

The members of the Society are again under obligations to several ladies and gentlemen for their kindness in opening their conservatories during last winter. The list was never so large before, and comprised those of Mr. Andrew Allan, and Mr. H. Montagu Allan, Mr. William Lunn, Mr. Mackay, Mr. William McGibbon, Mr. John Molson, Mrs. Redpath, Mr. Andrew Robertson, and Mr. George Stephen. All but one of these opened at least one afternoon during Carnival week, and the Society was thus enabled to contribute something towards the success of our great winter fête. I trust that the members may be afforded an opportunity of visiting these and other conservatories during the present winter.

For the first time for many years past, there was no horticultural exhibition in Montreal during the past summer. This arose from no fault on the part of the Society. A building had been secured and every preparation made, and a good deal of expense incurred, though probably a portion of the work done may be utilized for another year. At the time fixed for the holding of the exhibition, the smallpox had become epidemic here; and public meetings and gatherings of every sort were discountenanced. In view of certain statements made in the press, some of the officers of the Association thought it advisable to call on the health authorities and see how the Society's interests were going to be effected, if, as was proposed, all places of amusement were to be closed. The Mayor, Ald. Gray, and the Health Officer, Dr. Laberge, expressed themselves as most strongly opposed to the holding of an exhibition. A second interview with Dr. Laberge resulted in his writing a letter, stating that if he thought it was the intention of the Society to go on with the show, he would take immediate steps to stop it. Meantime, the collection of the members' fees was stopped, and the directors decided to refer the whole matter to the Department of Agriculture of Quebec for their decision. Feeling that plant growers, especially, had been at considerable expense in growing plants for the exhibition, it was suggested to the Department that the Directors might be allowed to expend a certain amount in special awards, based on the general excellence of the plants exhibited. The Department of Agriculture at Quebec took a most liberal view of the state of affairs, paid the annual grant, and acquiesced in the action taken by the Board of Directors. Mr. Lesage, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Gagnon, the Secretary of the Department, are especially to be thanked for their prompt action. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to the following resolution:—'That owing to the prevalence of smallpox, and the expressed desire of the Mayor that the exhibition be postponed, as, also, the declared intention of the Health Officers to prevent its being held, the Board of Directors do not feel justified in holding the usual exhibition for this year.'