

the desert table. A portion of one of these is fitted up as a house for the culture of Melons, of which there was a very fair crop; among other varieties nice fruit of Mr. Fleming's new hybrid. Proceeding onward we arrive at the last structure which we have to notice. This is a span-roofed house, 27 feet by 24, and 12 feet high; it was built a few years ago with a view of growing to perfection, and if possible fruiting the Bread fruit, *Artocarpus incisa*. This plant, as is generally known, requires a great amount of heat; it appears to suffer much if the thermometer is allowed to fall even as low as 60° in the depth of winter; so with this in view, the command of heat both terrestrial and atmospheric is very great, and for so far the first of the two objects aimed at has been fully attained, as on entering, the eye is met by two noble specimens of the Bread fruit about 17 feet high, and fully 30 in circumference, branching and growing most vigorously, and judging from appearances, many years will not elapse before the production of fruit may take its place as one of the highest among the many achievements which horticultural skill has accomplished within the last few years. Besides these trees, we observed a fine young plant of the Cocoa-nut, *Cocos nucifera*, about 11 feet high, also the Mangostian *garcinia mangostana*, well branched from the ground, and as much as 12 or 14 feet in height; it was when we saw it, rather bare of foliage, but was just bursting into a very luxuriant growth. In a small and very neat glass case we noticed several pitcher plants, including *Nepenthes Rafflesiana*, also a new imported plant of the true *Durio gibethinus*—a tropical fruit of great variety in this country. From one of the supports, the *Hoya imperialis* was rambling as if quite at home, producing many of its large umbels of flowers, and on the back wall the *Granadilla passiflora quadrangularis* was fruiting freely.

Such is a brief and very imperfect sketch of this most interesting place. I much regretted that my time was so limited when I called, as I fear there are many important features that may have escaped my notice.

#### SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

The sixteenth report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland (for the year 1849,) presented to both houses of parliament, has been forwarded to this office, and has been lying on our table for some time; but, owing to press of business, we have not been able to give it that notice which it deserves. We now present our readers with those sections in the report which bear more directly on the model agricultural schools:—

“We have reason to be satisfied with the management of our model farm, at Glasnevin, during the past year. In our report for 1848, we referred to the enlargement of the farm,

which, now comprises 128 statute acres. The additional land we have recently taken rendered it necessary that the existing farm-buildings should be considerably enlarged, and that provision should be made for the accommodation of a much greater number of agricultural pupils. Upon an examination of the premises, with a view to extensive changes and improvements, it was found that, without incurring great expense; they could not be adapted to the growing wants of the establishment. We decided, therefore, after full consideration, to erect a new range of farm-buildings, upon the most modern construction, and of sufficient extent to accommodate about 100 agricultural pupils. Suitable plans and specifications have been prepared, and we have entered into a contract with an experienced builder for the erection of the buildings, which will be commenced during the summer. The estimated cost, £5,615. The existing buildings will be made available for various purposes connected with the farm.

“We are happy to state that there is an increasing desire, on the part of patrons of schools and many of the landed proprietors, to obtain admission for pupils into the Glasnevin model farm. In the year 1849, 34 pupils and agricultural teachers were admitted, and 43 remain up to the present time. A list of the total number trained since the 1st of November, 1847, to the 31st of March, 1850, and of those now under training, is given in the appendix. The pupils of the Glasnevin establishment receive literary as well as agricultural instruction. Their evenings are devoted to mental improvement, under the care of a first-class teacher, and they have access, at their leisure hours, to a select library of agricultural works. All the male teachers received into our training establishment are required to attend the daily lectures of the agriculturist, and to visit the model farm one day in each week for the purpose of seeing its practical operations.

“Our agricultural class-book, which we published in 1847, for the use of the advanced pupils attending the national schools, has had a considerable sale in Great Britain and Ireland, and has been found exceedingly valuable, especially in schools in which agricultural is combined with literary instruction. We continue to distribute amongst our teachers cheap and useful works on agricultural subjects. It is our intention to provide each of our district model schools that have farms attached to them with a collection of such publications. A “farm account-book” has been compiled by our direction, which has been introduced into our agricultural schools, and has been approved of by many eminent practical agriculturists.

“The following model agricultural schools, thirteen in number, are in full operation, and each of them is connected with an elementary national school:—Larne, county of Antrim;