

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 merits to whom merit is due" is my motto, and despite the invidious of "H.", there is much merit in the Grapes and the gardening generally at Bury Hill. The writer of the "Notes" concerning the memoranda of "H.", 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 rocky ponds," as being an unusual feature in Grapes growing. As a self, 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 the creek." The Grapes of Britain, and its like, stretch to the seaboard 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., Llanfairfach, are to be seen some vines bearing their second crop, which Mr. Meredith will bear witness to in saying so. Grapes of some of the finest of the vine 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 case with which Grapes may be grown wherever the tide rises, and the sea breeze prevails. 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.

**Change of Sex in Unisexual Flowers.**—Will any of your botanical readers have the kindness to inform me, whether in those monocious 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? I have seen 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. Some other changes have been met with in other Euphorbiaceae. Edc.]

**Bitten Pine Cone.**—In the Pine woods near Bourne-mouth, 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 appressed to the cone, and the cones very regular in shape, 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 squirrels, rabbit, or other animal has produced this singular appearance, or whether it be due to some other cause. S. J.

## Societies.

**ROYAL HORTICULTURAL: Feb. 5 (Weekly Show).**—Messrs. Cutbush, of Highgate, furnished on this occasion a charming exhibition of forced flowers, to wit: Primula, Pansy, and Tulip, and also a number of pots of *Polygonatum vulgare*, or common Solomon's Seal forced, as a centre piece, surrounded by plants of *Rhododendron Cunninghamii*, *Dielstra spectabilis*, a red *Azalea*, *Vallota purpurea*, two pans of *Crocus versicolor*, two pots of terminal *Primula*, *Præcox*, and *Præcox*, and a number of each of the *Hymenitis La Touri*, *Alvengeri*, *Vainqueur*, and *Amy*. Mr. Bartlett, of Shaftesbury Road, Hammersmith, again contributed a nice collection of 25 *Hymenitis* well bloomed, and some *Polyanthus Narcissus*, for which he received a 2d prize. Messrs. Locking received a first-class Certificate for a pretty exhibition of forced flowers.

**ENTOMOLOGICAL: Jan. 1.—F. Pascoe, Esq., President, F.T.S. in the chair.**—Mr. S. Stevens exhibited an extensive series of insects, including Coleopteroid and Lepidopteroid, collected with great care in the Himalayas, and most beautifully preserved; amongst many rare species were *Buprestis Buquetii*, *Dynastes Harwardii*, *Papilio Menegesi*, and many other fine *Papilionidae*, which had been reared from the larva contained in a paper by W. C. Woodhead, and which contained descriptions of 25 new species of butterflies belonging to the family *Heperidae*. The President also contributed a paper containing descriptions of the Longicorn Coleoptera collected at Santa Marta, in Venezuela, by the late Mr. Bouchard, 58 species in number, of which about 30 were new to science. Prof. W. C. Woodhead read a communication which he had received from Mr. Snelten van Yollenhoven, 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 *Trichoptera* insects in the Ice Caverns in Switzerland. In one on the road to Chamoulin 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 Ucauli, on the eastern slope of the Himalayas, and its like, stretching to the seaboard of Labrador, 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 voor het Antwerpeke Kruislandgenootschap uitgegeven oer-land en tuinkunde en oerders 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. It is edited by *Quakerij Reizen*, No. 237, contains a summary of our knowledge of African travel, with special reference to Dr. Livingston'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 "written in the plainest and 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 Journeyings in Arabia" furnishes occasion to the writer to recall the modest and meritorious services of the eminent traveller, and to commend his "Enoch Arden" to the notice of 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 Cyclopaedia*, to which we referred on p. 79. The Editor of this re-issue will prove very acceptable to a large class of readers.

## Notices of Books.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**—Great North Atlantic Telegraph Route. An anonymous pamphlet (copyright) describing the proposed telegraphic route from London down telegraph wires "through Scotland, Shetland, and the Faric 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 voor het Antwerpeke Kruislandgenootschap uitgegeven oer-land en tuinkunde en oerders 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. It is edited by *Quakerij Reizen*, No. 237, contains a summary of our knowledge of African travel, with special reference to Dr. Livingston'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 "written in the plainest and 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 Journeyings in Arabia" furnishes occasion to the writer to recall the modest and meritorious services of the eminent traveller, and to commend his "Enoch Arden" to the notice of 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 Cyclopaedia*, to which we referred on p. 79. The Editor of 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, and to remove the decayed stems and dead leaves, 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, and those that are inclined to have been so exposed 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 to be guilty of the other extreme.

My varieties put in one size pot, and have bottom soil. 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 out of its pot, and shake the soil from the top 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 dressing. Replace the soil 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, and from any other insects, either singly in small pots, or two or three round the edge of a 4 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 roots, and in the first week of September they should 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 stopped for blooming well in the spring. All that can be done in this case is to hold over the plants in the shade, and 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 directed 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, still 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 some equally valuable collections, I have since lost by rot, occasioned by exposure to heavy rains, I give 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 not lost a plant, and in the winter months, 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. Anything 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 soil from the plant, and to cut away with a sharp knife cut away the whole of the part affected. If the sound part is diseased; then dress the wound with wood charcoal, and expose the part to sun and air till the wood is thoroughly dried.

Another and the most fatal symptom of rot, is when a plant shows the interior leaves upright and spreading, and the stem, or the base of the stem, becomes 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 water, and to dry it in a fire-pan, and to put it in a pot with charcoal, and repeat 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 that are healthy, 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.

Simulants ought never to be tried with these flowers. 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.

Early stages are mounted on stone blocks, a foot off the ground, and the plants are fixed to them. 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 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.

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Of the remaining hives, in some the combs were mostly, and very watery. All were pure or less provided with honey.