

give an assurance that plants, at least, are none the worse for being old, and that the public sustains no small damage for entertaining a contrary opinion. This was shown by Mrs. Lawrence's charming *Rellania squarrosa*, which, although born near London in the year 1774, was the youngest and prettiest plant in that lady's collection on Wednesday last. For ourselves, we incline to class old plants with old wine and old nobility.

These are points which exhibitors would do well to think upon.

Concerning Wednesday's meeting, we shall only add, that the day was beautiful, the gardens at Chiswickhouse delicious, and the exhibitions of fruit and flowers the best which has yet been seen in July. The fruit-growers vindicated their claim to rank with the cultivators of flowers; very little was of inferior quality, a great deal was excellent, and some was admirable. As to the strawberries from the garden of the Right Honourable the Speaker, it was admitted by the best judges that no such British Queens and Eleanors had ever been seen before.

The number of visitors was 7338.—*Gardener's Chron.*

CULTIVATION OF THE PANSY.—The following is a Lancashire method, which we believe has been practised successfully for twelve years:—The soil best suited for the pansy is three parts good loam, two of rotten cow dung, one of bog soil, and one of sharp sand, with a little wood ashes, mixed together, and left in a heap for at least three months. Care is taken, before planting in the beds prepared of this soil, to wash all the soil away from the roots of newly received plants; for, if different, and the pansies had to grow in it for some time, it would have a tendency to deteriorate the other soil. Divide the roots into as many plants as practicable, taking care, however, that each stem has roots, otherwise it will be only a cutting, which demands different treatment. Press the soil firmly round the roots at planting; water abundantly with a can, provided with a very small rose; protect from the sun by means of a mat, without, however, a total deprivation of light and air; and keep the plants thus protected for a week. In order to prevent the pansy from degenerating, two beds are to be made in a year from cuttings. The side-shoots are to be taken for this purpose in preference to the centre ones. The centre shoots appear stronger, but they seldom succeed in striking, the stem not being solid, and the back too hard. The short shoots at the head of the plant, with the back almost white, will strike quickly. These cuttings should not be longer than 2 or 2½ inches; and they should be carefully cut just below a joint. This is very important, for if a long piece be left below the joint it will rot, and cause the loss of the plant. The leaves must be carefully removed an inch from the bottom, without injuring the back of the stem. The proper time for this operation, in our (Scotch) climate, is now, for summer and autumn flowering; and at the end of August or beginning of September for next spring. Cuttings must be struck in the bed they are intended to flower in; planted from six to eight inches apart; the soil pressed firmly round them; watered abundantly, and protected from the heat of the sun for a week or ten days, or, if the weather be hot and dry, for a longer period. But, if possible, rainy weather should be selected for the operation. Cuttings strike much more surely in rainy and cloudy weather. The same bed should not even be used twice without adding fresh, and turning the old soil over. A single bed of cuttings, made in August, will flower all the next year, it is true, but long before its termination will be found to produce nothing but bad-shaped and worse coloured flowers. The blossoms will not, even with two beds in the year, always come true. They are apt to run; the best pre-

ventive whereof is protection from the mid-day sun, and not suffering the shoots to get too long, but heading them back, and making cuttings of the pieces. Straw or hay laid between each row and close to the roots, best protects the pansy from frost. The wire-worm, slug and snail require to be sharply looked after.—*Scottish Agricultural Journal*.

WATERING GARDENS AND CROPS. BY JAMES LOTHIAN.

During the greater portion of summer, the British gardener is considerably employed in watering, especially flowers and plants; but not perhaps in any case to the extent that would prove most beneficial; and, although strongly recommended by almost every author who has ever written on gardening (with exception of some of the market gardeners near London), the subject has scarcely received notice beyond what dire necessity has compelled. Fruits and vegetables, during drought, are benefitted in a most powerful degree by copious waterings; and although some may have held forth the contrary, whenever a defect may have occurred, it is only where unfair watering has been practised, which no doubt does much more harm than good; but wherever applied freely, and particularly when holding ammoniacal substances in solution, the benefits accruing are as great and certain, not merely in accelerating more abundant produce, but in preparing the land or soil for future crops. It is clearly evident that as yet the process of watering, in the majority of gardens, has been but little attended to, and that little perhaps with much labour and expense—the young men having often to draw water, in some instances not very attainable, from the hot-houses, or some remote part of the garden or grounds, in order to water plots and quarters in dry weather, such as we generally experience during June, July and August. Being moreover often—nay generally and perhaps unavoidably—done after hours, it is very imperfectly performed; and it is very well known that in this manner much valuable time is lost, going for and returning with water, while any advantage derived may be small and partial, which may have led some to condemn the process of watering entirely, without ever giving it a fair and judicious trial.

In lieu of carrying water, as commonly done, from one end of the garden to the other, or from somewhere outside, might be proposed the sinking of four or more tanks, in different suitable parts of the garden, each of which could be supplied with water from the nearest river or fountain-head, by means of proper drains of tile or brick, and leaden pipes, placed a proper depth below the surface; such cisterns or tanks could be made, if desired, at the same time, ornamental. They might be of stone or wood—if the latter, previously steeped for some time in a solution of sulphate of copper, which would render the wood as durable almost as stone itself—or, if preferable, very large barrels or hogsheds might be used, into which could be affixed a pump or tube, with an efficient grating at the base or bottom, to prevent any filth ascending the tube to the large rose fixed on a leathern pipe, the latter to be moveable, or otherwise joined to the leaden tube, and taken from it at will, and at the same time similarly fixed on the leathern pipe. The water conducted into the tank might be regulated by means of a cock, and that supplied from this source, and diffused over the crops and quarters of the garden, by another. Should any manures be steeped in such tanks—for instance, pigeon dung or guano—it would form the thing complete, by fixing a filter half-way (or rather more) towards the bottom of the tank. On this system, one person, and in much less than half the usual time, could water the entire garden, and with much less labour to himself, having only to conduct the rose attached to the leathern pipe, while the grounds and crops