



*drawn from plants in the Cambridge Botanic Garden in May last

Begonia roezlii Regel

The following is taken from a British magazine called **The Garden**; the issue was dated August 25, 1883 and the article appeared on pages 162-163. The spelling of the name had only one 'i' but modern lists show it ending in two 'i's.

GARDEN FLORA

PLATE CDII

BEGONIA ROEZLI*

This is a very beautiful and distinct species of Begonia, and without doubt the handsomest of the shrubby kinds. The first information we had of it came from Mr. Ernest Benary about four years ago; he had received seeds of it some time previously from Mexico, sent by the well-known collector whose name it bears. The accompanying plate is a good representation of both flowers and leaves, though the latter are of course much smaller than those of a properly grown plant. The colour is well rendered, though, if anything, less bright and rich than it should be. It has strong fleshy stems 3 feet or more in height, and smooth succulent leaves 10 inches or more in length, which under full light assume a reddish tint; they have strong veins, red beneath, and there is a deep blotch of red on the upper side of the blade at the junction with the petioles. The plant is very ornamental even when not in flower. Few plants are more valuable for winter flowering, and the flowers continue long in good condition. It is like no other kind in cultivation, except in a general sense, and it is remarkable for the large size of the bracts which enclose the young flower-heads. We were indebted for our first plant of this Begonia to the Rev. Mr. Law, of Little Shelford.

CULTIVATION. -The treatment which is successful in the case of other shrubby Begonias will answer well for this one with the

exception of a few points which require to be considered especially in relation to it. It produces naturally a few stems only, which are not inclined to branch, and this habit must not be extensively interfered with, for if by cutting back at the wrong time, or by stopping, a greater number of branches are formed than are needed, they are sure to be weak and the flowers will be thin and comparatively poor. Its habit is somewhat leggy - its chief, or only fault - and this can be combated only by growing it in full light and giving it a proper amount of room. The finest specimens I have seen were grown in a house which faces the south, and I believe no shading had ever been given them. As it flowers at all times between October and May, no time can be mentioned for cutting it back or starting it afresh. We cut back our plants soon after they have flowered in order to give them time to make vigorous stems before the next flowering season. Sometimes there are young shoots growing up, and if so they should not be touched, as they generally bear the greatest amount of bloom. After the first cutting back it is useless to think of cutting back or stopping again; the earliest shoots produced should be grown on without check of any kind. The plants appear to lose vigour after about three years, and they should then be renewed. I have had no opportunity yet, I am sad to say, of planting the Begonia in a bed of soil, but I intend doing so, and doubtless the result will be satisfactory. Other shrubby Begonias benefit very much by such treatment. The proper temperature for B. Roezlii is that of an intermediate house, and if it faces the south so much the better. The soil for it should be rich and well drained, as a free supply of water is necessary during its season of growth. Peat is undesirable, so far as may be necessary for giving porosity to the compost. For this purpose grit is very good, and it may consist of either finely broken pots or bricks. Cuttings of B. Roezlii do not strike so freely as those of other kinds, but seeds of it grow freely.

R. Irwin Lynch.

