

DUTCH HORTICULTURAL AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—On the occasion of the meeting of the Floral Committee on August 10, the committee awarded First-class Certificates to the Horticultural School of Wageningen, for *Canna* hybr. O. J. Quintus; to Messrs. E. H. KRELAGE & SON, of Haarlem, for *Chrysanthemum maximum* Triumph, *Dahlia* (Cactus) Leonora, D. C. Regulus, D. C. Ruby, *Gloxinia hybrida grandiflora* Cyclop, and *G. hybrida* Goliath; to Mr. W. VAN VEEN, of Leiden, for *Chrysanthemum maximum* Triumph, and *Dahlia* (Cactus) Britannia; to Mr. K. WEZELENBURG, of Hazerswoude, for *Chrysanthemum maximum* Triumph; to the Horticultural School of Frederiksoord, for *Heliotropium peruvianum* fol. varieg.; to

culous and painful excess, but was at length ridiculed out of existence. For this improvement of taste, horticulture is mainly indebted to Mr. WILLIAM ROBINSON. Still, it was not the practice itself that was wrong, but the excess in its use and its adoption everywhere, often in the most unsuitable situations. There are, we fancy, some indications of a revival of the bedding-out system; if so, we trust it will be used with discretion and taste, and, above all, in suitable places, as in association with architectural features. Some richly-coloured and well-harmonised beds may be seen on the terrace of the Palais Federal, at Lausanne, on either side of the building. The rich coloration of the flowers was remarkable, and not less their skilful combination.

crop not exceeding one-third of the normal; and in seven States the crop is reckoned at from one-third to one-half of the normal; five States are placed at from half to two-thirds of a crop. The satisfactory indications are very limited.

HORTICULTURAL PROSPECTS IN CANADA.—Business shows a marked improvement this season. Although in some parts of the country drought has been injurious, as a whole the crops are very superior, and as prices will be good, there will be a considerable amount of money to spend. In fruit there is no large amount of planting being done, as for a number of years past there seems to have been over-production in small fruits, Peaches, Pears, and Plums;

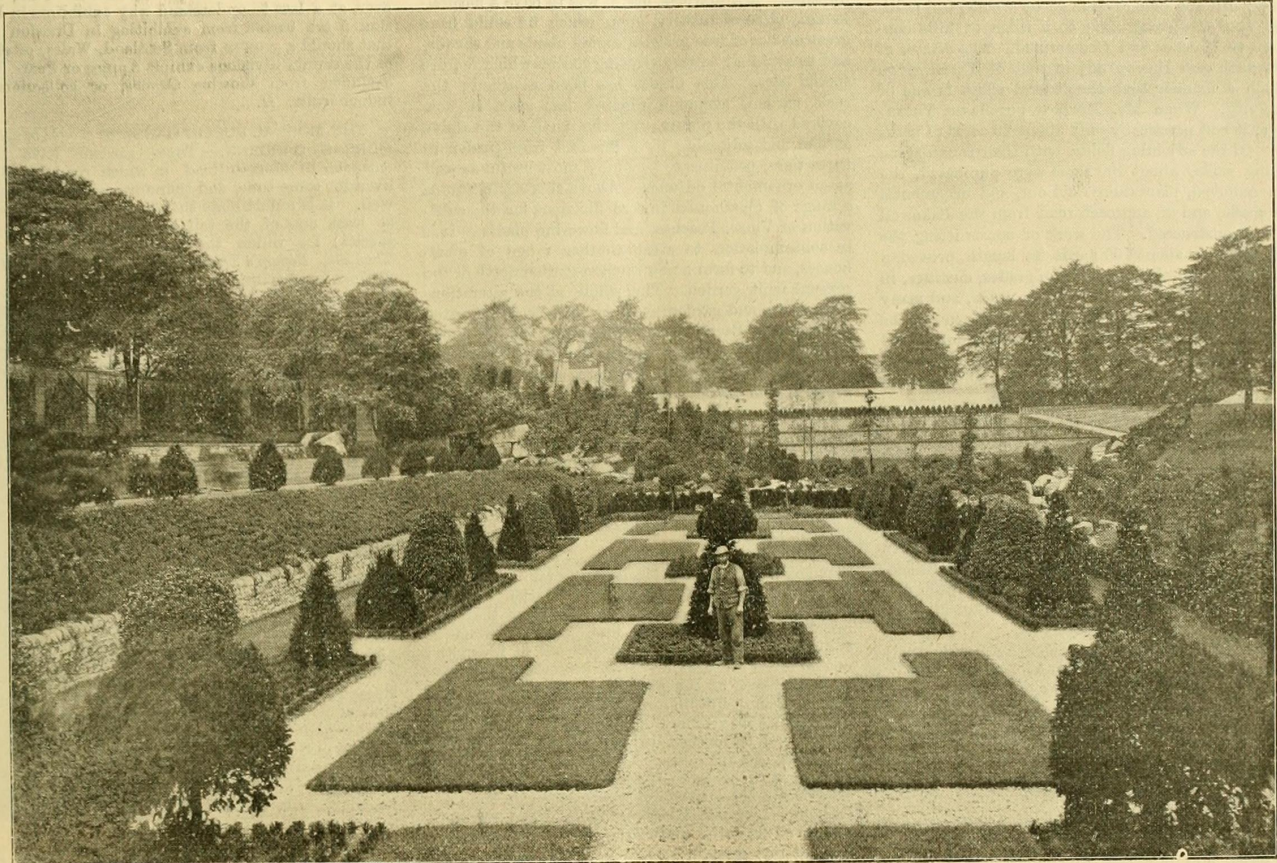


FIG. 59.—VIEW FROM ONE END OF THE FLOWER-GARDEN AT THORNBRIDGE HALL, BAKWELL, DERBYSHIRE. (SEE P. 222.)

Messrs. GRATAMA & Co., of Hoogeveen, for *Rosa* hybr. bifera Souv. de Mme. Joseph Métine, and *R. indica* fragrans Madame Yvonne Gravier; and to Mr. G. A. VAN ROSSEM, of Naarden, for *Rosa indica* fragrans Auguste Waltine. Certificates of Merit were awarded to the Horticultural School of Wageningen, for *Canna hybrida* Oranjevlag, and *C. h.* Wageningen; to Mr. K. WEZELENBURG, of Hazerswoude, for *Centaurea montana* rosea, and *Chrysanthemum maximum* filiferum; and to Mr. G. A. VAN ROSSEM, of Naarden, for *Rosa indica* fragrans Mdle. Anna Chartron. A Botanical Certificate was awarded to the Botanical Garden of Leyden for *Boea Commersoni*.

BEDDING OUT.—A quarter of a century ago or rather more, belts and beds of violently-coloured flowers were to be seen everywhere, in places fit and in situations unfit. The thing was carried to a ridi-

ASPARAGUS SPRENGERI, FOL. VAR.—We read in American gardening journals notes upon the white variegated form of the pretty decorative *Asparagus Sprengeri*. If the variegation be constant it is likely to add greatly to the attractiveness of the plant, especially by artificial light.

CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The following particulars are taken from the August report of the Agricultural Department, just received. Spring Wheat: Average condition, 96.5, or 1.5 points higher than last month, and 9.8 above the average at the same date last year, and 13.5 points over August average of the last ten years. Potatos: The fall in July has been succeeded by a rise of six points as compared with the same date last year, and 3.2 points below the August average of the previous ten years. Apples: In some half dozen States the indications are for a

but farmers generally are buying more freely, and the business prospect is brighter than for a number of years. There is said to be ample stocks in Canada to supply all needs.

CARNATIONS IN THE OPEN.—Our correspondent, "B., East Lothian," desires us to say, that Sept. 15 is the latest date at which he plants the layers, not the whole of the month, as stated by him on p. 195.

GHENT.—At the last meeting of the *Chambre Syndicale des Horticulteurs, Belges*, the following awards were made, viz., Certificates of Merit to M. A. GALLET (*par acclamation*), for seventy varieties of *Canna indica*, and a tuberous *Begonia*, with blooms like those of a *Chrysanthemum* (*à l'unanimité*); to MM. DE REUSSE BROTHERS, for *Dracæna De Reusse*; to M. VAN STEENKISTE, for seedling *Lily Madame*

Van Steenkiste; and to M. MAURICE VERDONCK, for a hybrid *Odontoglossum*.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—*Report on the Progress and Condition of the Government Botanical Gardens, Saharanpur and Amgadh*, for the year ending March 31, 1898.—*Orchid Review*, for September.—*Indian Gardening*, Index to vol. ii., January to June, 1898.

THORNBRIDGE HALL.

THIS residence and estate, recently acquired by George Jobson Marples, Esq., is situated about two miles from Bakewell, in the Peak district of Derbyshire, standing upon a plateau about 500 feet above sea-level. It is sheltered on the north-east by Longstone Edge, a chain of hills running up to Buxton, whilst on the east and south the views are lovely and varied; hill and dale diversified by woods, and cultivated land stretching away to a ridge of hills contiguous to Matlock and Chesterfield. The estates of Chatsworth and Hassop adjoin that of Thornbridge in such a manner that the general effect is one of continuity. When Mr. Marples purchased Thornbridge, it had practically only about 20 acres of parkland. Of the adjoining fields, with their rough stone dividing walls, about 100 acres were purchased, the walls removed, plantations laid out, and ornamental lakes made, and an approach road from the Bakewell side was constructed. The work of constructing the latter, which is about 700 yards in length, proved a heavy task. To obtain long even grades, cuttings, in some places 12 feet deep, had to be made, and many thousands of cubic yards of soil, boulders, &c., to be removed; this was utilised in forming mounds and embankments for the lakes. Trees and shrubs of an unusually large size have been planted, so as to afford immediate effect, and the result is very fine.

Great care was exercised to have the ground well and deeply trenched, and the results have fully justified the expenditure on this item. The slopes of the drive have been clothed with Heather, and in some steep places rockwork has been introduced, and masses of Fern, Gorse, Cotoneaster, Junipers, and similar low-growing plants used to cover it. The drive passes through a pinetum planted with choice Conifers, now ranging from 6 to 10 feet high; and clumps of tall deciduous trees, Rhododendrons, and other evergreens.

After rising about 100 feet the drive terminates in an outer square court, surrounded by splendid Beech, Sycamore, Elms, Yews, &c. This outer court is connected with an inner one by another short road opposite to the main entrance, on the west side of the Hall. Here, a little to one side, a winter garden is being constructed, with underground caves, cascades, and a miniature lake. This conservatory is about 50 feet by 40 feet, and 20 feet in height. It will be planted in a natural style, chiefly with Palms, Tree-ferns, and flowering greenhouse-plants, whilst in the caves filmy and other Ferns will be introduced.

The garden on the south side of the Hall is laid out in two main terraces, the upper one being separated from the lower by a wall 4 feet high, which is clothed with evergreen creepers, and has a border at the foot for the growth of dwarf plants, bulbs, &c. Both these terraces are in grass, and are intended for promenades and for playing games. They are protected at the west end by old Beech, Holly, Yew, and other trees. At the east end of these terraces is a pannelled Rose-garden, surrounded by clipped Yew-hedges.

The east, or garden front of the Hall is by far the finest feature of the place. Upon this part of the ground there used to be a kitchen-garden and pond, both of which have been done away with, and the following arrangement carried out.

Leaving the Hall by the garden entrance, a broad terrace is crossed which runs the whole length of the building, affording the effect of a solid base. Next comes a wall 4 feet high of equal length covered with creepers, with a grass slope descending from it to the main promenade which runs from the Rose-garden to the fruit-houses, 150 paces or so, and passes at its

north end under a massive rocky archway—in reality a portion of the alpine-garden. From the main promenade before mentioned, a Dutch garden with lakes and cascades, &c., is seen; whilst on the rising ground beyond many hundreds of large Rhododendrons and other shrubs are planted.

The illustrations (figs. 59 and 60) afford a good idea of the effect produced. The Dutch garden is formed 9 feet below the main promenade, and surrounded by Yew hedges enclosing clipped specimens of green and golden Yews and Hollies, both standards and pyramids.

The small beds are filled with low-growing bright-coloured evergreens, and upon the grass panels it is the intention of the proprietor to have beds for flowers. The alpine garden (together with the garden lakes) cover about 1½ acres. The ground falls from north to south about 60 feet, and is traversed by a small stream, which is used to form a series of cascades. Mr. Marples' desire was to have a natural-looking piece of rockery upon which he could have great masses of free growing alpine plants and shrubs, and to avoid all weakly growing species which require special care. This object has been attained; the rock garden, although planted last year, is now covered with the plants. On the north of the alpine garden and adjoining it, a terraced fruit garden in three tiers, promises to become a most useful as well as an ornamental adjunct. Above this again stands a range of glasshouses in five divisions for the cultivation of Vines, Peaches, and flowering plants. It is in contemplation to erect another range of glasshouses, and to form a new kitchen-garden north of the present fruit garden. The whole of the alterations in the park and garden, as we learned, were entrusted to Messrs. J. Backhouse & Son, nurserymen, of York. Though this firm gave designs for the bulk of the work, many of the ideas originated with Mr. Marples himself, who has shown himself ever ready to adopt suggestions which he considered would add a charm to his future home.

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

MONTBRETIAS (TRITONIAS).—In your issue of September 10, p. 200, Mr. Conway takes exception to my remarks respecting the cultivation of these beautiful Iridaceous plants. I maintain that the majority of cultivators will find great advantage in annually lifting the bulbs, as directed in my note; not so much for the purpose of protection in winter (the hardness of the *Montbretia* was not brought into question), but in order that the small weakly growths may be removed, and either destroyed, or planted by themselves till in course of time they become flowering bulbs. The reason for this, as I stated before, being to dispense with these flowerless growths, in order to favour the full development and maturation of the flowering bulbs; and the only means of ensuring maturation is to lift annually, and, in my opinion, this is best performed in the autumn, thereby insuring protection in the event of an unusually severe winter. Few gardeners can afford to take in hand any unnecessary work; but I contend that the simple instructions I have laid down, if followed out, will amply recompense the cultivator for his trouble. Quite as much pains are often taken over many less useful and beautiful plants grown in our gardens, than I advocated in my notes respecting the *Montbretias*. *H. T. Martin, Stoneleigh.*

While I have found *M. Pottii* absolutely hardy, without even a mulching of leaves or coal-ashes put over the roots during the winter, I cannot say the same of *M. crocosmiflora*, and strong clumps of the latter are sometimes killed outright under conditions of culture similar to that given to *M. Pottii*. The soil of this garden is somewhat heavy, and consequently cold in the spring, therefore less suited to the safe wintering of bulbous or tuberous-rooted subjects than a light loam. No difficulty, however, is experienced with even *M. crocosmiflora*, if at planting time the natural soil is removed 15 inches in depth, the bottom broken up so as to admit of the rapid drainage of water to lower depths, and the whole filled with charred soil, leaf-mould, grit, and the refuse soil from the potting-bench. Early in the autumn, when the leaves of the plants have decayed, a thick mulching of partially

rotten leaves is spread over the soil as a protection against frost, and treated in this manner I have never failed to obtain success with this plant, which is one of the most effective of hardy border flowers. In and around Cromer this variety of *Montbretia* is to be met with in hundreds of gardens, large and small, and judging from the luxuriance of its growth, the plant is quite at home in the sandy soil of that part, giving little trouble in its cultivation. *E. M., South Hants.*

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S FRUIT SHOW.—I think the correspondent (p. 199), who complains of want of clearness of the R.H.S. fruit schedule must have written his paragraph before perusing its pages, for I find each question asked fully answered in the notes on p. 3, and in the regulations for the exhibition, both of which every exhibitor should certainly read throughout. The requirements state that all fruits must be absolutely grown by the exhibitor or his employer, and the number of fruits to constitute each dish is plainly stated. I am, however, at a loss to understand why exhibitors in Division 5 are barred from exhibiting in Division 1, so that should a grower from Scotland, Wales, or either of the county divisions exhibit Apples or Pears, he is excluded from showing Grapes, or collections of indoor fruits. *H.*

THE MORRAB PUBLIC GARDENS should be spelled MORRAB GARDENS.—These gardens have their entrance in Morrab Road, in which road in 1894 I lived for some time, and therefore know the gardens well. It is unfortunate that the view does not show at least one of the tall *Dracenas* (I forget which species) for which the grounds are famous. *W. Thomson, Bishop's Teignton.* [Another result of indistinct handwriting. *ED.*]

LATE SWARMING OF BEES.—On September 5, while walking round the park looking for wasp's nests by day, so as to destroy them at night, I observed, to my surprise, a swarm of bees settle on a Thorn-bush. I quickly went to the gardens for a hive and shook them into it. Several aged inhabitants of the place to whom I mentioned the circumstance, said that they never knew bees to swarm in the month of September. There is no doubt the heat of the weather was the cause of the swarming at so late a date. The swarm is considered to be a good one. *W. Mould, Ledgers Park Gardens, Chelsham, Surrey.*

THE NEW FLOWER GARDENING.—I imagine your correspondent writing under the initial of "K." extracts more out of the above article than it originally contained. The Hollyhock was one plant I referred to, the Carnation another, while "K." may rest assured that spring and summer bulbous plants such as Crocuses, Tulips, Narcissus, &c., transplant safely immediately the flowers are over. *Lilium elegans* is another plant that transplants well at its time of flowering. I need only add that "K.'s" remarks about herbaceous borders in no respect apply to those in Regent's Park. *B.* [Many species of plants are transplanted at unusual periods of their growth; but hardy herbaceous perennial plants, even at Regent's Park, are not removed when approaching flower, unless in a few cases. *ED.*]

A PROFITABLE COMPETITION.—I observe in a paper of the largest circulation amongst the working-classes, mention of a recent great competition in one particular variety of Onion—Golden Rocca. There were no fewer than 761 lots of three Onion-bulbs each sent in, and that works out as 2283 in all. If those bulbs were left on hand for any purpose, seed-production or otherwise, they would represent a big sum in value. Then as no fewer than 761 competitors entered, it is not unreasonable to assume that 800 at least purchased seed; so that the sum of £25 offered in prizes was reimbursed with interest. But hundreds of the persons encouraged to compete were cottagers and allotment-holders. It would be interesting to learn how many of these were amongst the eight prize winners, and what chance had these in competing against first-class gardeners. It must be remembered that there were no fewer than 753 who were unsuccessful. *D.*

THE ORIENTAL PLANE.—Referring to the note on species of *Platanus*, in the last issue of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, p. 190, I lately saw what I thought was a remarkable specimen of the Oriental Plane, growing in the garden at Blickling Hall, Aylsham, Norfolk. The tree in question was of great age, as was shown by the stem, at 1 yard up from the ground being fully 4 feet in diameter. The remarkable feature about this tree was its manner of growth. The lower branches had reached the ground many

years ago, and being allowed to remain undisturbed they had struck root in the turf, and doubtless had imparted vigour to the tree. These rooted branches grew erect for many years, and they then bent down to the earth and again took root. This sort of natural layering had gone on for many years, increasing the diameter of the tree considerably, until it now exceeds 50 yards. Many of the secondary growths are of the size of small trees, and the whole constitutes a remarkable feature. The gardens at Blickling are thrown open to the public by the owner, the Dowager Marchioness of Lothian, on certain days in the week, a privilege much appreciated by the visitors to Cromer. *E. Molyneux.*

AT WHAT AGE SHOULD SEEDLING STRAWBERRIES BE CERTIFICATED?—Two recent examples, Monarch and William Carmichael, have recently afforded some useful hints to growers on this point. Those who raise new varieties are naturally somewhat

italics are mine, as I wish to draw special attention to the subject, having seen many fine crops of Strawberries pushed past blooming, or with scant flowering, through excessive feeding. Still, a very curious point in connection with some new and also old varieties of Strawberries, is their attempts to revert from an apparently fixed form of fruit and growth and flower. Monarch and William Carmichael are our most-modern illustrations of these peculiarities. In the first row of William Carmichael, seen by the writer, there was scarcely a barren plant, and its character and quality were all that Mr. Bunyard describes them to be at Maidstone. The next year, almost the whole stock proved barren; hence its withdrawal from commerce by its raiser on the advice of his friends. And yet, now, with a change of site and soil, from Edinburgh to Kent, all its original free-fruited qualities are restored. What can it all mean? In the case of these modern varieties, is it a struggle for the supremacy of the

exception of a few daintily bunched alpines in the early spring and autumn, I have never eaten a Strawberry in France comparable to our best British sorts. *D. T. Fish.*

LAW NOTES.

FLORISTS' CHECKS.

At Brentford County Court, on Friday, before His Honour Judge Bagshawe, Q.C., Isaac Thornton, iron-monger, of Chiswick, sued Wm. Hills, of Bury Street, Lower Edmonton, and Covent Garden, florist and fruiterer, for £3, the cost of making a quantity of metal checks.

Mr. Leonard Wells was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Medcalfe for the defendant.

Plaintiff received an order on April 1 from the

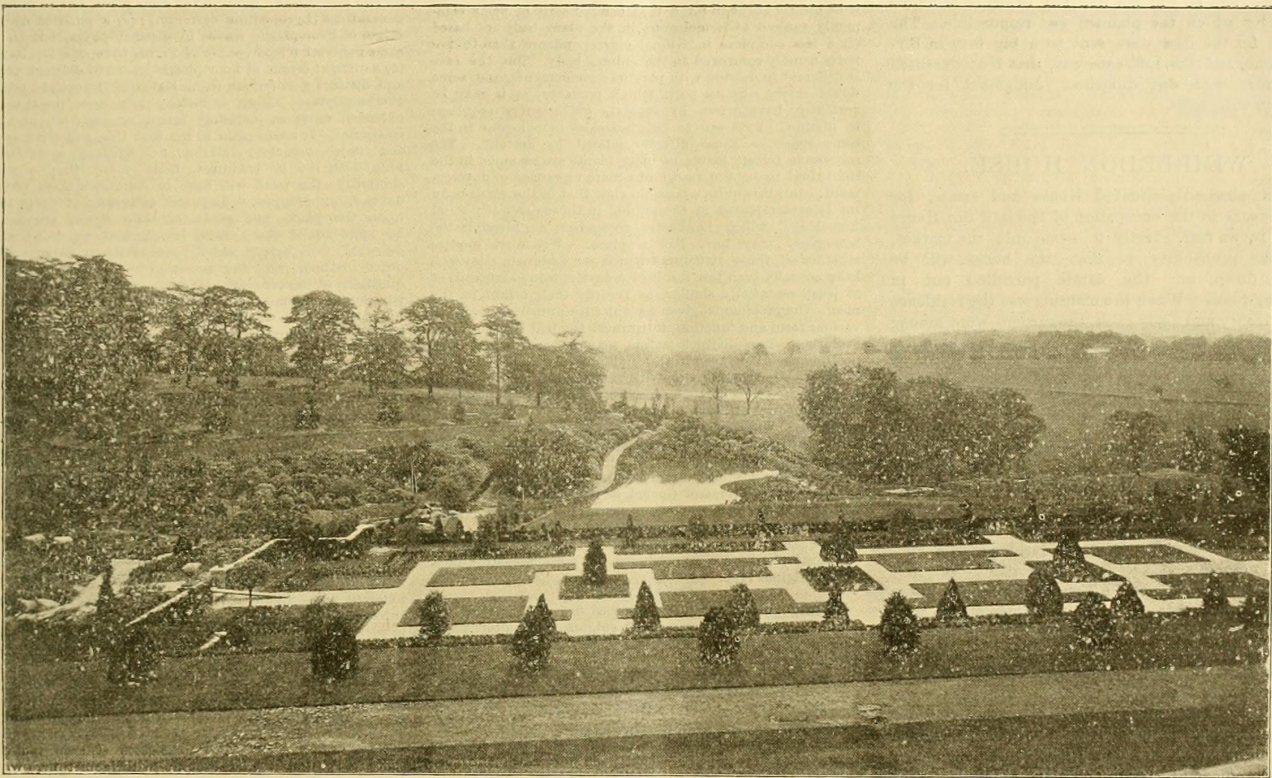


FIG. 60.—VIEW FROM THE SIDE OF THE FLOWER-GARDEN AT THORNBIDGE HALL, BAKEWELL, DERBYSHIRE. (SEE P. 222.)

impatient for results. Hence, when a seedling Strawberry, two, three, or more years old succeeds in convincing competent jurors of its merits as a novelty, it seems entitled to a certificate or some kind of award to mark its merits. And yet, in the end, probably the raiser would gain rather than lose could his seedlings be subjected to a longer probationary period before being sent out as varieties that were better or different to existing ones. The trial grounds of the Royal Horticultural Society, at Chiswick, could be turned to no more useful account than as trial grounds for seedling Strawberries. And it would not seriously tax the coffers of the society to provide at least three kinds of soil for this purpose, that might be correctly described as heavy, light, and medium loams. Some persons might say that two sorts of soil, poor and rich, would suffice—but it would cost but little more to provide a third; and animal and artificial manures might be tested as to their fitness for application to these plants. I particularly note that Mr. George Bunyard, nurseryman, of Maidstone, a high authority on this subject, specially notes, that the sorts were grown on poor soils. The

paternal or maternal parent, or are these and other seedling Strawberries merely asking for more time for fixing their characteristics? Then, why are some Strawberries so erratic at first, and others by the same raiser, such as Queen of Denmark, Richard Gilbert, Britannia, assume and retain their true character at the first? Further, and beyond all this, why should the change of William Carmichael Strawberry from Edinburgh to Maidstone restore or, even, increase its primitive fertility? One word more, and it is one of warning. I have lately seen or heard it stated that growers may safely propagate from blind plants. To any disposed to listen to such advice, I would like you to print in the biggest type, the single word—"Don't." In the interesting article on "Strawberry Culture in France" (p. 102), the following puzzling sentence occurs:—"The varieties which have no runners, such as the Gallion, is naturally good for outdoor culture." Might I venture to ask the writer, or some one well versed in French varieties and culture, why runnerless varieties are preferred? And may I venture to add that with the

defendant for 1000 metal checks. He had executed such orders before, and had a die by him, but as the defendant required fresh numbers on the checks, a fresh die had to be constructed. Plaintiff at once sent to the Mint, Birmingham, to have the die made, which came to hand in the early part of May, when the stamping of the checks was at once put in hand.

Plaintiff, in giving evidence, said there was no delay, and it was not until May 13 that he learned the defendant required them by a certain time. When they were sent they were returned.

In cross-examination, he knew defendant was a gardener and had a stall in Covent Garden, and that these checks were necessary in his business. He denied, however, that he knew the gardening season ended in May, and that if the checks were not delivered early in April, they would be valueless. He did business among gardeners, and some had to wait longer than the defendant for their checks.

Mr. Medcalfe called the defendant. He admitted