

never be forgotten that Grape growing for exhibition, and Grape growing for the daily supply of a gentleman's table, are two very different occupations. "Give merit to whom merit is due" is my motto, and despite the inuendos of "H.," there is much merit in the Grapes and the gardening generally at Bury Hill. Whilst writing the above, your Paper containing the memoranda of "I.," has been put into my hands. His remarks upon the geology of the locality, as well as upon the gardening at Bury Hill, are just and to the point. I scarcely understand his special reference to the absence of "lakes and weedy ponds," as being an element of success in Grape growing. As a set-off, I might instance the valley of the Thames, from Frogmore to Gravesend, as being a first-class Grape-growing district, while the valley of the Mersey, both on the Garston and Cheshire sides, has played its part, as Sam Slick would say, "in licking all creation." Go again to Brighton, and if you like, step to the sea-board of North Wales, and between Chester and Holyhead you will find Grapes as good as any in the world. Near Bangor, at the residence of John Platt, Esq., M.P., Llanfairfechan, are to be seen some Vines bearing their second crop, which Mr. Meredith will guarantee me in saying are not second to any Vines of the same age in Great Britain. These Vines are growing within an eighth of a mile of the sea, and hence do not lack a moist atmosphere. Indeed, I have for so many years noticed, if not the superiority, the ease with which Grapes may be grown wherever the tide serves, and the sea breeze permeates, that I have arrived at the conclusion, that a moist atmosphere, with "a taste of the briny," is an element of success if not a desideratum in Grape growing; and I think Mr. Meredith will bear me out in this assumption. *W. P. Ayres, Mansfield.*

*Partial Change of Sex in Unisexual Flowers.*—Will any of your botanical readers have the kindness to inform me, whether in those monœcious or dioecious plants, in which the flowers are widely different, it has ever been observed that half the flower, or only a segment of it, has been of one sex and the other half or segment of the opposite sex; in the same manner as so frequently occurs with insects? *Charles Darwin.* [We have seen Willow flowers with one stamen, and one stalked carpel. There is also the case of Glochidion, in which three of the cells of a six-celled ovary were developed in the form of anthers. See Lindley, "Elements of Botany," p. 81. Similar changes have been met with in other Euphorbiaceæ. *EDS.*]

*Bitten Pine Cone.*—In the Pine woods near Bournemouth, where vast quantities of the Pinaster, the Scotch Pine, and the Stone Pine are growing luxuriantly, numerous cones may be found on the ground with all their scales apparently bitten off nearly to the base in a very regular manner, so that merely the bases of the scales are left, each with a jagged edge surrounding the axis of the cone. The seeds have quite disappeared. Can any of your correspondents furnish information as to whether squirrel, rabbit, or other animal has produced this singular appearance, or whether it be due to some other cause. *S. L.*

## Societies.

**ROYAL HORTICULTURAL: Feb. 3 (Weekly Show).**—Messrs. Cutbush, of Highgate, furnished on this occasion a charming exhibition of forced flowers, to which a 1st prize was awarded. It consisted of four pots of *Polygonatum vulgare*, or common Solomon's Seal forced, as a centre piece, surrounded by plants of *Rhododendron Cunninghami*, *Dielytra spectabilis*, a red *Azalea*, *Vallota purpurea*, two pans of *Crocus versicolor*, two pots of Vermilion Brilliant Tulips, one of *Tournesol Tulips*, and one of each of the *Hyacinths La Tour d'Auvergne*, *Vainqueur*, and *Amy*. Mr. Bartlett, of Shaftesbury Road, Hammersmith, again contributed a nice collection of 25 *Hyacinths* well bloomed, and some *Polyanthus Narcissus*, for which he received a 2d prize. Messrs. Lucking received a first-class Certificate for a pretty exhibition of forced flowers.

**ENTOMOLOGICAL: Jan. 1.**—F. Pascoe, Esq., President, F.L.S., in the chair. Mr. S. Stevens exhibited an extensive series of insects, chiefly Coleopterous and Lepidopterous, collected with great care in the Himalayas, and most beautifully preserved; amongst many rare species were *Buprestis Buquetii*, *Dynastes Hardwickii*, *Papilio Menereus*, and many other fine *Papilionidæ*, which had been reared from the larva state. A paper by W. C. Hewitson, Esq., was read, containing descriptions of 25 new species of butterflies belonging to the family *Hesperidæ*. The President also contributed a paper containing descriptions of the Longicorn Coleoptera collected at Santa Marta, in Venezuela, by the late Mr. Bouchard, 53 species in number, of which about 20 were previously undescribed. Professor Westwood read a communication which he had received from Mr. Snellen van Vollenhoven, of Leyden, giving an account of various peculiarities observed during the past year in the production of insects of various kinds in Holland. Mr. McLachlan read some further

notes on the occurrence of Trichopterous insects in the Ice Caverns in Switzerland. In one on the road to Chamouni the insects were found in the most remote portions of the caves. Mr. Bates gave some account of the proceedings of Mr. Bartlett on the shores of the Ucayli, on the eastern slope of the Andes. He had been successful in obtaining several hundred mammalia, birds, &c., as well as large collections of insects, which might shortly be expected to arrive in England.

## Notices of Books.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**—*Great North Atlantic Telegraph Route.* An anonymous pamphlet (copyright) devoted to the promotion of a scheme for laying down telegraph wires "through Scotland, Shetland, and the Farøe Islands to Iceland, and the western shores of Greenland, across Davis Straits to the coast of Labrador or Belle Isle, and to communicate through Canada with the vast telegraphic system of the United States and the continent of America."—*Tijdschrift door het Antwerpsch Kruidkundig genootschap uitgegeven over-land en tuinbouwkunde en verdere natuurwetenschappen.* We regret that we can do no more than announce the appearance of this new horticultural publication (in monthly numbers), owing to our ignorance of the Flemish language.—The *Quarterly Review*, No. 237, contains a summary of our knowledge of African travel, with special reference to Dr. Livingstone's discoveries already noticed by us, p. 1158 (1865). Tennyson's "Enoch Arden" is made the basis of an article on the Laureate's poems in general, which, says the reviewer, are "based upon true sympathy with the noblest, the gentlest, and most beautiful tendencies of modern life, and never with any of its flashy impulses." A Review of Mr. Palgrave's "Narrative of his Journeys in Arabia" furnishes occasion to the writer to recall the modest and meritorious services of Lieutenant Wellsted, too much overlooked now-a-days. There are other articles to which we have not space to refer, but which will well repay perusal.—Messrs. Bradbury & Evans have issued the first number of the re-issue of *Knight's English Cyclopædia*, to which we referred at p. 79. The value of this Cyclopædia has been so generally acknowledged that this re-issue will prove very acceptable to a large class of readers.

## Florists' Flowers.

**THE AURICULA.**—(Concluded from page 104.)—The Auricula makes no growth in June and July. During these months all that the plants need is to keep them in the shade as much as possible. Attend to watering, and the removal of decayed stems and dead leaves, and practise general cleanliness. Towards the end of July commence to repot the plants. Growers ought to study the habits of the different varieties they cultivate: those that make small plants should be put in pots of a suitable size; plants of robust habit in pots rather larger. Strong blooms cannot be expected when plants are overpotted. The largest plant ought not to be in a pot more than 6 inches across, and there are only a few varieties that a pot of this size will suit. My practice is rather to underpot than be guilty of the other extreme.

My favourite pot is one with a hollow bottom. For drainage I use oyster shells, when I can get them. I place one, convex side up, over the drainage hole, and over it some vegetable fibre to prevent the drainage becoming choked. Fill the pot about half full with the compost previously mentioned. Turn the plant carefully out of the pot; examine the tap root, and with a sharp knife cut back to the sound part, should there be any portion of it in a state of decay. Reduce the ball, disturbing the fibres as little as possible. Slip any offsets that may be on the plant. Dress all the wounds with the powder of wood charcoal, which is a first-rate styptic. Replace the plant in the pot, and fill to within half an inch of the rim of the pot, and the same distance from the lower leaves. Pot moderately tight, and give a supply of water. Remember always to have some of the fibres in contact with the side of the pot. While repotting, clean the plants from any green-fly that may be on them. The offsets may be potted either singly in small pots, or two or three round the edge of a 4½ or 5-inch pot; I prefer the latter plan, as it saves labour afterwards. Use always clean pots. Repotting should be finished by the end of the first week in August. In this month they will begin to make their autumn growth, consequently they will require to be regularly supplied with water, and have abundance of air given.

Of late years autumn blooms have been very prevalent. Plants that throw up trusses at this season are generally spoiled for blooming well in the spring. All that can be done in this case is to break over the head of the stem, and watch to pluck the stem away so soon as partially decayed. When the decaying portion of the flower-stem is allowed to remain too long at this particular season, rot is almost sure to be the result.

In October the plants will be approaching their period of rest. The supply of water will require to

be diminished, and the plants divested of decayed leaves.

During November and December the plants are dormant, and all the attention then needed is to give plenty of air during mild weather, to remove decayed leaves, and give only as much water as will prevent the leaves becoming flaccid; shut all close during frost.

*General Observations.*—In past times I used to practise the old system of exposing the plants to the weather as soon as the bloom was over; but in consequence of continual losses among my own stock, and seeing many extensive and valuable collections lost by rot, occasioned by exposure to heavy rains, I gave this up. For many years past I have kept my plants under glass, taking care to give abundance of air by tilting the sashes and having proper ventilators. Since I have followed this practice I have always had my plants in the finest health. In very hot weather the plants are refreshed by watering the foliage through a very fine rose, which causes the water to fall like dew.

Growers cannot be too particular to prevent the lodgment of water in the centre of the plants. Nothing will induce rot sooner than water allowed to remain for some time in the centre of a plant. Should rot at any time appear, it is easily detected. For example, when a plant begins to look sickly and lean over to one side, then it is the neck of the plant that is affected. The remedy is to remove all the soil from the diseased part, and with a sharp knife cut away the whole of the part affected, till the sound part is reached; then dress the wound with wood charcoal, and expose the part to sun and air till the wound is thoroughly dried.

Another and the most fatal symptom of rot, is when a plant shows the interior leaves upright and apparently growing, but the exterior leaves quite flaccid, and lying on the surface soil. Then rot has made progress from the end of the tap-root upwards. The only successful remedy for this that I have been able to discover is to shake the plant free from the soil, cut away all the diseased part, wash it with clear water, and when dried in the sun, dress the cut part with charcoal, and repot in loam and leaf-mould. I have, by this treatment, saved plants that had not above one half inch of sound stem left. When there are no fibres left, a little silver sand placed around the neck will cause new ones to start. Diseased plants should be removed from among those in health, as they are liable to communicate the infection.

Rot in Auriculas has a peculiar smell, and any grower who has once experienced it will remember it again.

Stimulants ought never to be tried with these plants. I have known of collections being destroyed by the use of liquid manure, which is sure to bring rot upon the plants. Simple and plain food is the best for keeping them in health, although it will require more time to grow them up to full-sized plants.

My stages are mounted on stone blocks, a foot off the ground, and the pots stand upon shelves. This space is never closed, so that there is at all times a free circulation of air under the plants. I have never found this injurious, but the reverse.

In conclusion, I will reiterate my advice to practise rigid cleanliness. *George Lightbody, Falkirk, Jan. 9, 1866.*

## The Apiary.

**DYSENTERY.**—Having perused with much interest the papers which have appeared on the foregoing subject, I am induced to send you an account of the disease, which has played sad havoc in my own apiary, and to request the favour of your advice as to what I can do to effect a present cure, and if possible to prevent its recurrence. I am very fond of bees, but I am not clever enough to perform all the operations, which, to more experienced apiarians, are doubtless very easy. Perhaps as "A Lady" I may claim some excuse for any deficiency in the above respect.

Last winter and in the succeeding spring I lost five hives from dysentery or dropsy, or some similar complaint. I did all that could be done in the way of changing the floor-boards, but without avail. The hives which perished were of the following kinds. Two moveable frame wooden boxes of Tegetmeier's; one in a Neighbour's straw cottage hive; one in the Lady's Observatory glass hive, also of Neighbour's construction; and one in a common straw hive. This last had the disease worst of all; the smell from it was most abominable. On examination after the death of the bees, I found plenty of honey in the combs; some was good, but a great deal of it was as thin as water. The good honey-comb was melted down for feeding bees; the rest of the contents was burnt. I have often wondered if it was foul brood which caused the detestable smell; there was some brood, but I am not experienced enough to be able to say what sort of state it was in.

Of the remaining hives, in some the combs were mouldy, and in others watery. All were more or less provided with honey.