have written *Piscidia Erythrina*, but if the oldest specific name given to a plant by Linnæus, or by any subsequent author, is the name by which the plant is to be known, then that of the Jamaica Dogwood must be *Piscidia Piscipula*.

The synonymy of the Water Locust is confusing. It was first described by Linnæus in the first edition of the "Species Plantarum" as a variety of *Gleditsia triacanthos*. Miller, in the eighth edition of his Dictionary (1768), called it *G. inermis*, which would be the oldest name for the Water Locust had it not been already appropriated by Linnæus in the second edition of the "Species" (1763), in which there is a *G. inermis* taken up from a plant of Duhamel's which Mr. Bentham (*Trans. Linn. Soc.*, xxx., 557) was probably right in considering the spineless form of *G. triacanthos*, although Duhamel himself supposed that it might be the *Acacia Javanica* of Plukenet ("Phyt.," t. 123, f. 3). The identity of this plant was further confused by Linnæus referring to it Miller's figure ("Icon.," t. 5), which represents *Calliandra Houstoni*, a tropical American plant, which, Mr. Bentham remarks, could "only have been quoted by Linnæus at second hand or through some inadvertence." In any case, the *G. inermis* of the second edition of the "Species" cannot refer to the Water Locust, which still appeared there as a variety of *G. triacanthos*, so that Miller's name, being a synonym, is not available, and the next oldest name, that of Marshall (1785), *G. aquatica*, will have to be adopted. Fortunately, the name is the best of all those which have been given to this tree, which grows in water or in very wet places.

In the spelling of the generic name I have followed Linnæus in writing Gleditsia, although most modern authors have changed his name to Gleditschia. *C. S. Sargent.*

New or Little-known Plants.

Cereus (Pilocereus) Sargentianus.

THIS plant has eight or more stems from the same base, the sterile stems two to five feet tall, five or six angled with obtuse ribs, separated by broad, deep intervals; the woolly areolæ closely set and touching each other on the ribs, the gray spines stout, straight, one-fourth to three-fourths of an inch long, in clusters of ten or more; the flower-bearing stems ten to fifteen feet tall, erect, five or six angled, intervals usually shallow, the ribs closely set with woolly oblong areolæ, each bearing about fifty long, flexuous, grayish or white spines which almost hide the small inconspicuous flowers.

The flower is of a delicate shade between rose-pink and flesh-color, an inch long and less than an inch across; petals about twenty-four in number, thirteen scales in the ovary; anthers yellow, filaments, style and stigmata white.

The Indian name of this Old-man Cactus is *Carambuya* or *Garambulla*, and it is called by some *Hombre viejo* or *Cabeza vieja*, according to Brandegee, who found it from Comondu to San Quintin, Lower California.

I have referred this plant hitherto to *Cereus Schottii*, Engelm. (vide Garden and Forest, iii., 439), and Brandegee (*Proc. Cal. Acad.*, 2d ser., ii., 163) has referred to it by the same name.

I first found it near San Quintin, Lower California, in 1886. The fruit I have not seen, but it is said to be edible, without spines, red, and attaining a much larger size than the fruit of *C. Schottii*, as is evident in the illustration (see page 437), from a photograph taken by Messrs. Roscoe Howard and Russell Gannis.

The plant differs also in the number and characters of the spines, and will probably prove to be a distinct species. I therefore venture to name it provisionally for Professor C. S. Sargent, whose interest in the Mexican flora is well known.

San Diego, Cal. *C. R. Orcutt.*

Foreign Correspondence.

London Letter.

THE most interesting event of the week in the open-air garden is the flowering of *Lilium Parkmanni* in the Knap Hill nursery, Woking, where only it can be seen. By reputation this Lily is known to all who take an interest in Lilies, but comparatively few have seen it in bloom, as it flowers when no unusual display attracts visitors to the great Surrey nursery. As every Lily-grower knows, we are indebted to America for this magnificent Lily, considered by many the queen of the whole family, and it is a singular fact that none of our hybridists have obtained such successful results as did Mr. Parkman, though they have tried over and over again to raise a similar hybrid between *L. auratum* and *L. speciosum*, which are the parents of Parkman's Lily. Neither is it likely that this Lily will ever become common, owing to the slow way in which it increases. For thirteen years has Mr. Anthony Waterer been trying to make the most of the four bulbs he bought from the raiser at the highest figure that has ever been paid for a hardy herbaceous plant. Those who do not know what Parkman's Lily is like must imagine a very large *L. auratum* flower, a foot across from tip to tip of the petals, each banded like auratum with yellow and stained with the richest carmine-crimson and broadly edged with white. Every Lily specialist here is eagerly waiting for its distribution, and, no doubt, it will then soon find its way back to the land of its birth.

An uncommonly successful meeting was held this week by the Royal Horticultural Society at Westminster, and quite a number of novelties were placed before the committees. Gladioli from Kelway, and Dahlias from various growers, were the special features, but several other interesting plants were there, and especially Orchids. There seems to be now a continuous succession of hybrid Orchids, for at every meeting one sees new ones. The most important new hybrid shown on this occasion was from Messrs. Veitch. This was a Lælio-Cattleya named Nyssa, a cross between *Lælia* (*Cattleya*) *crispa* and *C. labiata*, var. *Warsceiczii*. The progeny is intermediate, both in growth and flower, the latter being somewhat larger than those of *L. crispa*. The sepals are a delicate mauve and spread out widely; the labellum is larger than in *L. crispa* and quite shows the dilation of that of *C. labiata*; the color is an intensely deep purple-crimson, surrounding an in-