Until the nineteenth century, the investigation of natural phenomena, plants and animals was considered either the preserve of elite scholars or a pastime for the leisureed upper classes. As increasing academic rigour and systematisation was brought to the study of 'natural history', its subdisciplines were adopted into university curricula, and learned societies (such as the Royal Horticultural Society, founded in 1804) were established to support research in these areas. A related development was strong enthusiasm for exotic garden plants, which resulted in plant collecting expeditions to every corner of the globe, sometimes with tragic consequences. This series includes accounts of some of those expeditions, detailed reference works on the flora of different regions, and practical advice for amateur and professional gardeners.

**Beeton’s Gardening Book**

Samuel Orchart Beeton (1831–77), the publishing entrepreneur who made his wife's *Book of Household Management* one of the bestselling titles of the century, gave his name to many other books of domestic, medical and general information for the middle classes. (The 1871 *Book of Garden Management*, published and probably compiled by him, is also reissued in this series.) This work was published in 1874 by Ward Lock, to whom Beeton was forced to sell his own business after a financial collapse in 1866. The book contains 'such full and practical information as will enable the amateur to manage his own garden'. It covers flower, fruit and vegetable gardening, with a section on garden pests and a monthly calendar of tasks. It also contains advertisements for gardening and medicinal products, as well as for other books from the publishers, offering a fascinating insight into social as well as garden history.
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ZOOLOGISTS and Bird Stuffers find the Dyes useful for retinting Hair, Feathers, &c. May be put on with a brush or dipped.

Sixpence per Bottle of all Chemists and Stationers.
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Samuel Orchart Beeton
Frontmatter

More information
1. *Ageratum.*—This pretty flower is valuable for the length of time it keeps in bloom. Wherever it is grown, fresh blossoms will always be seen until the frost of winter destroys the plant. When cut for bouquets it also lasts well.

2. *Anemone.*—There are many varieties of the Anemone, and they are to be found of almost every shade of colour. The double sorts, however, are generally either scarlet or purple. To produce fine heads of blossom they require a very rich light soil, and, when once planted, the tubers may remain in the soil for several years if care be taken to give it an annual dressing of well-rotted manure.

3. *Avens.*—This curious perennial, so popular as a pot plant, is allied to the Lord and Ladies which grow wild in our hedges and woods. It is propagated by off-sets and suckers, and the secret of its cultivation is to give the plant a long period of rest after it has done flowering; after this, to start it in entirely fresh soil, and to give it an abundance of water while in a growing state. A fine grown specimen makes a handsome window plant.

4. *Azalea.*—Both out of doors and under glass, Azaleas are to be valued. The hardy varieties are of American extraction; the more tender sorts, of which our illustration is one, are natives of India. As show-plants under modern training, nothing can surpass Azaleas. Those who want to see them in perfection should pay a visit in the spring to the Messrs. Veitch’s nurseries.

5. *Balsam.*—Balsams, of late years, have ceased to be the fashionable flowers they once were. There is a stiffness and formality about them which displeases many persons. Still, a well-grown balsam, in full flower, is very showy, and it may also be turned to a good account, for the
individual blossoms have an excellent effect when used to ornament fruit

dishes on a dinner table.

6. **Begonia.**—Some beautiful seedlings, of late years, have been obtained
of this favourite plant; all of them, however, require a greenhouse, and
many of them store heat. Such delicate foliage never can be well developed
out of doors in our variable climate. Even under glass, a drop of water
will soon destroy the beauty of a leaf.

7. **Bourbon Rose.**—This rose, which is a variety of the Rose Indica, is
itself the parent of a numerous progeny. Mr. Paul and other eminent
growers have hybridized it with the Chino- é, Noisette, and other roses,
until the varieties are infinite. All the Bourbon roses are singularly hardy,
and noted for their brilliancy and clearness of colour.

8. **Camellia.**—Who is there who does not admire the Camellia? The
rich dark green foliage of the plants, and their blossoms so beautiful in
shape and colouring, make them universal favourites. Our artist has here
illustrated C. Dumbella, a variety with very large single flowers, and,
generally, a profuse bloomer. This sort is not so useful as a cut flower as
many others, but it is extremely showy in the greenhouse.

9. **Canna.**—This beautiful herbaceous plant is far too tender to endure
our climate in winter, but when forced on in a hot-house, it may be planted
out either singly or in mixed beds. The foliage and blossoms are both
highly ornamental. Plants may be obtained from seed, and also from
division of roots. The popular name of the Canna is Indian Shot.