for the various trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants to do their part in making the picture. More are needed at the commencement than are needed later. They are not large or strong when first assigned their places. Some may become so gradually, while others, and this is certainly the case of a place or his man in charge, or the superintendent of a park, may have failed to grasp the features of a design, and so have made changes detrimental to the general result. Few members of the profession, to say nothing of the clients, have appreciated the importance of an oversight extending through a series of years. The architect’s work is finished with the completion of a building; the painter’s when he puts his last touches on a canvas, but what the landscape-gardener must have in mind is not a single picture, but a series of pictures having more or less resemblance to each other, changing more rapidly with the shrubs, vines for quicker growth, and needing from time to time the inspection and criticism of a trained eye. This inspection may be made by visiting a place once a year, once a month, or even more frequently, as may be agreed on with the client, but it should not be omitted.

Perhaps no work of an artistic character requires a broader knowledge than that of landscape-gardening. Besides the creative faculty of a designer, it calls for some acquaintance with engineering, architecture, horticulture, botany, the adaptability of different plants to various climates and soils, their appearance, their rate of growth, their length of life and how the combinations will contribute to their future. Of course, his knowledge of engineering or architecture will not be as extensive as that of men engaged in those professions, but what will enable him to bring the bridges, buildings and other constructive works into harmonious relations with the landscape.

The Madroña at Ukiah.

EVERYWHERE in California Arbutus menziesii is known by its usual Spanish name of Madroña, pronounced with a soft “d.” While found from Puget Sound to Mexico, it is in the region between San Francisco Bay and Oregon that the Madroña is at its best. Elsewhere it is not of frequent occurrence, but its flowers on a few trees of considerable dimensions, specimens two or three feet in diameter being common, and one noble tree near San Rafael is said to be twenty-three feet in circumference at base.

In Ukiah Valley it is very common, extending from the dry uplands to the mountain tops, and almost exclusively covering some considerable areas on the mountain slopes. The town of Ukiah is built on a sloping upland, which was originally covered with timber, a mixed growth of Douglas Spruce, White Oak, Black Oak, Black Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia), and Madroña. The founding of the town, with rather unusual good taste for pioneers, spared the native trees, and they have thrived wonderfully under the changed conditions. Trees in variety have been planted, and sidewalk trees are the rule rather than the exception. Viewed from any quarter now, the town seems hidden in a forest.

The Madroña formed a large part of the original undergrowth. A few were large trees, but there were a multitude of seedlings and many clumps of sprouts from old stubs. All have grown well, and are now beautiful and symmetrical trees, the most attractive feature of our town. Many blocks are covered with fine growths of them. As an ornamental tree the Madroña has many virtues and a few vices. With its large elliptical leaves, suggestive of the Rhododendron, its sweet flowers in May and its glory of red berries in midwinter, it is always beautiful. However charming are the smooth limbs left clean and shining in their rich brown coat, as the old bark sheds each summer. The leaves are shed in May and June, after the new leaves have formed. The contrast between the bright green of the new and the yellow of the old is fine, but the litter of leaf and bark is objectionable, and perhaps a little more leaves because the leaves do not fall as part of the general decay at the close of the year with those of deciduous trees, but at a season when all vegetation is in the full tide of life.

Ukiah, Calif.

Carl Pardy.

Foreign Correspondence.

London Letter.

VICTORIA REGIA.—A considerable range of variation has already been revealed under cultivation by this, the queen of Water-lilies, and two forms of it at least have been named—Randli and Dixon’s variety. The latter is remarkable for the red tints of its flowers and for the size and depth of the rim of the leaves. A well-marked variety, new to cultivation so far as this country is concerned, is now flowering for the first time at Kew. It was raised by seeds received in January, kindly presented by Mr. Tricker, of the nurseries of Mr. H. A. Deen, Philadelphia. Among its peculiarities are, first, the early cupping of the leaves, the turned-up rim being shown by quite small plants, while when fully grown the leaves are large, of a lustrous bright green color, and the rim is from six to eight inches deep. The flowers produced up to the present are not equal in size to those of the ordinary form, but they open several hours earlier in the day and they change color earlier. Usually the sepals of Victoria are spinous to the tips, but in this variety they are quite glabrous. Mr. Tricker states that with him the plant grows very freely and that during the summer it is not unusual to have fifteen or twenty good leaves on a single plant, and frequently two flowers open together, a first and a second day flower. He has also had plants that flowered when in comparatively small pots and a perfect flower produced on a plant in a twelve-inch seed-pan. The plant at Kew is growing along with one of the ordinary variety and one of Dixon’s variety, and is by far the strongest and most attractive in leaf characters, while it has already developed three flowers before the others have shown signs of any. It is noteworthy that these varieties of Victoria regia come true from seeds, so that characters fixed in the Proba. Probably Mr. Tricker can furnish particulars of the origin of his variety.

CAMPOSEMA FINNATUM.—This handsome sedge shrub or small tree has an erect woody stem, pinnate leaves over a foot long, each leaf consisting of three pairs and one terminal ovate leaflet, ten inches by three, of a bright green color. In habit and leaf characters this plant is not unlike a young American Ash. The flowers are borne in short axillary racemes resembling those of Erythrina caffra, but shorter, each race containing of about a dozen flowers, which are two inches long, the calyx green, mottled with purple, and the corolla rich rose, changing to rosy magenta. There is a pliable inflorescence of a yard long for the first time in the Palm-house at Kew; it was raised from seeds received from Brazil nine years ago under the name of Camposema erythrinoides. The genus is composed of ten species, mostly climbers, all natives of Brazil. C. rubicundum, a climbing species with red flowers, was in cultivation here sixty years ago, when it was figured in The Botanical Magazine, t. 4608, and also in Paxton’s Magazine, where it is called a Kennedy. It is not known to be in cultivation now.

EUROPHIILLA PERTERISIARA.—A plant of this extraordinary Orchid has been established in Sir Trevor Lawrence’s collection, where I lately saw it growing vigorously. It has made three rhizomes about nine inches long, on each of which are about a dozen leaves, each from three to four feet long and three or four inches wide, of firm, almost leathery texture and pilose. It is a most distinct-looking Orchid, undoubtedly a Europhillia, a photograph of the flower showing all the characters of that genus as known in E. Elizabethae. The flowering of this plant is awaited with curiosity. I am told that Monsieur Peeters, the Brussels Orchid dealer, to whom we owe the introduction of this Orchid from Madagascar, has also succeeded in establishing plants of it.

DENDROBIIUM CENTLEST.—A blue Dendrobium would be a decided acquisition, and if the species described under this name in The Gardeners’ Chronicle for this week is all that it is said to be, its introduction will be awaited with considerable interest. It has been discovered in the Philippines.