periodical thinnings will amply defray the expense of management, &c. From this Mr. W. B. will see that he may have more than 1*l*. 10*s*. per acre for his coppice woods, and not incur an expenditure of 9*l*. per acre for trenching. That the Oak and Ash never arrive at a valuable size is a statement which requires no observation in this age of improvement; and if proprietors should confine their woodlands to places inaccessible to the plough, and from them only receive 12*s*. per acre as an annual rent, wood managing and forestry as a profession would soon be extinct. *James Whyte, Chopwell Woods, Ebchester.*

Hybrid Dianths.—As you have noticed hybrid Dianths, you may like to hear that the summer before last I fertilised a poor single pale red Carnation with the pollen of a crimson Spanish Pink; and likewise a Spanish Pink with the pollen of the same Carnation. I got seed from both crosses in fair number; namely, 77 seed from two pods of the Spanish Pink, and raised plenty of seedlings. In the eyes of a florist they would be, I presume, quite worthless from their straggling habit; but they were showy, and like most hybrids produced during a long time an extraordinary abundance of flowers. They varied somewhat in colour, but in no other respect; and one variety was of a really beautiful pale crimson. Taken in a mass there was no difference between the reciprocal crosses. Not one plant of either lot set a single seed. One plant came up identical with the Spanish Pink; no doubt owing to a few grains of the pollen of the Spanish Pink not having been removed; for Gærtner has shown that this is sometimes the result when a flower is fertilised with mixed pollen. I may add that Gærtner raised many hybrids between various species of Dianthus. *C. Darwin, Down, Bromley, Kent.*

Fruit Importation.—As we are likely to have our tables producing game killed in the north of Canada, what is to prevent our adding to this (when our railways are finished and steam-boats regularly running) the fruits of the East, now known only by name? No doubt that the greater part of them may be conveyed in the utmost perfection. Wrapped in silver paper and packed in sawdust we may receive them in the highest perfection, and at no very extravagant rate. Fish also may be sent over, and the tunny and other fish may be regularly sent to the London fish markets at a very cheap rate. Let a company be formed immediately to open the trade wherever practicable, and gradually to extend it as the means improve, and in a few years London will be the market of the world; and the Mediterranean one of the stew ponds of London. Perhaps Brighton might be made the port, and to send them to London by rail from thence. *Delta.* [Partly a dream—partly a possibility; hardly a probability.]

The Cocoa-nut.—Why may not a great improvement be made in the value of the Cocoa-nut? It is found that coral banks are soon covered with Cocoa-nut trees; why may not we then cover sandy banks round our numerous islands and barren rocks by deluging them with sea water raised by wind and always working when the wind blew? And the nut might perhaps be rendered more useful by being cut into slices, peeled and dried on kilns, and then ground to fine powder and mixed with Wheat flour and bread be made of it. It may turn out to be very servicable, and increase its value exceedingly. *Anon.* [Surely our correspondent does not suppose that Cocoa-nut trees will grow in these latitudes!!]

Foreign Cheats.—Having had a deciduous shrub resembling the Scarlet Dogwood sent me by my employer from Manchester, called the "Fraise arborea du Mer Rouge," or Tree Strawberry, the fruit of which is reported to weigh over 2lb, and the shrub itself to have been found in Africa by a Frenchman named Martin, and also a Scarlet Lilac, will you oblige me by stating whether either of the above are known to you? I enclose a small piece of the Tree Strawberry for your inspection. *Archibald Kay, Gardener, Lillesden, Hawkhurst, Kent.* [You have sent a bit of common Dogwood. We are perfectly astonished at men of intelligence allowing themselves to become the victims of such audacious imposture.]

Societies.

HORTICULTURAL, *March* 3.—Colonel Challoner in the chair. The following were elected Fellows:—

Mrs. Frances Dumergue, Abbey Farm Lodge, St. John's Lodge.
Wm. Fredk. Saunders, Esq., East Hill, Wandsworth.
Henry Bradbury, Esq., Bouverie Street, Whitefriars.
W. Jones Lloyd, Esq., Chesham Place.
John Noble, Esq., 50, Westbourne Terrace.
Mr. Ingram, Gr. to her Majesty at Frogmore.
Mr. Frost, Gr. to Lady Grenville at Dropmore.
Mr. Tillyard, Gr. to the Rt. Hon. the Speaker, at Heckfield.
Mr. Wm. Paul, Nurseryman, Cheshunt.
Mr. C. Fisher, Nurseryman, Handsworth.
Mr. Butcher, Nurseryman, Stratford-on-Avon;

and as an Honorary Member, H. Behrens, Esq., of Travemünde, nominated by the Council in consideration of the munificent aid afforded by him, a stranger to the Society, in the experiment of maintaining the Garden at Chiswick, Mr. Behrens having paid over the sum of 100*l*. to the Garden Fund.

Subjects of exhibition, considering the season, were numerous, and there was a large attendance of Fellows and their friends. Among fruit were beautiful bunches of new Black Hamburgh Grapes, from Mr. Fleming, gr. to the Duke of Sutherland, at Trentham. The same exhibitor also sent bunches of Barbarossa Grapes, fresh and fine, as if newly ripened; Muscat of Alexandria, and a nice dish of Black Prince Strawberries, well coloured and large for that kind. Black Barbarossa Grapes came from Mr. Butcher, of Stratford-on-Avon. Of Pears, Mr. Tillyard, gr. to the Rt. Hon. the Speaker, sent extremely well preserved specimens of Ne Plus Meuris, Easter Beurré, Beurré Rance, and Glou Morceau, some of which it will be seen are varieties that can seldom be kept so late in the season. Some nicely ripened Pine Apples from Wales were exhibited. A Black Jamaica, 3 lbs. 10 oz., came from Mr. Jones, gr. to the Dowlais Iron Company; and Mr. Price, gr. to W. Forman, Esq., of Penydarron House, Merthyr-Tydvil, sent a fruit of the same variety of Pine Apple weighing 2 lbs. 9½ oz., and a Ripley Queen 2 lbs. 10 oz.

Of vegetables Mr. Ingram, gr. to her Majesty at Frogmore, sent a collection, consisting of 100 heads of Asparagus weighing 12 lbs., a dish of French Beans, and a punnetful of Mushrooms, beautiful specimens, tastefully "set up." The Asparagus, it was mentioned, was from beds in the open ground covered with wooden shutters and artificially heated. A plan and full description of them will be found in our volume for 1847, p. 836. A basket of Mushrooms came from J. Allnutt, Esq., of Clapham. Of Foreign Vegetables, Mr. Lewis Solomon, of Covent Garden, again had a beautiful collection. It consisted of Asparagus and what is called "Sprue," very good new Kidney Potatoes, Artichokes, Green Peas, Cauliflowers, French Beans, new Horn Carrots, very fine, and a salad in which were very fine Endive, Turnip Radishes, and two sorts of Lettuces. These, though they must have been packed closely when travelling, were in excellent condition.

Among plants were some of considerable interest. Mr. Cutbush of Highgate produced a collection of Hyacinths in pots beautifully grown and flowered. Of *reds* he had Queen Victoria, Waterloo, R. Steiger, and Circe. *Blues*: Porcelain Sceptre, Baron Von Thuyll, Grande Lilas, a charming kind, and Blocksberg. *Delicate Pink*: Norma, a single variety, with large finely shaped flowers; and among *whites* were Tour d'Auvergne, Mary Stuart, &c. The mode of growing these flowers which Mr. Cutbush practises so successfully will be found at p. 630 of our last year's volume. Some capitally bloomed Camellias came from Messrs. Veitch. They consisted of several plants of "Saccoi nova," a handsome salmon pink variety which is sometimes called Augustina superba and other names, and the charming light kind, Countess of Orkney. Mr. Ingram, gr. to J. J. Blandy, Esq., also contributed the last-named variety. Mr. Allnutt had some light sort misnamed Marchioness of Exeter. From N. Hodges Nugent, Esq., came a small crimson, white striped variety of Camellia, not perhaps of much value in itself but extremely interesting, inasmuch as it showed a decided tendency to arrange its petals in a hexangular or star-like manner. That the Chinese possess Camellias with flowers having that peculiar form has often been reported; but hitherto all attempts to introduce them into this country have failed; all that have as yet been imported as hexangular Camellias having only produced blooms of ordinary shape. Mr. Nugent's specimen, however, though very incomplete, certainly showed, as we have just stated, an evident disposition to be of that class. Cyclamens, very gay and in considerable variety, were present, from Messrs. E. G. Henderson, of St. John's Wood, who also sent the following plants, viz., Gesnera cinnabarina and densiflora, two brilliant continental kinds, but with bad foliage; and a charming new greenhouse bush called Monochætum ensiferum. This was stated to belong to a race of most beautiful plants, inhabiting the high lands of Columbia. It has nice pink flowers which are produced in great abundance, and even after the petals drop, the bunches of scarlet claw-like stamens which they leave behind them still keep up a large amount of gaiety; it appears to be a plant of easy cultivation, and must certainly be considered a great acquisition. An extremely fine Cyclamen persicum came from Mr. Ingram, gr. to J. J. Blandy, Esq., of Reading. Of double white Primulas, six noble specimens, loaded with bloom, came from Mr. Edmonds, gr. to the Duke of Devonshire at Chiswick House. Cut flower-spikes of the new Thunbergia laurifolia came from Messrs. Veitch. It is a stove climber with large showy lilac blossoms, which when seen in the shape of long festoons from the rafters of a stove must be magnificent. The same firm also produced the charming Rhododendron jasminiflorum, and Correa cardinalis, one of the most brilliant flowered of the genus; but it has a bad foliage. Mr. Lawrence, gr. to the Bishop of Winchester, sent the shaggy Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium villosum), one of the rarest and best grown plants in the room. From Messrs. Jackson, of Kingston, came well grown specimens of double red and white Primulas, a variety of Lycaste Skinneri, and Oncidium cimiciferum, a new kind from Chiriqui.

Among Miscellaneous subjects was a case of skeleton leaves and seed vessels most skilfully anatomised, from J. Hawes, Esq., of Adelphi Terrace. Among them were even Quaking Grass and Fern leaves, the latter exhibiting their fructification and veins in the most perfect manner. Too much could scarcely be said in favour of the cleverness and dexterity with which these dissections had been performed. A skilfully executed picture-frame, representing the larger Bindweed twining round a branch, carved in Pear-tree wood, was shown by Mr. Perry, of 38, North Audley Street; it enclosed a water-colour drawing by the celebrated Van Huysum, the property of C. S. Bale, Esq. Mr. Robinson, of Thames Bank, Pimlico, furnished a model of a rising plant stage. The want of the means of placing plants at certain periods of their growth near the glass, and lowering them at will has long been felt. Mr. Robinson has now discovered a ready plan of doing this by means of weights and pulleys. In small houses the stage is made to move up and down merely like a common window sash; but in the case of larger stages, a capstan placed under the stage is employed in order to increase the amount of moving power. The plan promises to answer so well that Mr. Robinson has been induced to patent it.

From the garden of the Society came various Begonias, Chinese Primulas, the white and red-fruited Ardisia lentiginosa, the new Mignonette (Reseda grandiflora), two Acacias, and the useful Ageratum-like Conoclinium ianthinum.

Prof. Lindley briefly explained and illustrated by drawings the nature of the morphological disturbance exhibited by the branching Pine Apple furnished by Mr. Eyles, of the Crystal Palace Gardens, Sydenham, of which a full account will be found in last week's Number.

Notice was given that seeds and cuttings of fruit trees were ready for distribution to such Fellows as may signify their desire to receive them.

The programme of the arrangements for Exhibitions during the present season was distributed.

The Chairman announced that the Fellows now elected and those who may be elected on the 7th April, will be at once admitted to all privileges upon their payment of the subscription from May 1, 1857, to May 1, 1858.

Notices of Books.

Of the *Poetical Works of Byron*, a complete and very beautiful edition has been published by Mr. Murray, in a single volume of 685 pages in double columns. It does credit to the printing office of the Messrs. Childs, of Bungay.

Adulterations detected, or plain instructions for the discovery of Frauds in Food and Medicine. By A. H. Hassall, M.D. Longmans. Small 8vo, pp. 712.

We find nothing to praise in the tone or matter of this book. Dr. Hassall is never weary of expressing his admiration of Dr. Hassall, and his deep sense of the services that great person has rendered to the public. Others have the misfortune to entertain doubts upon this subject, and inquire not only whether the proceedings he has taken towards tradesmen are such as right-minded men can approve, but also whether the adulterations he thinks he finds in all directions are real or imaginary. For ourselves we confess to grave misgivings, and most certainly should not choose to endorse the statements found in the work before us. He indeed would be a bold man who should give such evidence in a witness box as we find in the pages before us. Let us point to a case or two by way of illustrating our meaning.

Under the article TEA the reader is taught to distinguish genuine leaves from those of Camellia Sasanqua, and highly magnified representations of both are produced. So far as the drawings are concerned the differences are striking enough; and we entertain no doubt that the artist drew what he saw. But no man of experience in these investigations would believe for a moment that such differences are constant; they may have depended upon the age of the leaf examined, and vary from leaf to leaf. We venture to affirm that Sasanqua leaves and Tea leaves are undistinguishable; to suppose the contrary is a mere delusion. Dr. Hassall next says that in some Twankay he found leaves "*of a kind* of Plum," a rather strange description to proceed from a man of science. However, he figures this "kind of Plum;" and we can only say that upon comparing it with the leaves of Prunus domestica, the only Plum with which we are acquainted, we find no more resemblance between the two than there is between the long acicular body which he figures as the chlorophyll cells of this "kind of Plum," and the chlorophyll cells themselves. We are then treated to long extracts from well-known papers by Mr. Warington and other writers upon the Chinese practice of colouring Teas for the English market; and he reports that his own investigations show nearly the whole of the green Teas imported into this country as retailed in the shops to be thus coloured. This is put into italics, by way we suppose of pointing out emphatically how great a discovery Dr. Hassall has made; the practice nevertheless being notorious and no adulteration after all. Adulteration we take to be the mixture of one substance with another furtively, and for the purpose of deception. But the Chinese glaze their teas openly in order to suit the taste of their customers, just as other manufacturers put brandy into their wine, or glaze upon their cotton goods.

Let us pass on to SUGAR; in his zeal for adulteration the ingenious author here includes mites in his denunciation, figures them and tells a long story about their ways of life; in like manner he classes mites and jumpers among the articles employed to adulterate CHEESE! and even charges the Thuringian farmers with mal-practices because they happen to like a cheese made with milk and Potatoes. When a grocer, in emptying