

THE ALPINE GARDEN.

The following articles continue the series started in Volume II, and will, when completed, form a handbook to the various branches of the cultivation of Alpine plants, which it is contemplated publishing to commemorate the Society's International Conference in the Spring of 1936.

DWARF AND MINIATURE DAFFODILS FOR ROCK GARDENS.

By PETER R. BARR, V.M.H.

Among the several little bulbous plants, which are seen to best advantage when planted in rock gardens, are certain species and wild forms of the *Narcissus* family which specially deserve our notice. Besides being interesting and beautiful in themselves, they are of great value in providing in early spring those little patches of bright colour so welcome at that period of the year.

The Rock and Alpine Garden form a natural home for these little wild Daffodils, as most of them are found growing on cool mountain slopes, at an altitude where alpine conditions prevail, and where they obtain free drainage. There, left undisturbed, they increase freely, mostly by seeding. It is in rock gardens that such conditions can best be imitated. Once planted, the bulbs should be left to establish themselves, and to increase in their own way. To protect the little blooms from being splashed and soiled by rain, I recommend planting over the bulbs small surface rooting plants such as *Herniaria glabra*, *Arenaria balearica* and *cæspitosa*, *Acæna Buchanani* and *inermis*.

For small rockeries, only the miniature Daffodils such as I have indicated by (*) should be used, as being more proportionate in size to associate with the smaller alpine plants. For larger and more spacious rock gardens, the taller growing Daffodils I have mentioned should also be given a place where they can be left to naturalize themselves. A sowing of the fine-leaved Fescue grass (*Festuca ovina tenuifolia*) over the bulbs makes a good ground covering, where miniature surface rooting alpine are not used for

the purpose. Clean fresh soil should be used and on no account should stable manure be given. The only food at any time should consist of a little bonemeal.

NARCISSUS BULBOCODIUM—THE HOOP PETTICOAT OR MEDUSA'S TRUMPET DAFFODIL. A very interesting section of miniature Daffodils with thin tapering foliage and quaintly shaped flowers, having a cone-shaped trumpet and narrow pointed perianth.

**N. bulbocodium citrinus*—THE LARGE SULPHUR HOOP PETTICOAT, from the Basses-Pyrenees and Northern Spain, bearing dainty pale citron-coloured flowers, height 6 to 8 inches. A dampish sandy peat suits this species best.

**N. bulbocodium* —THE YELLOW HOOP-PETTICOAT, from Portugal and Northern Spain, producing dainty rich golden-yellow flowers and rush-like foliage; in bloom from end of February to early March, height 6 inches.

This little Daffodil was known to John Parkinson, and figured by him in his "Paradisus" in 1629. It is found growing wild both in marshland and pine-woods. It is in marshland that the larger flowers are found.

**N. bulbocodium Clusii*, or *monophyllus*—THE WHITE HOOP-PETTICOAT. A native of Algeria, producing in winter dainty snowy white flowers of exquisite beauty, and very slender foliage, height 6 inches. Select for this species a very sunny spot and previous to planting soak the bulbs in water for a few days; then plant in a gritty sandy soil and keep damp until growth appears. During summer place a piece of glass over the ground so that the bulbs get a good sun-ripening.

**N. CAPAX PLENUS* (of Haworth),—QUEEN ANNE'S DOUBLE DAFFODIL, a lovely little Daffodil known in English gardens in the early part of the seventeenth century. The flowers are of a beautiful soft pale lemon, consisting of six rows of petals symmetrically arranged over each other, giving the flower the form of a star, height 7 inches.

**N. CYCLAMINEUS*—THE YELLOW CYCLAMEN-FLOWERED DAFFODIL, from Portugal and Spain. A very distinct and dainty little species with thin erect dark green foliage and rich yellow



Narcissus cyclamineus. (p. 62).

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pendent flowers, having a narrow tube-like trumpet elegantly serrated at mouth and perianth reflexed like a Cyclamen; the blooms vary slightly in size, height 6 to 8 inches. This remarkable species was first figured in 1608 by Pierre Vallet as "*Narcissus hispanicus minor luteus amplo calice foliis reflexis*," and it was Redouté who gave it the name of "*Cyclamineus*" in his *Liliacées* (1816). It appears to have been lost sight of for 250 years until rediscovered by Mr. Edwin Johnston of Oporto; he found it in 1885, growing in abundance not far from that city, along the banks of a stream, and brought it to Mr. Alfred Tait who described it in his monograph on Portuguese Narcissi. In 1887 Peter Barr also found this little Daffodil growing in quantity in marshy meadows, and noticed that the wetter the situation the larger were the flowers. This gives a clue as to its requirements namely that of a semi-aquatic. I find that it grows very satisfactorily in damp sunny situations planted in a sandy peat soil.

**Cyclamineus Hybrid*, BERYL, a pretty hybrid raised by Mr. P. D. Williams from *N. poeticus Chaucer* x *Cyclamineus*; it bears graceful drooping flowers with clear yellow reflexing perianth, and a small globular cup, deep bright orange shading to gold, height 8 inches.

**Cyclamineus Hybrid*, FEBRUARY GOLD, perianth lemon-yellow, slightly reflexed, trumpet bright orange-yellow, distinctly ridged and prettily frilled at margin, very early, height 13 inches.

**Cyclamineus Hybrid*, FLYCAP, a charming little flower, having an elegantly reflexed perianth, opening creamy yellow and passing off cream, crown canary-yellow of goblet form, prettily fluted, height 13 inches.

N. GRACILIS, a very graceful little rush-leaved Daffodil which has been cultivated in English gardens since the early eighteenth century. Its origin is unknown. It is one of the latest to bloom (May), and bears on a slender stem 3 to 5 light yellow Jonquil-like sweet-scented flowers, height 14 inches.

N. JOHNSTONI QUEEN OF SPAIN—SEE TRIANDRUS HYBRID.

N. JONQUILLA—THE SINGLE SWEET SCENTED JONQUIL. This graceful little plant with its dainty clusters of rich yellow flowers

provides a bright spot of colour in the garden in May, height 13 inches. It should be given a warm sunny nook in the rock garden.

Jonquilla flore-pleno — THE TRUE DOUBLE SWEET-SCENTED JONQUIL, producing in May dainty little heads of double rich yellow flowers, of delightful fragrance, height 15 inches. Like the single form it should be given a warm sunny situation.

Jonquilla HYBRID, ORANGE QUEEN, bearing 2 to 3 flowers on a stem, sweetly scented, and of the richest golden colour, height 15 inches. Patches of this in the rock garden produce a brilliant effect.

Jonquilla HYBRID, *odorus rugulosus*, producing thin erect rush-like foliage and rich yellow sweet-scented flowers (2 to 4 on a stem) with broad perianth and straight fluted crown, very effective, height 16 inches.

*N. JUNCIFOLIUS—THE MINIATURE RUSH-LEAVED DAFFODIL, a dainty little species from the Hautes Pyrenées where it is found naturalized in grass at an altitude of 4—5,000 feet. It has slender foliage and produces in April miniature rich yellow fragrant flowers with expanded cup, height 3 to 4 inches. A little gem for naturalising on rock work.

This tiny Daffodil seems to have been known to John Parkinson when he wrote his "Paradisus" in 1629.

*N. MINIMUS, the smallest and dwarfest of all Trumpet Daffodils, producing in February dainty little yellow flowers of elegant form, height 3 inches. In its native habitat, in the North of Spain, this little gem is found growing in shallow stony loam soil among gorse.

This plant was figured by John Parkinson in his "Paradisus" (1629) and called "*Pseudo-Narcissus hispanicus luteus minimus*," and when the late Peter Barr collected specimens in Spain and sent them to Kew, the authorities there identified it as *Narcissus minimus* of Haworth (1831) which is Parkinson's plant. I think it would be a pity to change the name now to *Narcissus asturiensis* of Jordan (1903), according to Mr. H. W. Pugsley's recent monograph on the Ajax Narcissi (1933), as for fifty years or more it has been so well known in gardens under the name of "*minimus*."



Narcissus juncifolius. (p. 64). *O. M. Vidal*

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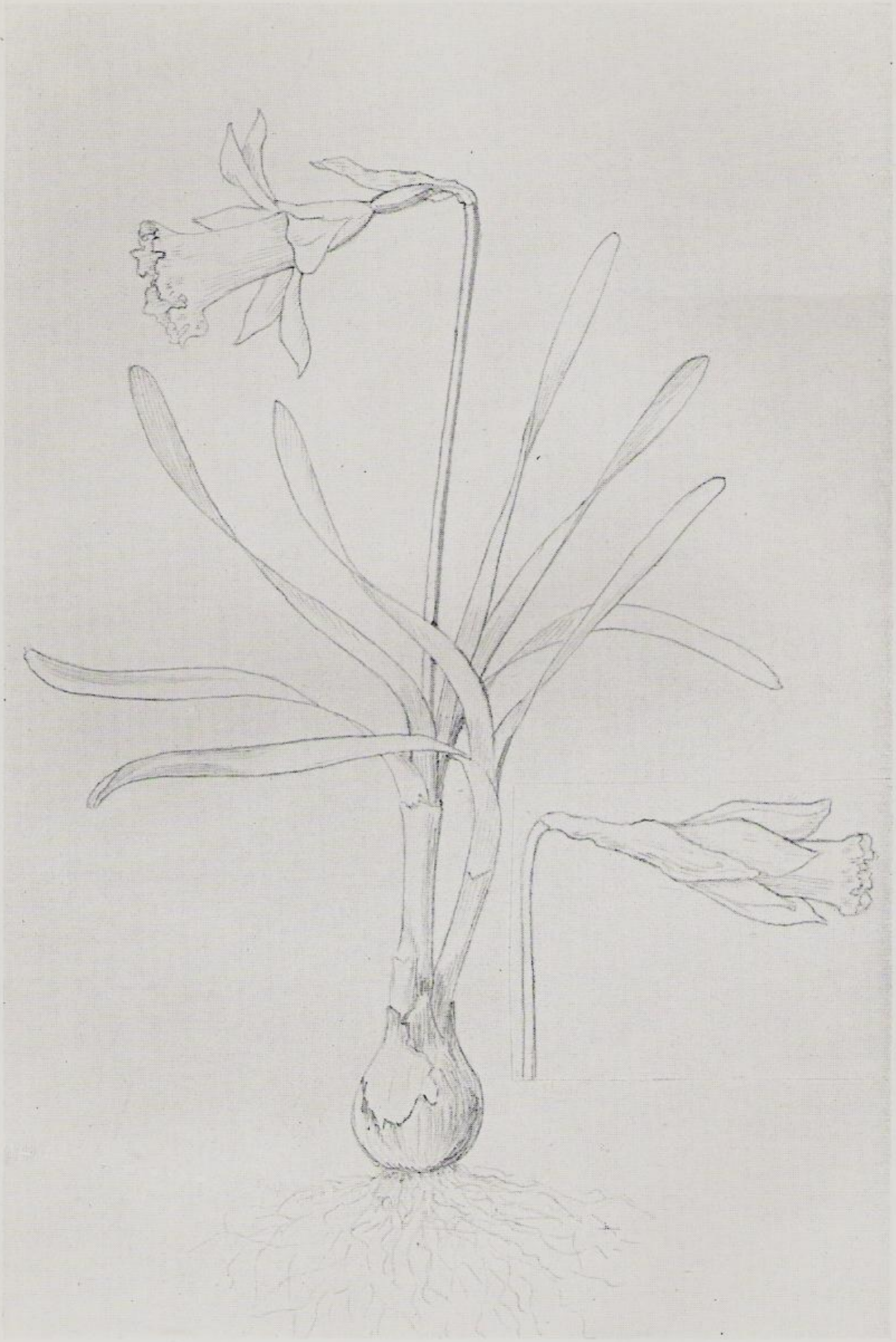
*N. MINOR, a very early flowering charming little Daffodil, known in English gardens as early as the seventeenth century. The flowers are of a full yellow with twisting perianth and a dainty little trumpet, deeply flanged at brim, height 6 inches.

**Minor plenus*, producing lovely little double flowers, of a soft yellow, very dainty, height 6 inches. Scarce.

*N. MOSCHATUS, THE MINIATURE SNOWY WHITE DAFFODIL OF THE SPANISH PYRENEES, a lovely little species producing dainty silvery white trumpet flowers of graceful drooping habit, height 6 inches. This is evidently the plant referred to and figured by Clusius in 1605 as "*Pseudo-Narcissus flore-albo*" and by John Parkinson in 1629 as "*Pseudo-Narcissus hispanicus minor albus*." It is unfortunate that the name of *moschatus* should ever have been applied to it as the flowers have no scent. The botanists of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century appear to have applied the name *moschatus* variously to the white trumpet Daffodils known as *albicaus*, *cernuus* and *tortuosus*. Both George Maw and H. E. Buxton seem first to have rediscovered this little plant in the Spanish Pyrenees in the early eighties, while in 1887 Peter Barr made an arduous journey to Mount Perdu, and at an altitude of about 7,000 feet found the miniature form here described, while at a lower level he discovered white trumpet Daffodils of a much larger size, and among them forms much resembling the old varieities—*cernuus* and *tortuosus*. They seemed however to have no constitution under cultivation and rapidly died out. I do not think that *cernuus*, *tortuosus* and *albicaus* were ever anything but garden plants produced from seed. Had they been wild Daffodils they would not have survived in gardens so long.

*N. NANUS, a charming early miniature trumpet Daffodil, smaller and dwarfer than *minor*, producing in February dainty little yellow flowers with glaucous green prostrate foliage, height $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; a gem for rock gardens or to naturalize on grassy banks. This little Daffodil years ago was very abundant in Irish gardens, but has now become scarcer.

*N. RIP VAN WINKLE, a pretty and curious little double Daffodil, originating in Ireland, and introduced in 1884 by William Baylor Hartland of Cork. The flowers are made up of narrow pointed twisting petals, shading from light to deeper yellow, and sometimes slightly tinged green, height 6 inches.



Narcissus nanus. (p. 67).

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N. TENUIOR—THE SLENDER, STRAW-COLOURED DAFFODIL or SILVER JONQUIL, an elegant slender-growing Daffodil bearing 2 to 3 fragrant flowers on a stem, perianth cream-coloured passing to nearly white, cup sulphur-yellow, height 9 inches. In form and habit it bears a resemblance to *N. gracilis*. This species was grown in gardens in the eighteenth century, but its actual origin is unknown. It is now becoming very scarce.

N. TRIANDRUS—THE CYCLAMEN-FLOWERED NARCISSUS. A delightful little group of Miniature Daffodils, particularly suitable to the rock garden. Their flowers are very dainty and graceful, the perianth segments being reflexed as in a Cyclamen.

**Triandrus albus*, known as the "ANGEL'S TEARS DAFFODIL;" a very beautiful species found in Portugal and also along the coast line to Northern Spain, on the Asturian Mountains. It was here that the late Peter Barr found the best and strongest growing form which he named "ANGEL'S TEARS." He discovered it growing at an altitude of nearly 3,000 feet, in very hard fine gritty soil, sometimes occupying the narrowest fissures of granite and slatestone rock. The plant is of slender growth and bears on graceful stems clusters of elegant little bell-like drooping flowers, of a creamy white, with globular cup and reflexing perianth, height 7 inches. *Narcissus triandrus albus* was known to John Parkinson who figured it in his "Paradisus" 1629, under the name of "*Narcissus juncifolius flore albo reflexo*."

**Triandrus calathinus*, one of the most beautiful little Daffodils in existence, producing drooping clusters of two or three snowy white bell-shaped flowers, with perianth segments reflexing like a Cyclamen. The blooms are more than twice the size of those of *triandrus albus* and of greater substance, while the cup or crown is not quite so globular; the foliage also is broader and has the peculiar characteristic of curling over, height 8 inches. I recommend for it a mixture of leaf-mould, heath soil and coarse river sand, with just a little bonemeal added. When in full growth it likes a fair amount of moisture.

It has always been a puzzle how this little Daffodil, which is clearly a *triandrus*, should have found its way so far from home, to settle on a little wind and sea swept uninhabited island like the Ile Drenec, which belongs to the Glenan group of islands lying off the south coast of Brittany. *Narcissus triandrus* otherwise is only found in Portugal and Spain. In the latter country it is to be met



Narcissus triandrus albus. (p. 68).

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with near the coast line, so that it is possible that stray seed may at one time have been washed across the Bay of Biscay finally landing on the coast of Ile Drenec. The plant must have had a long struggle for existence as this rocky little island is continually exposed to strong winds and rough seas. In 1906 a French Botanist who used occasionally to make an expedition to the island informed me that he could no longer find any of this *Narcissus* there, but only bare rock, where formerly it grew, the rough seas having washed away the soil. On that occasion my friend had a very bad fall from the rocks and was nearly drowned. He has not been there since but recently I read in one of the Gardening papers that someone had visited the island and found some plants, which was very satisfactory news to me. Fortunately the plant seeds freely with us and breeds true and is thus preserved to English gardens.

Narcissus calathinus has been mentioned by botanists as early as the beginning of the nineteenth century, but always as a rare plant. A very good figure of it is to be found in Redouté's *Liliaceæ* (1807-1816) plate 410.

In the spring of 1892 Peter Barr set out with a native fisherman from Concarneau (Brittany) to visit the home of this beautiful Daffodil and had a rather exciting time, as while hunting for a few bulbs, and taking notes of their surroundings, a heavy storm came on and their boat was washed away; the fisherman who stripped and swam out to rescue it was unable to get it back to the island after working with his boy for some hours, until a fishing smack from a neighbouring island came to his rescue. It was a very drenched though happy Peter Barr who eventually reached the mainland. He had only found a few bulbs, the size of large peas, and with small flowers, but these the following spring under a little cultivation doubled in size. The plants he found growing amidst patches of grass in a heather soil, damp with sea spray. In his many travels in Spain Peter Barr was continually on the look out to find a *triandrus* to match *N. calathinus*, but failed to do so. I think that probably the great change of soil and climate may have tended to the breeding of a seedling form, differing somewhat in character from the original species.

**Triandrus concolor*, as collected in Portugal and sent out as *concolor* bearing clusters of dainty little pendent bell-shaped flowers, of a creamy primrose, slightly fragrant, height 7 inches. It is not the true variety, which is a self yellow and a scarce



Narcissus Queen of Spain. (p. 70).

plant. Peter Barr when in Portugal came across it but it was by no means plentiful. The variety collected by Dr. Giuseppi and called *aurantiacus pallidulus* is the richest coloured of all. I consider that *triandrus aureus* would be a better name for it.

**Triandrus pulchellus*, as collected in Portugal, another dainty little variety, having clusters of drooping flowers, varying slightly in form, the perianth running from cream to pale primrose, the cup being of a lighter shade, almost white, height 9 inches. In its wild state this plant increases itself by seed, and the seedlings show much variation. I have had forms in which the perianth was of a clear primrose and the cup almost pure white. The Rev. G. H. Engleheart once crossed *Triandrus albus* with the single Jonquil, and obtained seedlings almost identical with the true *pulchellus*.

Triandrus HYBRID "QUEEN OF SPAIN," a beautiful wild Daffodil found in Northern Spain by Peter Barr in 1888. The flowers are slightly drooping, of a uniform delicate canary-yellow, with long straight trumpet and graceful reflexing perianth, slightly twisted, height 12 inches. It is clearly a natural hybrid of *Narcissus triandrus albus*, and a wild Spanish trumpet Daffodil. The first hybrid of this character was discovered a few years earlier near Oporto by Mr. Edwin Johnston when out botanizing with his friend Mr. Alfred Tait, and in compliment to the finder it was named *Narcissus johnstoni*. Although bearing a resemblance, the hybrid found in Spain by Peter Barr and called by him "QUEEN OF SPAIN" is distinct from the Portugese form, which I regret to say seems to have died out. QUEEN OF SPAIN is a very graceful Daffodil for grouping in large rockeries, and naturalizing in grass under trees.

N. W. P. MILNER, a dainty little cream-coloured trumpet Daffodil, raised by that great pioneer Daffodil hybridist, William Backhouse, about sixty years ago, and still prized by Daffodil lovers. It is a very free bloomer and makes a charming picture when naturalized on rockwork or in grass, height 11 inches.