

most growers erred in keeping their Cacti too dry. While these plants require but little moisture in the dormant season, it is still quite possible to keep them too dry.

The Bronx Park Orchid house was also referred to, and the names given of a few kinds that were easily grown in any amateur greenhouse, such as *Cælogyne cristata*, *Cypripedium insigne*, *Bletia hyacinthina*, *Phaius grandiflorus*, etc. In the forcing house was a large collection of seedlings in pots of *Oenothera biennis* grown to illustrate Dr. Hugo de Vries's theory of mutations, which had been discussed by the Club at the previous meeting. Nothing was observed or learnt by Mr. Whyte about them to change the opinion he had held, in the first place, that there was nothing in these mutations to justify the prominence that had been given to them, and, secondly, that the variations were varietal and not specific.

As a subject for discussion, Mr. Whyte introduced the question of the relative value of artificial cross-fertilization versus natural cross-fertilization. He maintained that, while there was a great future for artificial fertilization and much had already been attained by it, still we should not lose sight of the fact that more than nine-tenths of our apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, currants and gooseberries were the product of natural crossing. Though accidental seedlings, when valuable, had been selected and propagated by the skill of the horticulturist, he held that natural crosses would continue to be the principal source of improvement, on account of the great number of these crosses compared with the very small number of successful artificial crosses; also that it was only by slow advances that permanent improvement could be expected when the cross is violent, as from different species, as in Roger's grapes the progeny are apt to be deficient in vigor. Mr. Whyte illustrated his remarks with his own experiences in raising new varieties of raspberries, gladiolus and poppies.

R. B. W.

ANNOUNCEMENT.—Mrs. Agnes Chamberlin, Lakefield, Ont., is now receiving subscriptions (\$1.50) for copies of the new valuable book by the well known author of several delightful volumes on nature, Mrs. C. P. Traill: "Studies of Plant Life in Canada"—like the former works beautifully illustrated by Mrs. Chamberlin. To be out this autumn.