CATALOGUE OF THE PLANTS IN THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES' GARDEN AT CHELSEA

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R. H. SEMPLE

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For the following description and plans of the Garden, and the Catalogue of the plants it contains, the Editor is mainly indebted to the co-operation of the distinguished Curator, Mr. Thomas Moore.

The Chelsea Botanic Garden at the present time occupies about four acres of land. The figure of the Garden is that of a trapezium, the four sides not being equal in length, and the inequality is now increased by the addition of a slip of reclaimed land, which has been thrown in with the older portion since the construction of the new river-side embankment. At the eastern end of the side facing the river, the angle formed by the boundaries is an acute one, and at the western end the angle is obtuse, while the side looking on to the river is longer

than that running parallel to the Queen's Road at the northern boundary. The old wall still incloses the Garden on three of its sides, but on the embankment front, or southern side, a handsome and substantial iron fence, with entrance-gates, has recently been erected.

The general disposition of the ground is that shown in Plan I. Near the centre stands a marble statue by Rysbrach of Sir Hans Sloane, Bart., the donor of the ground. On the right of the entrance-gate (1), on the plot marked A, is a new plantation of hardy medicinal plants recently made. This is shown more in detail on Plan II., and is planted in serial order after the system of De Candolle. Westward from this, on Plots B and C, as shown in detail on Plan III., is an older plantation of medicinal plants arranged according to Lindley's "Flora Medica." This is not quite so extensive a series as the former, and many of the subjects are duplicates, a circumstance which is found rather an advantage than otherwise, as from variations of soil and aspect, and in some degree also from treatment, a longer succession of flowers is obtained than would be furnished by a single patch of each plant.

It will be seen that from the entrance in Swan Walk (1) a gravel path crosses the Garden from

east to west, and this is crossed by another from north to south, the statue of Sir Hans Sloane standing at the point where the paths intersect. Starting from the same point another path skirts the four sides of the Garden, while a further loop-line traverses the new ground added near the embankment. In general terms, therefore, the portion of the Garden to the right or north of the centre path entering from Swan Walk is devoted to medical plants, and that on the left hand or south of this path, indicated by the plots D, E, F, G, to beds of hardy herbaceous plants arranged in natural orders, a few trees and shrubs, mostly the remains of former arrangements, being interspersed. H is an enclosed yard for storing fuel, soils, and other necessary materials.

There are four glass houses, besides pits and frames devoted to propagation. The reference figure 2 indicates the position of a span-roofed house divided in the interior into stove and greenhouse, and primarily devoted to such medicinal plants as will not grow out-doors.

The lean-to houses 3 and 4 have their contents planted out *à la* Ward, and may be taken to represent on a very small scale the mixed vegetations of climates warmer than our own. The plants are not medical but of general botanical

interest, No. 3 containing a considerable number of succulents. The house No. 5 is the cold house already mentioned, also planted *à la* Ward. At 6 and 7 are warm propagating pits, 8 is a cold pit, and 9 indicates the site of cold frames for various cultural uses in rearing young plants to supply the different collections in the Garden. A tank for water-plants (10) is situated at the lower part of the plot E. The plot I is intended for annual flowers, arranged in a serial manner according to their natural orders; 11 is a bed of Yuccas; 12, 12 are mixed borders of hardy flowers on the east side, useful as affording different aspects for some of the same plants which occur in other parts of the Garden; 13 is a similar border on the west side partly filled with shrubby plants; while 14, 14 are grassy slopes running up to the embankment, having a series of mixed ornamental shrubs within the low inner wall, and a holly hedge between the inner wall and the outer fence. The extreme eastern corner is reserved as a plot for nursery purposes.

Within the area of the yard H stands one of the finest Oriental Planes (*Platanus orientalis*) to be seen in or about London, a tree of noble proportions, which it may be hoped will not materially suffer from its water supply being

cut off by the embankment. On plot F. stands the sole remaining Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus Libani*), one of the original trees introduced to this country; and on plot G is a handsome, straight-stemmed, evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*). On the wall skirting Swan Walk, south of the entrance-gate, is an old tree of *Styrax officinalis*, and on the northern side a fine *Wistaria*, while close to the north boundary wall, near bed 11, stands a very good example of the Maidenhair tree (*Salisburia adiantifolia*).