

to produce a draught likely to affect any plants that may be exposed to it. Although this is only a modification of one of the principal features which characterised the Polmaise system of heating, still I think the way in which it has been applied is worthy of especial notice, and may be viewed as a step in the right direction towards solving the difficult problem regarding aération that has so long occupied the attention of some of our very best gardeners.

The plan of having ventilators along the ridge of the house, in the manner represented in the large sketch, with openings at the back, and a wide coping to protect the roller blind in front, is the same as was adopted by Mr. Booth at Carelew, in 1846, when reconstructing a stove for Sir Charles Lemon, Bart. The only difference, as Mr. Booth informs me, consists in the ventilators at Carelew being hung a little above the centre, and having each a small piece of lead let into the wood, so as to prevent them from opening unless when required for the purpose of giving air.

The roller blind has been long in use for the covering of hot-houses, and I believe was first successfully applied as a shade to some pits at Syon in 1828, by Mr. Forrest, when gardener to the late Duke of Northumberland. An account, accompanied with a sketch to show the mode of fixing this sort of blind, will be found in Loudon's "Gardeners' Magazine," vol. v., page 510.

Although it would appear from what has been stated that there is really little novelty in the construction and arrangement of the Orchard-house and pits at Porthgwenid, I trust it will not be inferred that they are on this account devoid of interest. So far from this being the case, they are, in my opinion, worthy of being regarded as models of their kind, in which some of the chief improvements in the heating and ventilating of horticultural buildings, up to 1850, have been introduced with considerable skill and complete success, and our acknowledgments are due to Mr. Phillpotts for having made the public acquainted with his plans, and the result of his experience. *C. Truro.*

DESTRUCTION OF MUSTARD SEED CROPS.

FROM a communication which we have received from Professor Henslow it appears that the little blue beetle *Phædon Betulæ*, has again this autumn renewed its attacks upon the Mustard seed crops in the Fen districts near Ely. In the early part of the autumn of 1854 they were so numerous that hundreds of thousands might be collected in a few minutes by shaking the stems of the white Mustard over a newspaper, as stated in the Proceedings of the Entomological Society on the 4th Sept. (p. 24); they entirely devoured the leaves and barked the stems and coshes, or seed-vessels, the seed thereby becoming lean and of inferior quality. In the present month of October we learn from a letter from Mr. Henry Balls that they are equally prevalent in the Fen districts, and that they have attacked all green crops, especially Mustard and Garlic, the former being devoured to the very stalk, and in many places in the district they have cleared 50 acres, and then passed to the next field, being Cole seed, making a path in their progress. A plan for arresting these ravages had been tried by laying straw between the two fields and then setting it on fire to windward. They now (middle of October) appear to have taken to their winter quarters, in crevices of gate-posts and other similar situations. They have not been noticed in their preparatory states; this is a point which appears to us to require especial investigation on the spot, where we apprehend the larvæ will be found feeding upon the leaves of allied species of hedge-row plants. *J. O. Westwood.*

Home Correspondence.

American Plums.—We are indebted to the Americans for some really valuable Plums. Among them the Jefferson holds the first rank; ripening just after the Green Gage, and being quite equal to it in flavour and far superior in beauty, it cannot be too highly eulogised. I had some fine fruit in pyramids this season, which, owing to the fine weather in September, slightly shrivelled on the trees, and became of a deep golden colour, blotched with red; they were full of delicious juice; I thought them superior even to the Green Gage. Denniston's Superb, ripening 8 or 10 days before the Green Gage, is also a valuable Plum; this year the fruit were particularly fine from pyramids; Huling's Superb is also a very large and very rich Plum; the Autumn Gage, an oval medium-sized yellow Plum, is very valuable, as it hangs well on the tree till after the middle of October. Blecker's Scarlet is a useful kitchen Plum, remarkable for its hardiness and productiveness. Smith's Orleans, an oval reddish purple Plum, has not proved quite equal to its reputation in America. Columbia is a large, round, and very handsome Plum, rich and sugary but rather dry, and ripening with a crowd of other sorts, is not so valuable as the first-named varieties. I may here mention that Plums in Nottinghamshire, north of Trent, rarely attain their full size and flavour; the climate seems too cool and moist for them, for if large-sized fruit are obtained from trees against walls, flavour is sacrificed. Corse's Nota Bene, an oval purple Plum of medium size, is I think a Canadian Plum, from Montreal; this is an enormous bearer, withstanding our spring frosts well, and ripening early in August. Plums are becoming most valuable fruit, for owing to several new varieties the dessert and the kitchen can be supplied from the end of July till nearly the end of October. *T. Rivers.*

Danger attending Transplanting Trees at Midsummer.—I am surprised that Mr. Scott should pronounce in such a dogmatical tone "midsummer" to be the best time for transplanting trees and shrubs, "and October and November" to be only "second best" for that purpose. I, however, by no means wish to say that Mr. Scott has been unsuccessful in his operations. By securing good balls to his plants, having but a short distance to convey them, perhaps a week's dull weather after planting, or deluging them with water, and screening them from the scorching rays of the sun;—by a fortunate concurrence of these circumstances, I say, Mr. Scott's practice may have terminated in success. But is he not upholding a system—or, at least, trying to do so—contrary to the laws of nature, as I will now endeavour to show? Mr. Scott will surely agree with me when I state that plants are in a more active state of growth at midsummer than in autumn; that, owing to perspiration from the foliage, the roots have more to do at midsummer than in autumn; and that, consequently, the less roots are disturbed at that season the better—and it is almost impossible to lift a plant of any size without injuring its roots to a greater or less extent. As roots, therefore, are the principal feeders of the leaves, what can be expected but failure when they are mutilated and exposed to air while the plant is in luxuriant growth? Besides, the atmosphere is much drier and hotter at midsummer than in autumn, and hence there is a greater amount of evaporation going on, and, as I have already stated, a more abundant supply of sap required of the roots. How, therefore, can this be furnished when the roots are rendered in a great measure inactive?—which must be the case for some time after transplanting. I trust that these facts, without entering into further detail in the matter, will suffice to show the danger attendant upon the system Mr. Scott so positively asserts to be the best. If Mr. S. will only adopt the two months he condemns—"October and November"—and include September, he will find them far better adapted both theoretically and practically for the purpose of transplantation than the season he recommends. *W. A. Blithfield.* [We, at least, are no advocates of Mr. Scott's views.]

Artificially Frosted Glass.—Many are practically cognisant of instances where this kind of glass is used as a means of shading, so as partially to intercept the sun's rays; but the advocates of the practice must be blind, or they would see at once the ill effects of which it is productive. When used for such structures as vinerias, pineries, and houses devoted to hard-wooded plants, every cultivator endeavours to prevent a prostration of the faculties of his plant when in a growing tender state by intercepting intense sunshine, at the same time admitting as much light as possible; but when such plants have completed their growth, their manifestations alone will teach us how indispensable is a due amount of this agent to the ripening of their wood; and how is this to be accomplished beneath frosted glass? The appearances of the Vines and plants grown under such disadvantageous circumstances will afford ocular demonstration of the evil. The wood will be long-jointed, sappy, and watery, the leaves will have long slender petioles, and lamina of meagre size etiolated and pallid, thus deteriorating them until they become so constitutionally impaired as to be valueless in all their growing, flowering, and other properties, even if exposed to a clearer medium and more favourable circumstances hereafter. With such unfavourable demonstrations and impracticabilities attending this mode of shading, why not resort to a more expeditious, easier, and cheaper method, which will possess greater advantages and incur less risks than the mode in question? *J. R. T., gr. to G. S. Wintle, Esq., Huclesate Gardens, near Gloucester.*

Orchard Houses.—Being about to erect an orchard house, induced by the favourable accounts which have been given of their success, I think it probable that some of your readers may be able to give information which would be of advantage to myself and others in like circumstances. In a lean-to house of small size, erected by an amateur in my neighbourhood, the plants, though having fully the distance between them recommended by Mr. Rivers, appeared too crowded, and those in front were pressing up against the glass. It struck me that the house ought to be wider and higher than Mr. Rivers originally recommended, and that a span-roof would possess great advantages. The opinion of any of your readers who may have experience on the following points will therefore be a favour: viz., most suitable height, width, and form of house generally, and, as applicable to my own case, whether it is indispensable that a span-roofed house should stand south and north, as it cuts up my garden very much to place it otherwise than south-east and north-west, or south-west and north-east. *A Ten Years' Subscriber.*

Salix Babylonica var. annularis.—I am not aware that the origin of this variety of Weeping Willow is precisely known. My earliest recollection of it is that my father gave 15s. for a plant in a pot 6 inches high. It was kept in the greenhouse a year or two, and finally proved to be as hardy as the species. So late as the publication of Loudon's "Arboretum" it is not known where it sprang from; but if its origin is buried in obscurity, a curious return to its nature has convinced me that it is but an accidental sport—perhaps of one shoot that has been perpetuated. About 25 years ago I planted in our nursery a tree by the road-side to attract notice; for 20 years it showed no sign of change, but a single shoot in the following year grew more vigorously than the rest, and produced the leaves in their usual form. This shoot has continued to ramify,

and every twig from it shows the original character, whilst every other part retains its curled character of leaf and shortened and condensed ramification. *William Masters, Exotic Nursery, Canterbury.*

Double-flowered Peach.—I send you a fruit grown in my garden on a standard double-blossomed Peach. I am led to suppose that its fruiting is rather an unusual occurrence. The Peach in question fell off on Saturday last. *A., Dulwich Common, Oct. 30.* [The double-flowered Peach, being only semi-double, will occasionally produce fruit, but it rarely ripens, and when it does has no value.]

Yew Berries.—I do not remember to have ever seen a more abundant crop of these than there is this autumn. Observing that the birds eat them greedily, I occasionally eat a few and find them sweet and grateful as the purest honey. Allow me to ask whether they may be made into jelly, and eaten in that form with impunity. *Rusticus.* [Take care you don't kill yourself. The pulp is harmless, no doubt—but the kernel is a dangerous poison.]

Poplars and Varieties of Larch.—In reply to "An Old Pupil," you state that Poplars can never be so profitable as Larch in dry exposed places. Generally speaking this may be the case, but still there are exceptions, and an extreme one presents itself in the spot from which I write. It is subject to great droughts, and as much exposed as most parts of the kingdom (as those who witnessed the gale of Friday last can testify); yet the Black Italian, the best, and to my fancy by far the nicest looking of Poplars, surpasses all trees by its extraordinary growth, and that in exposures where the Larch positively requires shelter; without which in the course of most seasons its beautiful green is browned and its tender shoots destroyed by the severity of the gales, and an atmosphere saturated with salt; consequently in such localities, particularly where shelter is the object, the Poplar will be found the more suitable of the two. While speaking of Larches allow me to express my regret that the many beautiful and striking varieties which exist of this tree should be confounded in a common name. No doubt to most people a Larch is a Larch, and there ends the matter; but observers cannot help seeing how widely the forms of many differ from the stiff compact pyramidal habit which characterises the race, more especially those recently raised, and demand a place for elegance of habit among Deodars and Cedars of Lebanon. For profit or Hop poles probably the common sorts may be preferable, but when they are to form part of park scenery, surely a little trouble in selecting them would be well bestowed; many of their habits are greatly changed and only fully developed by age, still the tendency to do so is observable even in the nursery, and quite perceptible before they have arrived at an age fit to plant out. It is probable that many of the venerable specimens which now command our admiration might not literally produce "seed after their kind." Nevertheless much might be done to furnish varieties for ornamental purposes, and I have no doubt that any attention paid to the subject would meet with reward. *J. M., Folkstone, Oct. 27.* [Our correspondent has mistaken the question. The Lombardy Poplar was the tree inquired about, not the Black Italian, which makes a great difference.]

Wireworms and Fruit.—I have often been struck by the amount of mischief done to various crops in a short time by wireworms, and cannot conceive how so small a creature can find its food, growing, as it does, a good distance apart, with such certainty. If a field affected by them be carefully examined it will be found that the soil in many instances is not so full of the insects as a person would imagine from seeing the amount of injury done, and it is necessary to believe that they have rather the power of selecting and finding the food they like best, than that they travel along eating anything suitable lying in their path. I have been led to make these remarks from observing their good taste in the selection of fruit. Almost all the lower animals which eat fruit appear to like best those varieties valued by man. I have often remarked this in the case of sheep and game, the latter particularly; for whilst the cooking Apples lie almost unmolested under the trees, Ribstone Pippins, Malsters, Wykin Pippins, &c., are almost always spoilt before the morning. I hardly think, however, that the wireworm would be expected to be so nice in its choice, but so it is: I have observed many baking Apples just attacked and left, whilst a good eating variety has been full of the worms. From a Bess Pool Apple I extracted 24 fine fat fellows (many of them contained from 6 to 12), whilst from a nearly ripe Comte de Lamy Pear I took out the almost incredible number of 37. I should state that all our orchards are carefully gathered every few days, so that I have no reason to believe these fruits had lain long on the Grass. *T. R. Pearson, Chilwell.*

Shell Rain in the Isle of Wight (see p. 710).—I earnestly hope that "C." of Winchester will give some more particulars regarding the fall of shells at Osborne: Were any of the shells living? Over how wide an area did they fall? During how long a time are they believed to have fallen? At what hour and on what day? Did only one kind of shell fall? I hope "C." will forgive me for suggesting to him how very desirable it is that so extraordinary and very interesting a fact should be authenticated by the narrator's name. It is really almost a duty towards the science of natural history to do so. Were the Zua identified by any good conchologist?—this seems to me an important point. *C. D., Down.* [The Zua was very obligingly identified by Dr. Baird

of the British Museum. Our correspondent's name is C. Winchester; he is the intelligent foreman in the Royal Gardens at Osborne, and will, we hope, furnish the additional information asked for.]

Cucumber Growing (see p. 710).—I was much surprised to see the account of my hybrid Cucumber in your Paper of last week, which account was communicated totally without my cognizance. I feel it an imperative duty to say that the party has exceeded the bounds of truth, both as regards the quantity of fruit cut, and the average length. I am not acquainted either with the merits or demerits of Mr. Sutton's Cucumber. *R. Massey, Kirby Hall, Oct. 19.*

Management of Roses in Beds (see p. 709).—Permit me to ask Mr. "J. M.," of Folkstone, whether he would recommend Roses in beds to be manured in autumn or in spring—say in November or in March, and why he would so recommend it. I do not ask for any other than real information, being by no means actuated by a spirit of criticism. *Devon.*

Cuphea platycentra.—My employer has succeeded in raising standards of this beautiful plant, 4 feet high, with large heads, which are at this time loaded with fine foliage and flowers. This has been effected by beginning with them when they are cuttings, keeping all lateral shoots stopped, and the leader of each tied to a neat stake, shifting the plants into larger pots as soon as they required it, and using a rich compost. Treated as standards they show to better advantage their small but beautiful flowers, and afford a pleasing variety during the summer months in shrubberies and flower borders, where they should be plunged in their pots for convenience in lifting and housing them at the approach of frost. They should be liberally watered in dry weather, using for them occasionally a little liquid manure. *R. Gilbert, Abbey Wood, Bexley Heath.*

Atmosphere of Hothouses.—Having occasion to refer to your reprint of my description of the plant-houses erected by me at this place (in your number of July 21st), I find that you have perpetuated a mistake, which, if I had been aware that you were about to honour me with a republication, I would have begged to rectify. The passage to which I refer runs thus—"the air of plant-houses of this description should be in direct proportion to the light, the moisture, and to the heat." It should have been "the temperature of the air should be in direct proportion to the light, and the moisture to the heat." This is a rule which I consider most important, for I have observed that a moist atmosphere, at a low temperature, in the winter, is most dangerous to plants; indeed, on one occasion, when by accident my open troughs were left uncovered in the winter, with a temperature of 62°, several Orchids suffered, and some died. This, I believe, would not have happened in summer; and if I am right in my belief, I can only account for the difference by supposing that, in summer, the light, which is the main source of vitality, being more intense, the plants are in a more vigorous state and better able to resist any unfavourable condition of the atmosphere. I think, too, that humidity at a low temperature degenerates into what we call "damp," and I suspect that some otherwise fine Orchids which I saw at Chiswick this summer, had suffered in their health and appearance from some such treatment during the last winter. Whether the light has any effect on the quality of the air, I leave others to decide; my impression is that it has. The subject is an interesting one in connection with the all-important question of ventilation, and the public, and plant growers in particular, might be much benefited by seeing it discussed by yourself or some of your scientific correspondents. *T. Phillpotts, Porthgwillden, Truro.*

FLORICULTURE.

THE RANUNCULUS.—In Mr. Atkinson's (of Worcester) catalogue of Dutch bulbs just received we find the following useful remarks on the culture of this flower, which he states were originally intended for our columns. "What can be gayer," he observes, "than a bed of well-grown Ranunculuses? Their fine forms, richness, and diversity of colours claim for them universal admiration; and yet, singular as it may appear, with all their attractions, they are not half so extensively grown as they deserve to be. If lovers of floral beauty, however, were once to pay a visit to the magnificent collections of Messrs. Tyso, Lightbody, and others, when these are in the height of their bloom, I feel satisfied that they would never rest contented until they had a bed in their own grounds to view at their pleasure. I am aware that the Ranunculus has been termed by many a shy and uncertain flower, which, in fact, it is if planted without trouble or care, and afterwards left to chance, but under skilful cultivation it will be found to blossom most profusely. The only difficulty is in getting up the tubers at the proper time, when sufficiently ripe, and preserving them as plump as possible until planting time. A few brief remarks as to the best mode of culture may not be out of place. The situation for the beds, which are best prepared in autumn, should be a moist cool place, where they will only be subjected to a few hours' morning sun, bearing in mind that a moist subsoil is required in order to ensure successful cultivation. The place being selected, remove the old soil to the depth of nearly 2 feet and 4 feet in width; sods cut from a rich old loamy pasture to the depth of 3 or 4 inches, and about 16 inches wide, should then be laid at the bottom, to form the foundation of the bed, treading them firmly down. The remainder should be filled up with the same compost collected a few months

previously, and turned several times before using it. To this may be added a portion of well decayed cow-dung and leaves, and if the loam is rather stiff, a portion of sand may be introduced. This should also be pressed firmly down, and the whole may remain in that condition till planting time; the beds should be little above the level of the surrounding ground, and in order to give them a neat appearance they should be edged round with slate. Fork the soil over lightly previous to planting, but not exceeding 2 inches in depth. Planting should never be deferred after the middle of February, and the roots will be benefited by being placed in the light a few days before they are put into the bed. Embrace the first opportunity of a fine day to rake the beds and get them perfectly level and marked neatly out previous to planting, in order that the roots may be put in at equal distances; they should be placed about 5 inches apart and 6 inches asunder row from row. It is better to give them a little extra room at all times than to overcrowd them. If the collection is small they may be dibbled in with the finger, carefully set with the prongs downwards, and covered over about 1½ inch deep; but if the collection is extensive, drills should be drawn at equal distances across the beds, placing the roots at the bottom of them, and covering them with the loose soil; as soon as the plants appear above ground, which will be about April, the surface soil should be carefully and firmly pressed round about the roots, and if the weather should set in very hot in May, the beds should be carefully watered, in order to prevent the soil from cracking; old tan placed over them at this stage of growth will also be found very beneficial. In order to prolong their blooming season a temporary shading should be erected over them, just sufficient to protect them from the hot sun and rain, but the beds should nevertheless be kept in a moist state. Wire-worms often attack the roots, and therefore they must be guarded against. As soon as the foliage has begun to decay protect the beds from wet, or the roots may be excited to grow again, which would be very injurious to them. The most essential point connected with their cultivation is, as I before observed, taking up the roots and properly storing them away. They should be lifted as soon as the foliage has turned quite yellow, and stored away in a dry airy situation, drying them as gradually as possible, in order to keep them plump. When sufficiently dry they may be placed in drawers, in order that they may be easily looked over, still bearing in mind that a cool but dry atmosphere is the only means of preserving them in a sound state." New varieties are raised from seed, which may be sown now or in January, in beds furnished with frames and glasses; it should be strewed thickly on the surface of the prepared soil, and then covered with a sprinkling of mould, not exceeding the eighth of an inch in thickness; the plants usually appear in about a month, they should be regularly watered and air admitted day and night, except in severe frosts, when it will be necessary to protect them. The Turban varieties make splendid early beds, and should be extensively planted by all lovers of floral beauty—they are very cheap, so that no florist need be without them. The properties of a good Ranunculus are a strong straight stem, from 8 inches to a foot in height, supporting a large well-shaped blossom at least 2 inches in diameter, and forming two-thirds of a ball; the petals should be thick, smooth on the edges, and gently cupped; the colour (whatever it may be) should be dense; if an edged flower, the edging should be perfect, and the marking uniform on every petal—striped or speckled flowers on the edges are termed imperfect ones.

Miscellaneous.

The Form of Aquarium which, after upwards of five years' experience and observation on the natural habits of the various animated tenants, I have now adopted, consists in a four-sided vessel having the back gradually sloping upwards from the bottom at an angle of 45° to 50°, and the consequently extended top sloping slightly downwards, and resting on the upper part of the back. The bottom, therefore, becomes necessarily narrow. The front for the purposes of observation, and the top for the admission of light, are to be of glass; the back, ends, and bottom being constructed of slate; the whole fixed in a stout framework. The advantages of this arrangement are:—1st. That it allows of a most extended view of the whole interior of the aquarium. 2d. That it enables the occupants to resort to water of any depth they may desire, or even to ascend the sloping back and emerge from the water. 3d. It admits of a much larger surface of water being exposed to the action of the light; and, 4th. The sloping top allows the water which condenses on the glass, from the effect of radiation, to trickle off and return to the aquarium without first resting on the zinc or iron frame-work. I need hardly mention that the sloping back is to be covered with light rock-work extending to a short distance above the water-line. *Warrington in Annals of Natural History.*

Orange Trees.—The collection of Orange trees belonging to the Luxembourg is one of the most remarkable of any of the public gardens in France, both from the number and age of the trees. Orange trees, it is known, attain a vast age. In the Orangery at Versailles is one known under the three names of "Grand Connétable," "François I.," and "Grand Bourbon," which is more than 400 years old. It comes from some pippings of a tree of bitter Oranges planted in a pot at the commencement of the 15th century by Eleanor of Castile, wife

of Charles III., King of Navarre. The trees which sprang from them were preserved in the same case up to 1499, at Pampeluna; they afterwards passed into different hands as rare and precious objects, and then became the property of the Constable de Bourbon, who placed them in his château de Chantelle, in the Bourbonnais. The property of the constable having been confiscated in 1522, the Orange trees were sent to decorate the Palace of Fontainebleau, which François I. had caused to be restored and enlarged. When Louis XIV. had terminated Versailles, and built its magnificent Orangery, he gave orders that all the Orange trees existing in the royal residences should be conveyed to it; this was in 1684, and the Orange trees of Pampeluna, which were among those thus removed, were then two and a half centuries old. The "Grand Connétable," the most remarkable of them, is, notwithstanding its great age, still perfectly vigorous. *Galignani.*

Favourite Flowers.—Every flower is a favourite with somebody, though everybody does not fix his affections on the same identical favourite. As in matters matrimonial, every Jack finds his Jill (*chacun trouve sa chacune*); so, in floral attachments every object of attraction bewitches its own special object whom its influence attracts. Rousseau had his Periwinkle, Giraldo, the painter, his Gilliflower, whence he derives his pictorial name. Linnæus fell into a rapture of adoration the first time he beheld the golden blossoms of the Furze; while Burns worshipped with fond devotion that wee modest crimson-tipped flower, the Daisy. The late King and Queen of Otaheite wore Sunflowers in their bosoms on drawing-room days. There are memorial flowers; the Flos Adonis, or Pheasant's Eye, sprang from the blood that fell from Adonis's thigh when the savage boar inflicted the death-wound; the Hyacinth rose to perpetuate the perishing beauty of another comely stripling. The Vergiss-mein-nicht, or Forget-me-not, is a modern remembrancer of lovers' vows. There are dynastic flowers; the Lily of the Bourbons, the Violet of the Bonapartes, and the Broom-twig, the *Planta genista*, or *Plante des Genets*, of our own vanished Plantagenets. There are national flowers; the touch-me-not Thistle of Scotland, the delicate Wood-sorrel or Shamrock of Ireland, the blood-stained Roses (both white and red) of England, the perfumed Rose of the orientals, the Water-lilies of India, the Tuberoses of Italy, to which might be added the Geraniums of the Cape, the Cactuses of America, the Lilies of Guernsey, the double Pomegranates of Morocco, the Scarlet Quince and a hundred other beauties of Japan, the Chrysanthemum and a thousand more charmers from China, the Gentian of the Alps, and the blushing crab-blossom of Siberia. . . . So, pray, which are your favourite flowers—the Lily of the Valley, the Dandelion, or the Daffydownilly, which comes before the swallow dares to come, and meets the winds of March with beauty? I will candidly tell you which are mine. As Cowslip, the dairymaid, when pressed to patronise a bird (after the fashion of Venus, Juno, and Minerva, who selected doves, peacocks, and owls respectively), answered, "Well, I should like a nice roast duck;" in like manner, if you put me to the question about my flowers, I must confess that I have a weakness for Caper buds whenever there is a talk of boiled legs of mutton; for Borage and Nasturtium flowers to crown a salad; for Cowslips and cream while the cuckoo singeth; for a dish of cooked Artichokes whenever they are to be had (I cannot even yet manage them raw *à la poivrade*); for Camomile fomentations when seized with the face-ache; for Marigold broth when I want to bring out the measles or the scarlet fever; for Elder-flower water to strengthen and cleanse the few scant hairs that remain on my cranium; for a glass of Clary wine as an exhilarator and anti-lachrymatic; for a tisane of Violets and Lime-tree blossoms when the doctor prescribes a cooling diluent; for decoction of Rose leaves when he says I am feverish; for the dried bouquet, which I treasure flattened between the leaves of a certain folio volume; and for the pretty little pot-flower (never mind what genus and species it belongs to) which Mary Jane presented on my birthday. *Dickens's "Household Words."*

Calendar of Operations.

(For the ensuing week.)

PLANT DEPARTMENT.

CONSERVATORY, &c.—Attend to the last week's directions as to guarding against damp, giving air freely when the state of the weather admits, and use fire heat only when it is indispensable, and then as sparingly as may consist with safety. It will probably be necessary to subject many plants to gentle forcing in order to secure a constant succession of bloom for furnishing this house, for few plants will make much progress at this season unless encouraged with a temperature considerably warmer than would be required to preserve them in health. But where forcing must be resorted to, use foresight, and endeavour to avoid having to subject the plants to a very high temperature, which is very injurious to many things; and the flowers cannot be expected to last so long as if they were developed in a temperature more suitable to the habit of the plant. Take advantage of unfavourable weather for outdoors work to get the foliage of Camellias, Orange trees, &c., thoroughly cleaned, for it is hardly less essential to the health of such things that their foliage be kept clean and in a fit state to perform its functions than