

length of 94 yards, every tree healthy, vigorous, and well set with fruit-buds, and you will have an idea of what the Swallowfield Pear-pergola is like. In a good year many hundredweights of fruit are picked from this arch alone, the favourite varieties being Williams', Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Diel, and Marie Louise.

The glass department is extensive. Figs, Vines, and Peaches, are grown in great quantities in a large range of lean-to's, which run right across the kitchen garden at its northern end. The fruit-houses are flanked on each side by a span-roofed plant-house, where the usual collection of stove and greenhouse plants are accommodated. There is a number of other plant-houses, pits, and frames scattered about, all heated by two Trentham boilers in the stokehole at the

OPUNTIA CANTABRIGIENSIS.*

This is a very fine plant, but I can find no single character which, embodied in a name, would serve to distinguish it from others; and I may therefore perhaps be pardoned for naming it as above. The name is justifiable from the fact that for many years the plant has been a feature of the Cambridge Botanic Garden—is, in fact, nowhere else so fine to this date, and from the circumstance of its wide distribution from Cambridge. It flowered first in 1900, and until that time was supposed to be *O. Engelmanni*, but a comparison with description immediately showed this to be wrong. At Kew the plant was at first supposed to be *O. pseudo-Luna* (see *Gardeners' Chronicle*, July 28, 1900, p. 64); but that species,

O. Engelmanni, but that it might be a form of the variety *cyclodes*. A distinguishing name was thus necessary, and since, for practical purposes, it is quite distinct, I may safely pass over the difficult question of true systematic position, which can hardly be dealt with under the circumstances at present. My finest specimen is now 12 feet wide, 6 feet from front to back, and nearly 4 feet high. It was raised from cuttings taken from an older specimen in 1895, and it flowered with the original in 1900. The older specimen had been undisturbed for twelve years before it flowered, but hot summers apparently affected both specimens in the same way. At first only few flowers were produced, but the number on each specimen has increased each year from the first.

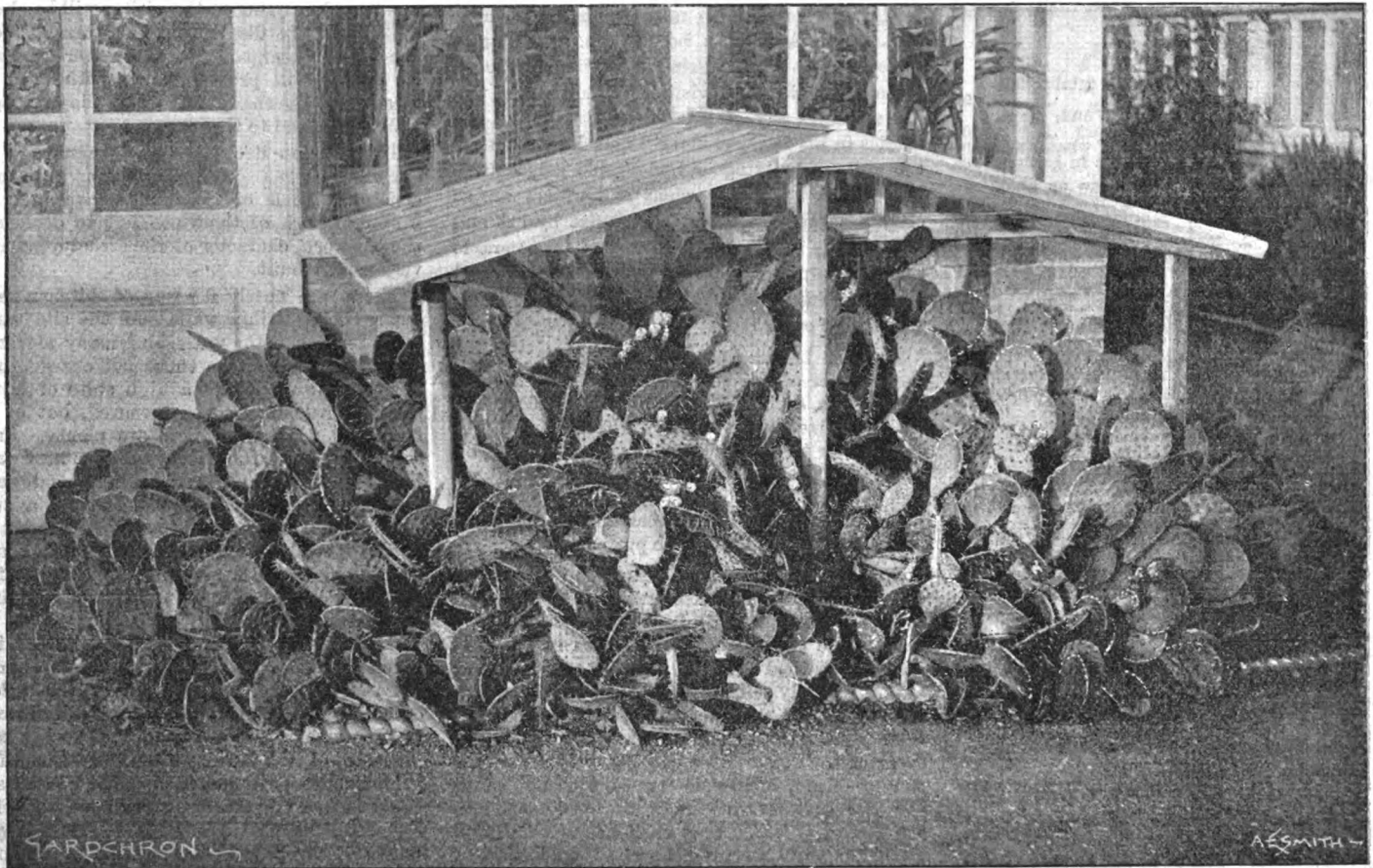


FIG. 42.—OPUNTIA CANTABRIGIENSIS IN THE BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE.

back of the vinerias. About 1,000 Strawberries are forced, and Royal Sovereign is the favourite. The inevitable Chrysanthemums are not forgotten, some thousand plants being grown.

Upon the day of my visit, Mr. Cole, the gardener, completed his tenth year of service at Swallowfield, and during that time he has seen not a few changes. Still, the changes in the appearance of the gardens and grounds themselves have all been in the right direction—indeed, it would be better to speak of them as “restorations.” Than Lady Russell, the mother of the present baronet, few ladies are more keenly alive to the desirability of not allowing the new to swamp the old. Her ladyship's recently published book, *Swallowfield and its Owners*, to which I am indebted for much of the information here given, voices the same veneration for the past, and as long as she has a voice in the guiding of the destinies of the estate, these time-honoured features will be preserved. A. S. G.

like the true *O. Engelmanni*, has yellow spines; and by the courtesy of the Director, Sir William T. Thiselton-Dyer, K.C.M.G., a further examination was permitted in July of last year. He informed me that it did not appear to be typical

* *Opuntia cantabrigiensis*.—Decumbens, articulis late obovatis compressis, 16—24 cm. long, 12—17 cm. latis leviter glaucescentibus; pulvillis remotis setosis et armatis, aculeis 1—3 erectis, albidis 1—2 cm. long; floribus 1—7 ad articulum, flavis vel fulvo-flavis circa 9—14 cm. diam.; ovario late obconico, pulvillis setosis sub calyce armatis; sepalis circa 10 crassis deltoidis; petalis circa 20 obovato orbiculatis apiculatis; stigmatibus 10 viridibus in capitulum globosum sulcatum dispositis; bacca ovoidea 4 cm. long, rubra leviter glaucescente pulvillis brunneis; seminibus 3 mm. latis marginatis.

Planta robusta ad 1'20 m. alt.
O. Engelmanni var. ? *cyclodes*, E. et B. affinis, sed articulis distincte obovatis.

Opuntia Engelmanni, *Gard. Chron.*, 1901, vol. xxx., p. 409, fig. 123, non *O. Engelmanni*, Esalm., a qua differt, imprimis spinis albidis nec non ovario obconico. Patria ignota. In *Hort. Cantab.*, per multos annos culta. B. L. L.

The accompanying illustration (fig. 42) shows the winter protection by means of small lights overhead. This species is hardy enough to stand all but the most exceptionally severe winters without protection, but it is conceivable that during a very wet winter the overgrown centre might rot—and moreover, fine specimens are worth extra care. The form of protection here illustrated is very convenient for more tender kinds, because it is easy to hang mats around, and to cover all over in case of necessity. The majority of the outdoor *Opuntias* are protected from wet by similar lights, but leaning against the walls and raised in front. With the protection illustrated, the true *Opuntia monacantha* has grown well, and flowered for several years past; a still more tender kind has also grown magnificently, but in these cases mats have been hung over and around when sharp frost might be expected. *E. Irwin Lynch*, *Botanic Garden, Cambridge*.