

Within these enclosures are specimens of birds and animals as in the Zoological Gardens, London. This is what in somewhat pompous language is here called the Garden of Acclimation, in which all sorts of trees are to become hardy, and all sorts of birds, beasts, and creeping things, are to be acclimated to the climate of Paris. The grand conception of some brilliant visionary. Not having seen the *Journal de la Société*, if there be one, or its programme, I don't know the limits assigned to this great idea, nor have I succeeded in finding anything of it more definite than what I have stated. You must therefore be satisfied with what I have said for as experiments in acclimating plants are concerned. Be it known, then, to all men that the Society recognises the necessity of learning experimentally whether *Pinus Sabina* is hardy, and if *Magnolia grandiflora* will live out in winter. You English will stare at this when you know that the *Pinus* is among the hardiest of all trees, and how good Mr. Bonnaire used to grow the *Magnolia* a quarter of a century ago in his garden in Paris. Another object of experiment is the Hungarian White Linden (*Tilia alba*), of which a wretched poorly indented, grafted half standard high, is perishing under the hands of some acclimating executioner. I saw a tree of this kind in the Bois de Boulogne, which horticultural experiments (if) are conducted here. The whole affair is in that respect absurd. To be sure there are specimens of *Acrocarpa Bidwellii* and *excolia* in tubs; but I could not make out how keeping them in such a manner was likely to solve any problem in the art of acclimating in like manner. It was just as well to be satisfied with how it is proposed to acclimatise other species by growing them in a great conservatory or stove, I am not sure which, with a beck winding through the middle of some handsome "specimen" plants, as our fellow countrymen call them. But of this enough; it is not so much to be desired as it is so much to be regretted, I am sure, that the Society should have been so admirably: airy, dry, nicely watered, and the very place for well conducted trials; and all must regret that the Garden of Plants, with its staff of highly educated, experienced officers and most able professors, should be doomed to inaction on the skirts of the fine market square of Paris, instead of being transferred to the beautiful Bois de Boulogne, near the Bois de St. Germain, which would be a more desirable place where all the treasures of Paris in Natural History are literally stowed away. One redeeming feature in this Jardin d'Acclimation must not however be forgotten. It has a capital *Magnaseric* or *Acrocarpa Bidwellii*, a very pretty and useful worm of the *Alphitona*. The *Hicton* and the White Mulberry have been diligently employed all the summer in exhibiting themselves to the public, hard at work on the leaves of each peculiar. When I saw them last the leaves of *Althaus* were alive with young worms, and some great green fellows were nearly full grown. This was by far the most interesting thing in the Garden.

The prettiest is my cottage made of Cane-work, and fitted up with charming Can furniture, of which you cannot boast the like in England. I have also by me (*Revue de la Pair*, No. 25) a shop-full of such articles which I recommend everybody who can afford a *Pinus* species for garden chairs to go and see.

Orchids, Fertilisation of.—I have been endeavouring during several years to make out the many contrivances by which British Orchids are fertilised through insect agency. I am very anxious to examine a few exotic forms. Several gentlemen have kindly sent me specimens, but I have not seen one of Lindley's *Orchid* division of *Arethusa*, which includes the *Limodorum*, *Vanilloid*, &c. If any one would have the kindness to send me a few flowers and buds of any member of the group, packed in a small tin canister, by post, addressed as below, he would confer a very great favour on me. I would be glad to see a paper on the fertilisation of *Orchis latifolia*, and some remarks on the cause of the movements in the lip of *Megacelisium*.

Manuring Conifers.—I was struck by the caution given to avoid manuring Conifers, as I can well remember seeing outside of Holt, in Norfolk, Cromwell's plantations. Last year I planted a row of each side the road, well fenced in, and with boards painted opposite each other, with words as near as I recollect as follows:—"These are planted in well manured ground," said the other. The other had on it—"These were planted in unmanured ground," said the man who had the boards painted on the other side. The plants were of the same age, and had a far more robust and healthy appearance than those unmanured. It is more than 20 years ago, and the boards may yet exist. I may also mention that a few years since I planted three *Deodars*, and the most sickly one, which I hardly expected to get up, I placed immediately over the spot where the boards were painted. Last year it was the tallest, and at first it used very slow progress; but for the last two or three years, when it may be supposed the roots had reached the dead carcass, the growth has become most vigorous, the colour of the foliage pecu-

larly beautiful, and its branches far more stout than the other two; which, however, are very handsome. Hence I infer that manuring many of the Conifers may be safely and advantageously practised. *Thomas Taylor, M.D., Essexford, Essex.*—In September, 1859, I planted a row of *Deodars*, and last year nearly the whole of my stock of *Conifer* plants removed and heavily manured with half-tonne boxes and cow dung. At the end of the same week the question was asked through your Paper whether or not the application of manure would injure an *Arancaria*. The reply was, "Yes, it is poison to the white race." I was at first much surprised, and I have since had a very serious blunder, but I patiently waited and watched the result. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the growth and appearance of the plants the following season. Since then I have invariably applied manure whenever I removed plants of the kind in my own nursery, and always with the same satisfactory results. Therefore I have always recommended the application of manure whenever necessary, or an opportunity occurred for using it. As an illustration of what I have stated, I beg to say that about twelve months ago I sold a handsome specimen of *Picea Nordmanniana* to a lady in this neighbourhood, who always superintends her own Coniferous plantations, and she has since a compost of manure and soil was prepared for this plant, including three barrow loads of the former. Nothing can exceed the healthful appearance of this tree just now; it has made sixteen inches of leader this season. *John Grier, Axminster, Wiltshire.*—Would your Correspondent "J. Philpott" inform me how he can best apply manure to his *Deodars*? It has been applied to his "*Deodar* and *Picea Webbiana*" was of fresh from the stable or rotten? because I am of opinion that a manuring of any kind would be beneficial, inasmuch as it would keep the roots uniformly moist, and also prevent the ground from cooling by evaporation, forming a prominent feature in the grounds under my care. I am anxious to possess correct data respecting them. *Croxteth.*

Calceolarias (see p. 809).—I hail with pleasure the hint thrown out respecting the merits of the two kinds of *Calceolaria*, viz., shrubby or perpetual, and the herbaceous or annual kinds. Some five or six years ago I was struck with the appearance of the latter, as I saw clearly that the herbaceous kinds must wear out. I therefore selected some of the most healthy of the shrubby kinds to commence on, more particularly *angustifolia*, and a variety called *Kayli*, having proved them both to be healthy perennials, and the result of my trial. I was very much pleased with the result. My object always has been to get decided characters of form and colour. I have now by me two plants of the same seedlings that I raised in 1857, and they measured when in perfection last season 4 feet through, and I am in hopes of saving them for next season. I quite agree with your Correspondent respecting the duration of the life of these two kinds of seedling handsome shrubby kinds sown at Christmas, 30 years ago, and they were a beautiful display, and why should they not now, as any one can have my strain of shrubby kinds in bloom from May to October. My sorts are equally valuable for the border or flower garden, which makes them doubly useful. I have them now most beautifully spotted and striped, and they are equal to the best herbaceous kinds. *James Brierley, Longfield, Surrey.*

Vines in Pots.—I exhibited on Thursday last three Grape Vines in pots at Workshop exhibition; they were admitted to be very superior to any at the show, and averaged 13 bunches each. To my surprise an enterprising individual offered to buy the three for £10. I found a card containing these words placed on my Vines—"Disqualified—grown in open border." Now I have scores of witnesses who could prove that they were grown in pots, and that they had never been planted, although they had partly rooted from the lower joints. The Vines were taken to Workshop and back in an open van, remained there all night in a crowded tent, the exhibition not having closed until 11 o'clock, and they are now at this moment fresh and good and still fit to be exhibited again. I had a large trellis made for the Vines, and they may be put in a level safety, and also a large forked iron placed into the pots to steady them. This caused me in order to balance the Vines to drop them into larger pots; I then filled the cavity with Moss and water to keep them from drying, knowing that they had to remain until the second day. I believe that I have saved all the Vines. The exhibitor stated the following words—"For the best three Vines in pots." Mine were decidedly the best. Can they withhold the prize from me on the grounds stated in their card above alluded to?—I feel that they cannot. Had the Vines been planted and rooted all over the top of the pot they would have been disqualified. I have a large quantity of Vines in pots, as per schedule, and so exhibited, I believe that I can claim the prize, can I not? *Edward Bennett, Osberton Hall, Worksop, Notts.* [Undoubtedly.]

Orchard Houses.—Allow me to make a few remarks in answer to your very indulgent notice of my little pamphlet. I am very glad to hear that you are so anxious to know how you can best fertilise your trees, and believing it to be a matter of necessity in many cases, I feel jealous of anything being said which has a tendency to lessen the idea of its importance. I am aware that some kinds will, when well ripened, set their blooms

without assistance, but I have proved by experiment that it is unsafe to trust to others. The partially ripened state of the wood and almost total absence of bees, of course tend much to aggravate the consequences of neglect this season, but I have the most perfect confidence in the wisdom of the plan, and the difference between a crop and a failure in several instances. There are four houses in this immediate neighbourhood which were all furnished from our nurseries with plants which had all been cultivated together. Two of these houses are under the care of good gardeners, and they are entire failures in point of fruit, and the other two, which were cultivated by me, did not think it necessary to follow the advice they had received. The third house, erected by the same builder, and of the same size as the others, 60 x 20, is managed by a man who was a labourer a few years ago. Feeling in want of information he came over from France in the spring to have a talk with my fellow gardener. His house has been full of very fine fruit, and his master says he has had to give much of it to his friends. The fourth case is still more striking; and yet nearly all our best plants were sold, and what were left were nearly in bloom, we had to fill an orchard house just built near Burton on Trent. Of course most of the plants were sold, and the others were the former cases. With the exception of being most tastefully painted and paved, this house was exactly built as the others, and by the same person. Being near the dwelling, and a new source of pleasure, the lady of the establishment took it into her own hands, and managed it entirely, and did not think it unnecessary to follow the advice she had received. The plants were some were full, and I will venture to say, for well ripened well grown trees, and perfectly clean foliage, she might challenge the country. In our own house we had not more than six or seven trees without fruit (though it had been crowded by sale trees the previous season); many here from 30 to 50 bunches each, and the city of London. From the 1st of August till the present date have seen our house without tasting the fruit, and if you were to see the number of stores reserved for sowing and the seedlings of the two last years you would be more than ever convinced that a well-ripened orchard house is a great feat. I have a large quantity of seedlings of the plants without a failure and at so little cost, others will be required to do. I could not help laughing when a nobleman's gardener came and offered me a dozen for my Peaches only a few days ago. His Grape are amongst the finest in England, but he has no Peaches this season, and he is very anxious to get rid of them. They are so completely withered and so sweet that they are equally without fine Peas. When paying a visit last season to Mr. Ingram, at Belvoir Castle, and seeing the magnificent specimens of Peas grown on the walls, I could not help thinking how foolish it was to cover a south wall with glass for Peaches instead of building an orchard house to plant the wall with Peas. *R. Peacock, Chalfont.*

Peas.—It may be important to many of your readers to know that Veitch's Perfection Peas will withstand drought and mildew better than most, perhaps any Peas, in cultivation. When other Peas can scarcely be kept alive with copious watering it continues to produce a crop of excellent flowers, and the plants are unvined any of its excellency that in future I will say only it and Daniel O'Rourke, the latter for early gathering. *W. Crane, Westbury.*

Roses.—Will any of your readers give their experience as to the two pincus which are now afflicting the roses in this neighbourhood? The *Roses* have made an excellent growth with me this year, and the show of buds, for the autumnal bloom of Hybrid Perpetuals is most promising, but mildew attacks the new shoots, gets round the flower stalks and destroys the flowers. The *Roses* that escape this fate open for a day or two, and then go to seed. I have tried many remedies, but have not been infested with myriads of thrips. Does the same cause produce the two plagues, and are they to be attributed to the long drought we have had here? And what is the best remedy? I have dusted with flowers of sulphur all the middle part of the trees, and in some cases I have tried the progress of the disease, but the case of Hybrid Perpetuals is the most serious. I have seen Cardinal Patrizzi, and General Jacquemont—seems completely overpowered by the mildew. The thrips are a most grievous and provoking enemy. Yesterday I had a beautiful show of blooms just opening on *Malone Luffay*, *Maline Violet*, and *L'Enfant de Mont Carmel*; but the thrips have been very numerous. I have tried many of my suggestions whether as to cause or remedy. The mildew does not seem to be due to any peculiarity of situation. My garden lies high, has pure air, and the plants out in the open air as much affected as those which are under the shrubby trees, and many kinds are affected. I have seen the next tree covered with mildew. *Osina Rose* and *General Jacquemont* are climbers, but *Gloire de Dijon* is slightly affected and has been kept in good condition only by my constant attention. Would you advise cutting in the young shoot that are most affected? *Brennus* seems especially liable to mildew. *Covey.*

Your columns (p. 620) states that he caused *Vines* risen to seed at the Royal Gardens, Kew, by imitating the action of an insect in inserting its proboscis, as I had succeeded with the common *Periwinkle*. By implication it may be pre-