

AGE OF PLANTS.—Some plants, such as the minute fungi termed mould, only live a few hours, or, at most only a few days. Mosses, for the most part, live only one season, as do the garden plants called annuals, which die of old age as soon as they ripen their seeds. Some, again as the fox-glove and the hollyhock, live for two years, occasionally prolonged to three if their flowering be prevented. Trees, again, planted in a suitable soil and situation live for centuries. Thus, the olive may live 300 years, the oak double that number; the chesnut is said to have lasted 950 years; the dragon's blood tree of Teneriffe may be 2000 years old, and Adamson mentions banians 6000 years old. When the wood of the interior ceases to afford room by the closeness of its texture, for the passage of sap, or pulp, or the formation of new vessels, it dies, and by all its moisture passing of into the younger wood the fibres shrink and are ultimately reduced to dust. The centre of the tree thus becomes dead, while the outer portion continues to live, and in this way trees may exist for many years before they perish. The singular elephant plant has been said to attain, at the Cape of Good Hope, the age of 200 years, reckoning by the rings of the bark of the crown. De Candolle gives the following table of very old trees.

Elm.....	of 335 years.
Cypress.....	about 350
Cheirostemon.....	about 400
Ivy.....	450
Larch.....	576
Orange.....	630
Olive.....	700
Oriental plane.....	720 and upwards.
Cedar of Lebanon.....	almost 800
Oak.....	870, 1080, 1500.
Lime.....	1076, 1147.
Yew.....	1214, 1458, 2588, 2880
Taxod'um.....	about 4000, to 6000.
Baobab.....	5150 (in the year 1775)

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CIRENCESTER.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Baron Knesebeck, left town on Tuesday last, for the purpose of inspecting the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. He was received at the seat of Earl Bathurst by a party consisting of Lord and Lady Wharnclyff, Lord De Mauley, the Earl and Countess St. Germaus Lady Georgina Bathurst, Lord Melton, the Hon W. Bathurst, &c. Shortly after his arrival, he visited the College, accompanied by his noble host and party, when he was received at the entrance hall by the officers of the institution, and was conducted through the ample dining hall and kitchen, the laboratory, council rooms, and dormitories, with which, as well as with the commanding site and architecture of the building, he expressed himself highly gratified. His Royal highness was one of the earliest promoters of this truly rational undertaking. On leaving the college, he was greeted with three cheers by the students.

SUMMARY OF THE WEATHER AND THE DISEASES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1846. FROM DR. BAILEY, OF THETFORD. OF GREAT INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS, &c.—Since the year 1826 we have not experienced such a continued high temperature in this month. From the 2nd to the 22nd the temperature was considerably higher than summer heat; reaching on Saturday, the 6th, in the shade to 89°, and in the sun to 111°. The heat was felt most oppressive from the cloudless sky, and there being no wind. The barometer was high at the commencement of the month; after the third day it daily fell to the eighth, when we had some thunder and lightning but no rain. On the 10th some heat-drops fell, but only for a few minutes; after which the glass rose again, and continued high to the 21st, reaching its highest points on the 16th

and 17th days: the weather during this period was very hot and remarkably fine and dry. Vegetation drooped from the excessive heat, and the grasses were burnt. The artificial grasses were never known got up in better order. In this locality of light soil the barleys, oats, and peas have suffered exceedingly, almost past recovery. From the 22nd day an extraordinary change of temperature took place; a fall of nearly 20°, accompanied by the long wished for and invigorating showers of rain, amounting in four successive days to a little more than half an inch. The barometer fell from the 27st to the 25th, and rose again to the end of the month: such a sudden change had a great effect upon the human constitution, and produced those diseases as stated below. The difference of temperature has been remarkable; the highest, in the sun, was 111°, and the lowest on the grass plot, in the night, 40°, making a difference of 71°; while the highest in the shade was 89°, and that at midnight in the same place was 45°. The mean of the heat in the sun for the month was 90½°, and the mean on the grass plot was 47½°. The mean of midnight temperature in the shade was 55½°.

Diseases.—The very great heat experienced this month has occasioned more diseases than generally; diarrhœa has been particularly prevalent, attacking all ages, and producing much debility. Inflammatory attacks of the stomach and bowels, arising from drinking large quantities of cold liquids while in a state of profuse perspiration and fatigue, have been more general among the working classes than I ever remembered; in one or two cases nearly proving fatal, these requiring the most active means of treatment. Violent verigo has in several cases come under observation, I have no doubt arising from the excessive heat and exposure to the sun; and also great pains in the feet, and swellings of the legs of an anasarous kind in the working men. Fevers of the common kind have also been prevalent, terminating with a most distressing cough, putting on pneumonic form. From imprudent exposure sore throats have been frequent, and rheumatic affections, such as lumbago, &c. Some few cases of influenza still remain with us. The diseases amongst children have been numerous, attacking the chest, with considerable fever and diarrhœa, &c. The latter complaints have come on more particularly within the last ten days, caused probably by the sudden low temperature; some deaths have occurred with them.

POPULATION, TAXATION, &c.—It appears from returns just issued by order of the House of Commons that in 1801 the population of Great Britain was 10,942,646; in 1845, being 19,572,574. In 1796, the national debt amounted to 301,861,306*l.*; and in 1815, 816,311,940*l.*, at which time it was at its highest. It is now 768,789,241*l.*; the interest on the debt, funded and unfunded, being 27,827,265*l.* In 1796 it was 11,841,208*l.*, and at its highest in 1816, when it amounted to 32,938,751*l.* The poor-rates in England were, in 1803, 5,348,205*l.*; in 1818, at their highest, being 9,320,000*l.*; while, in 1844, they amounted to 6,848,716*l.* In 1838 they were only 5,186,389*l.* The number of paupers in England was, in 1813, 1,426,065; in 1843 they were 1,539,490 in number (some 110,000 more than 1842.) In 1796 the official value of exports from Great Britain to all parts, except Ireland, was 25,130,624*l.*; in 1845 it was 150,645,019*l.* The official value of imports into Great Britain from all parts except Ireland, was, in 1796, 29,422,440*l.*; in 1845, it was 83,330,609*l.*